TOWN OF CHARLOTTE

1. Corporate Existence

(a) Pursuant to the authority granted by the general assembly of the state of Vermont, there is hereby enacted a charter to govern the organization and operation of local government in the town of Charlotte, Vermont.

(b) The inhabitants of the town of Charlotte, within the geographical limits as now established, shall continue to be a municipal corporation by the name of Charlotte, Vermont.

2. General Provisions

(a) General Law application: Except when changed, enlarged or modified by the provisions of this chapter, all provisions of the statutes of the state of Vermont relating to municipalities shall apply to the town of Charlotte.

(b) Powers of the Town:

(1) General: The town of Charlotte shall have all the powers granted to towns and municipal corporations by the constitution and laws of the state of Vermont and this chapter, together with all the implied powers necessary to carry into execution all the powers granted. The town of Charlotte may enact ordinances not inconsistent with the Constitution of the state of Vermont, laws of the state of Vermont, or this chapter, and impose penalties for violation thereof.

(2) The powers and functions conferred upon the town by this charter shall be separate and be in addition to the powers and functions conferred upon the town by laws now in force or hereafter enacted. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as a limitation upon these previously specified powers and functions.

(3) Limitations: In this charter, any mention of a particular power shall not be construed to restrict the powers and functions conferred on the town of Charlotte, the selectboard of the town, or its elected or appointed officers by general or special enactment of state statutes or regulations in force or effect or hereafter enacted, and the powers and functions conferred by this chapter shall be cumulative and in addition to the provisions of the general or special enactment unless this chapter otherwise provides.

3. Adoption of Annual Budget <u>and Budget-Related Articles</u>

(a) The town shall vote the budget amount for the town and budget-related articles at the floor meeting of the annual meeting, which vote(s) shall not become effective until the voters approve such budget and related articles by Australian ballot vote conducted in the manner set forth below.

(b) The selectboard shall set a date for and warn a special meeting to vote on the budget and budget-related articles by Australian ballot. The date of the vote shall be at least twenty (20) days following the posting of the warning.

(c) If a budget voted on by Australian ballot is rejected, the selectboard shall prepare a revised budget. It shall establish a date for the vote on the revised budget, and shall take appropriate steps to warn a public informational meeting on the budget and the vote. The date of the public informational meeting shall be at least five days following the public notice. The date of the vote shall be at least seven days following the public notice. The vote on the revised budget shall be by Australian ballot and shall take place in the same locations that the first vote was taken. The budget shall be established if a majority of all votes cast are in favor. If the revised budget is rejected, the selectboard shall repeat the procedure in this subsection until a budget is adopted.

(d) If a budget-related article voted on by Australian ballot is rejected, the selectboard may, but shall not be required to prepare a revised budget-related article and take appropriate steps to warn a public informational meeting on the budget-related article and the vote. If the selectboard does proceed with a vote on a revised budget-related article, the date of the public informational meeting shall be at least five days following the public notice. The date of the vote shall be at least seven days following the public notice. The vote on the revised budget-related article shall be by Australian ballot and shall take place in the same locations that the first vote was taken. The budget-related article shall be established if a majority of all votes cast are in favor. If the revised budget-related article is rejected, the selectboard may repeat the procedure in this subsection.

(e) The term budget-related article shall mean an article that proposes to raise funds by imposing a tax on property in the town grand list but excludes an article that seeks approval to incur indebtedness to fund public improvements and acquisition of capital assets as such terms are defined in the Vermont general laws applicable to municipal corporations.

4. Separability

If any provision of this charter is held invalid, the other provisions of the charter shall not be affected thereby. If the application of the charter or any of its provisions to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the application of this charter and its provision to other persons or circumstances shall be affected thereby.

5. Amendment

Amendment of this charter shall be as provided by Vermont law.

6. Effective Date

This charter shall take effect following enactment.