

**TOWN OF CHARLOTTE  
MARCH TOWN MEETING  
MARCH 3, 2009**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Charles Russell, Chairperson; Jenny Cole, Ed Stone, Winslow Ladue. (Absent Frank Thornton).

**TOWN MODERATOR:** Jerry Schwarz.

Jerry Schwarz, Town Moderator, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. in the Charlotte Central School Multi-purpose Room. The polls were open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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

**MOTION by Teena Flood, seconded by Robert Chutter, to hear the reports of the Town officers and to act upon the same.**

**VOTE: The reports of the Town Officers were accepted by voice vote.**

**Article 2:** Will the Town vote to have Property Taxes payable on or before November 16, 2009 and to have payments made to the Town Treasurer under 32 VSA § 4773?

**MOTION by Teena Flood, seconded by Robert Chutter, to have Property Taxes payable on or before November 16, 2009 and to have payments made to the Town Treasurer under 32 VSA § 4773.**

**VOTE: Article 2 was passed by voice vote to have Property Taxes paid on or before November 16, 2009 and to have payments made to the Town Treasurer under 32 VSA § 4773.**

**Article 3:** Will the Town adopt the Selectboard's budget of \$2,432,517 for the fiscal year July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 less anticipated revenues?

**MOTION by Teena Flood, seconded by Robert Chutter, to adopt the Selectboard's budget of \$2,432,517 for the fiscal year July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 less anticipated revenues.**

**VOTE: Article 3 was passed by voice vote to adopt the Selectboard's budget of \$2,432,517 for the fiscal year July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 less anticipated revenues.**

**Article 4:** 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?

**MOTION by Teena Flood, seconded by Robert Chutter, to authorize the Selectboard to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipated revenues for the next fiscal year.**

**VOTE: Article 4 was passed 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 5:** Will the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard to increase the municipal tax rate by one and one half cents (\$0.015) for deposit in the Fire and Rescue Capital Reserve Fund in fiscal year 2009-2010?

**MOTION by Teena Flood, seconded by Robert Chutter, to authorize the Selectboard to increase the municipal tax rate by one and one half cents (\$0.015) for deposit in the Fire and Rescue Capital Reserve Fund in fiscal year 2009-2010.**

**VOTE: Article 5 was passed by voice vote to authorize the Selectboard to increase the municipal tax rate by one and one half cents (\$0.015) for deposit in the Fire and Rescue Capital Reserve Fund in fiscal year 2009-2010.**

**Article 6:** Will the Town convey by gift approximately three (3) acres in the southwest corner of the Burns property to Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity for the construction of three affordable dwelling units?

**MOTION by Teena Flood, seconded by Robert Chutter, to convey by gift approximately three (3) acres in the southwest corner of the Burns property to Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity for the construction of three affordable dwelling units.**

**AMENDMENT to Article 6 by Lee Weisman that the preference for home ownership would be given to Charlotte residents, or to someone with a connection to the Town of Charlotte.**

**AMENDMENT to the AMENDMENT, that preference would be given to applicants that are either residents, or descendants, of the Town of Charlotte, and if not, then to accept applications from within Chittenden County.**

**FRIENDLY AMENDMENT by Nancy Wood, that the word “descendants” be replaced by the word “relatives”.**

**FRIENDLY AMENDMENT accepted by the second AMENDMENT maker.**

**VOTE on a MOTION to CALL THE QUESTION to cease debate on the AMENDED SECOND AMENDMENT passed by voice vote.**

**VOTE on the AMENDED SECOND AMENDMENT failed by voice vote.**

**VOTE on the First AMENDMENT to the MOTION failed by voice vote.**

**VOTE on a MOTION to CALL THE QUESTION to cease debate on the original Motion passed by voice vote.**

**VOTE: the original Article 6 was passed by paper ballot: 156 ayes, 63 nays.**

**Article 7:** Advisory motion only: Will the Town conserve the clayplain forest on the Burns property, consisting of approximately 15 acres?

**MOTION by Teena Flood, seconded by Robert Chutter, to conserve the clayplain forest on the Burns property, consisting of approximately 15 acres.**

**VOTE on a MOTION to CALL THE QUESTION to cease debate passed by voice vote.**

**VOTE: Article 7 passed by voice vote to conserve the Clayplain forest on the Burns property, consisting of approximately 15 acres.**

**Article 8:** Will the Selectboard explore the construction of a public or community facility or facilities for the purpose of providing wastewater disposal for residential and commercial use in West Charlotte village?

**MOTION by Teena Flood, seconded by Robert Chutter, to explore the construction of a public or community facility or facilities for the purpose of providing wastewater disposal for residential and commercial use in West Charlotte Village.**

**VOTE on a MOTION to CALL THE QUESTION to cease debate passed by voice vote.**

**VOTE: Article 8 passed by a count of raised hands 94 ayes, 63 nays.**

**Article 9:** To transact any other business proper to come before said meeting.

**MOTION by Teena Flood, seconded by Robert Chutter, to transact any other business proper to come before said meeting.**

Debbie Ramsdell made motion that was seconded that: shall the Town of Charlotte, Vermont vote on a non-binding resolution that states: the voters of the Town of Charlotte advise the Vermont Legislature to pass a bill to replace criminal penalties with a civil fine for adults that process one ounce or less of marijuana. Motion passed on voice vote. Ruah Swennerfelt made a motion that was seconded that: shall the registered voters of the Town of Charlotte, Vermont, request the Vermont Legislature to: 1. Recognize that the 2% of our New England region’s power grid supply that is provided by Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant can be replaced with a combination of local, renewable electricity and efficiency measures, along with the purchase of hydro generated electricity, and excess power already in the New England electricity market. 2. Given the viable alternatives and the risks posed by continued operation, ensure that Vermont Yankee will cease operation in March 2012, after having completed its 40 year design life, by not granting approval for operation of the plant after that date and by not determining that further operation will promote the general welfare. 3. Hold the Entergy Corporation, which purchased Vermont Yankee in 2002, responsible to fully fund the plant’s clean-up and decommissioning when the reactor closes, as the corporation pledged to do when it purchased Vermont Yankee. Motion to call the question to cease debate passed by voice vote. Vote on the Motion passed by voice vote. David Miskell noted that Cowboy Lewis would be missed.

Meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Kathlyn Furr, Recording Secretary.