WARNING
TOWN OF CHARLOTTE
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
2003

The legal voters of the Town of Charlotte are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Charlotte Central School Gymnasium in said Town on Tuesday, March 4, 2003 at nine o'clock in the forenoon to act upon any of the following articles not involving voting by Australian Ballot, and to meet at the Charlotte Central School Gymnasium in said Town on the same date to vote by Australian Ballot to begin at seven o'clock in the forenoon and to close at seven o'clock in the afternoon.

Article 1: To hear the reports of the Town officers and to act upon the same.

Article 2 : Will the Town vote to have Property Taxes payable on or before November 17, 2003 and to have payments made to the Town Treasurer under 32 VSA § 4773?

Article 3: Will the Town adopt the Selectboard's budget of $1,773,906 for the fiscal year July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004 less anticipated revenues?

Article 4: Shall the Town vote to authorize the Town Clerk to approve additions to the voter checklist pursuant to 17 VSA § 2144b?

Article 5: Will the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipated revenues for the next fiscal year?

Article 6: Will the Town vote approve expenditures not to exceed $450,000 from the Fire & Rescue Reserve Fund for the purchase of a properly equipped pumper truck and the purchase of a thermal imaging camera?

Article 7: Will the Town vote to expend a sum not to exceed $4,500 from the Recreation Fee Fund for use as the Town's financial match if it is awarded a grant from the State of Vermont for capital improvements to Town recreational facilities?

Article 8: Will the Town vote, on an advisory basis, to request immediate and ongoing action on legislative initiatives designed to promote energy efficiency in Vermont's homes, businesses, public buildings and transportation systems, and encourage expansion of modern renewable energy systems in the State of Vermont. **Note: This article is advisory only.**

Article 9: Will the Town vote, on an advisory basis to encourage every citizen and business owner in Charlotte to participate in the 10% Challenge program to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions by at least 10% and ask community officials to reduce the emissions of Town buildings and Town fleets by at least 10%.
Note: This article is advisory only

BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT

Article 10: To elect Town Officers.

Dated this 30th day of January, 2003 at Charlotte, Vermont.

Board of Selectmen

Charles Russell, Chair

Ellie Russell

Paul Arthaud

Jenny Cole

Debbie Ramsdell

Received for record this 30th day of January, 2003. Mary A. Mead, Town Clerk

ABSTRACT OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 5, 2002

SELECTBOARD: Robert Mack Jr. (Chairman), Paul Arthaud, Debbie Ramsdell, Charles Russell & Jim Sheldon-Dean
MODERATOR: Jerry Schwarz

Jerry Schwarz called the meeting to order at 9:13 AM in the Charlotte Central School Gymnasium. The officers were elected by Australian Ballot with the results listed on the following page. The polls were open from 7AM until 7 PM.

Article 1 : Reports of the Town Officers were accepted by voice vote after a brief discussion.

Article 2 : Article was passed to have taxes payable on or before November 15, 2002 and to have payments made to the Town Treasurer under 32 VSA § 4773.

Article 3 : The Selectboard's budget of $1,611,233 was passed by voice vote. Expenditures for the Senior Center and Recreation Path were discussed.

Article 4 : Approval was given by voice vote to appoint the position of Town Constable for a two-year term. This was previously an elected position with a one-year term.

Article 5 : Approval was given by voice vote to authorize the Selectboard to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipated revenues for the next fiscal year.

Article 6 : The Town approved by voice vote to expend a sum not to exceed $3,000 from the Recreation Fee Fund for the purpose of upgrading the skating rink.

Article 7 : Approval was given by voice vote to spend a sum not to exceed $10,000 for the maintenance of the Little League fields adjacent to the Berry Farm.

Article 8 : The Town voted to spend a sum not to exceed $40,000 to pave the Senior Center and Fire Station parking lot out of unspent funds approved for the town sewer project. This was amended and passed by voice vote to include landscaping.

Article 9 : An advisory motion to create a one week grace period after the due date of November 15th, during which a 1% penalty is assessed on unpaid property taxes, increasing to an 8% penalty on November 23rd passed by a decision of the house, 143 in favor and 59 opposed.

Article 10 : An advisory motion to recommend that the Town of Charlotte, State of Vermont, United States of America and the United Nations use the Earth Charter to guide decision making on issues of local, state, national and international importance passed by voice vote.

Article 11 : An advisory motion was passed by voice vote to urge the state legislature to replace Vermont's voting law for statewide elections with a system that allows voters to rank their candidate choices so that, without the need for a separate runoff election the candidate preferred by the majority of the voters is elected.

Article 12 : An advisory motion was passed by voice vote to request that our legislators and congressional representatives support the mandatory labeling of all genetically engineered foods and seeds, as well as a moratorium on the further growing of GE crops until there is credible and independent scientific evidence that these products are no longer harmful to our health, the environment and the survival of family farms and request that our Selectboard declare a moratorium on the use of genetically engineered seeds in the town as a step towards making Vermont a GE-free planting zone by the 2003 growing season. An amendment passed adding "after the family farms" : and resolve that this Town will make every effort collectively and individually to make Charlotte and Vermont a GE free planting zone by the 2003 growing season.

Article 13 : All remaining motions under Article 13 were also advisory only.

An advisory motion was passed by voice vote to create a paid position for a recreation director who will be responsible for the planning and execution of recreation activities and expenditures within the Town of Charlotte.

An advisory motion was passed by voice vote that the Selectboard not permit the use of synthetic herbicides and pesticides on publicly owned land in Charlotte.

An advisory motion failed by voice vote to request that street lights be installed on Ferry Road for safety purposes.

MEETING ADJOURNED 4:38 PM. (Complete minutes recorded in the Town Clerk's Office).

COMPUTATION FOR DETERMINATION OF TAX RATE
MUNICIPAL & EDUCATION
2002-2003

				TAX RATE
MUNICIPAL GRANDLIST 2002			3,919,074	
EDUCATION GRANDLIST 2002			3,921,512	
TOWN BUDGET	1,611,233			
General Fund		926,233		
Charlotte Little League		10,000 (Article 7 3/5/02)		
Less Revenue		(497,650)		
Less Current Use		(45,591)		
TOTAL GENERAL FUND			392,992	**.1003**
Highway Fund		685,000		
Less Revenue		(195,000)		
TOTAL HIGHWAY			490,000	**.1251**
CONSERVATION FUND (.02)			78,382	**.02**
TOTAL DOLLARS TO RAISE FOR TOWN			961,374	**.2454** = .25
STATE EDUCATION DOLLARS TO RAISE			4,469,157	**1.1397** = 1.14
LOCAL EDUCATION DOLLARS TO RAISE			3,661,178	**.9337** = .93
TOTAL DOLLARS TO RAISE			9,091,709	
TOTAL EDUCATION TAX RATE				**2.0734**
TOTAL MUNICIPAL TAX RATE				**.2454**

TOTAL TAX RATE 2.32