

**TOWN OF CHARLOTTE
SELECTBOARD MEETINGS
FEBRUARY 11, 2008**

APPROVED

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

ADMINISTRATION: Dean Bloch.

OTHERS: Patrice MacHavern, Bob Mason, Dotti Waller, Dan Luce, Lynne Jaunich, Adam Brown, Clyde Baldwin, Monica (?), Larry Hamilton, Eleanor Russell, Carrie Spear, Gary Pittman, Hugh Lewis Jr, Lorna Jimerson, Norm Anderson, Robert Mack Jr, John Owen.

1. CALL TO ORDER at 7:00 p.m.

CHARLOTTE CENTRAL SCHOOL BUDGET PRESENTATION

Clyde Baldwin Central School Board representation, narrated a power point presentation regarding a proposed FY09 school budget, anticipated declining school enrollment, and tax rate implications.

Mr. Baldwin reviewed proposed Articles V and VI for the March Town Meeting. Ms. MacHavern stated that if Article VI did not pass then that would have a negative impact to the proposed budget. Ballot issues would be voted on Tuesday and other school business would be conducted on Monday evening.

CHAMPLAIN VALLEY UNION

Dottie Waller and Lorna Jimerson, Charlotte's CVU School Board representatives, reviewed enrollment projections (expected to decline), budget increase of 4.68 percent representing a budget of \$20,585,362, staffing position additions, salaries and benefits (did not include Special Education), Article VII (a \$197,000 bond for two new school buses), Article VIII (a request to apply \$275,000 from the Fund Balance to Capital Improvements to the auditorium). ACT 130 was a new formula to calculate a CVU homestead tax rate.

1. CALL TO ORDER (Selectboard Meeting)

Mr. Russell called the Selectboard meeting to order at 7:54 p.m.

2. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Added:

- VELCO Request For Clearing a Right-Of-Way and Setting Poles in the Charlotte Wildlife and Refuge Park corridor.
- Approval of Minutes

3. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

None.

4. INITIAL DISCUSSION OF USING SALT AND/OR SAND ON TOWN ROADS

Mr. Lewis Jr, Charlotte Road Commissioner, explained a salt to sand mix ratio of 1:16 to keep the sand pile from freezing, and a mix of 1:6 that is spread on the blacktop runs. One run took a 14 yard load, but it was unknown how far one load could be spread. The Town is out of salt at this time and it is difficult to find more.

Mr. Lewis Jr explained the use of sand/salt mix at intersections and hills, spreading a narrow path of the mix to concentrate at the road crown. The mix would melt and break up snow and ice. The same approach has been used for the last 30 years.

There was further discussion regarding the art of spreading sand/salt mix that included optimum temperatures and at what point sand/salt is spread (it is put down when the town trucks did the first plowing), the cost of sand (\$8.50 per yard versus \$55-60 for delivery of one 14-yard of salt); and what motivated the Selectboard to initiate discussion. Mr. Russell reported that 4 cars went off Ferry Road during the last snow storm. Safety was a concern.

Larry Hamilton, Charlotte Tree Warden and Conservation Commission member, read a written statement regarding the effects of road salt as run-off into streams and water, and sand build up in roadside ditches. Tree damage has been observed along Rte 7.

Ms. Cole suggested reviewing current town policy regarding sand/salt use.

Mr. Owen suggested continuing with current practices and getting feedback from the public.

Mr. Pittman stated that he had lost 500 Christmas trees, and some maple trees to road salt in the 1990s. It occurred over a number of years in a drainage area.

Ms. Spear reported on results of an informal poll she conducted (02/11/2008)

Mr. Stone suggested using more sand at the intersections.

Mr. Ladue asked for feedback on the number of cars that were going off the roads, and spoke in support of more sand on Hinesburg and Ferry roads.

Several members of the audience spoke in support of letting the Road Commission use his best judgment.

5. CHARLOTTE HOUSING TRUST – Discussion of Activities and Procedures

Mr. Bloch handed out copies of a Charlotte Housing Trust Fund Operating Policy for Board review.

John Owen, Ellie Russell, Carrie Spear, and Ted Montgomery, Charlotte Housing Trust representatives, explained a standard state/federal definition of the word “affordable”, which is included in the Town’s bylaws.

There was discussion regarding what was “affordable” and how to determine what was an affordable rent (Mr. Stone stated that a \$12-1400 per month rent was not affordable.); if the housing trust committee should focus on how to administer the fund; the need for criteria for applicant selection and what a fair grant amount could be; and the committee’s responsibilities that could include start up tasks such as legal requirements for perpetual affordability, a simple application form, an annual plan, a list of criteria (should be a selections from around the Town), and a detailed application process.

Mr. Owen suggested a publicity campaign once things were set up.

Mr. Ladue suggested that the committee report back the Selectboard quarterly.

Mr. Bloch suggested that the committee contact the Zoning Administrator regarding what was “affordable” and in keeping rents affordable.

Next steps: the committee would draft documents and report back to the Selectboard.

6. DESIGNATION OF SENIORCENTER AS RED CROSS SHELTER

Mr. Stone reviewed a \$9000 grant that would designate the Senior Center as a Red Cross Shelter. The Senior Center Board was in favor of the designation, which is a stipulation of the grant. The grant would help pay for a \$12,000 generator for the Senior Center.

MOTION by Mr. Thornton, seconded by Mr. Stone, to designate the Senior Center as a Red Cross Shelter as presented.

VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.

The Selectboard members signed the designation documents.

7. TOWN MEETING PREPARATION

Presentations:

- Generator at the Senior Center – Ed Stone
- Fire and Rescue department new truck – Ed Stone
- Town Budget and \$180,000 Fund Balance – Charles Russell
- A thank you and tribute to Town volunteers – Charles Russell & Winslow Ladue

Next Selectboard meeting was scheduled for 02/25/3008, agenda: dog issues

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Cole reported that VELCO was seeking Town permission to start clearing in a proposed right-of-way and setting of poles in the Charlotte Wildlife and Refuge Park. Easement negotiations were not completed yet.

There was discussion regarding easement document language that should be tailored more to wetlands and vegetation management in the corridor versus agricultural land language; concerns that clearing would start prior to legal protection of a Town asset before work starts; and a suggestion that Ms. Cole handle the decision on behalf of the Board.

MOTION by Mr. Stone, seconded by Mr. Thornton, to authorize Jenny Cole to review easement documents on behalf of the Town of Charlotte regarding the VELCO line corridor through the Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge, and to authorize Ms. Cole to sign an easement document on behalf of the Town of Charlotte.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Mack Jr asked if VELCO still had a number of easement to acquire. Ms. Cole replied she was not sure how many. Mr. Mack Jr said if VELCO doesn't have permission then how could they go on a property. Ms. Cole explained that the Town was granting permission.

VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.

Approval of the minutes was deferred to 02/25/2008.

9. BILL AND WARRANTS

The Selectboard signed Bills and Warrants as presented.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Stone, seconded by Ms. Cole, to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: unanimous; motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Kathlyn Furr, Recording Secretary.

These minutes are subject to correction by the Charlotte Selectboard. Changes, if any, will be recorded in the minutes of the next meeting of the Board.