

**TOWN OF CHARLOTTE
MARCH TOWN MEETING
MARCH 1, 2016**

APPROVED

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lane Morrison, Chair; Carrie Spear, Matt Krasnow, Fritz Tegatz, Jacob Spell.

ADMINISTRATION: Dean Bloch, Town Administrator.

MODERATOR: Jerry Schwarz.

Jerry Schwarz, Moderator, called the 2016 March Town Meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Lane Morrison thanked Fire Chief (retired) Chris Davis for 20 years of service to the Town and Hugh Lewis Jr, Charlotte's Road Commissioner, for 40 years of service.

Michael Yantachka, Representative, reviewed a Legislative report.

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

MOTION by Tena Flood, seconded by Lorna Jimerson, to hear the reports of the Town officers and to act upon the same.

DISCUSSION:

Lane Morrison narrated a power point presentation regarding Selectboard reports of the Town.

VOTE on Article 1: carried by voice vote.

Article 2: Will the Town vote to have Property Taxes payable on or before November 15, 2016 and to have payments made to the Town Treasurer under 32 VSA § 4773?

MOTION by Tena Flood, seconded by Lorna Jimerson, to have Property Taxes payable on or before November 15, 2016 and to have payments made to the Town Treasurer under 32 VSA § 4773.

VOTE on Article 2: carried by voice vote.

Article 3: Will the Town vote pursuant to 32 VSA § 3840 to exempt property owned by the Charlotte Grange 398 located on Spear Street from education and municipal property taxes for a period of five years commencing with FY16-17?

MOTION by Tena Flood, seconded by Lorna Jimerson, to approve a Town vote pursuant to 32 VSA § 3840 to exempt property owned by the Charlotte Grange 398 located on Spear Street from education and municipal property taxes for a period of five years commencing with FY16-17.

VOTE on Article 3: carried by voice vote.

Article 4: Will the Town adopt the Selectboard's budget of \$3,013,563 for the fiscal year July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 of which an anticipated sum of

\$1,618,786 shall be raised by taxes and an anticipated sum of \$1,394,777 will be raised by non-tax revenues?

MOTION by Tena Flood, seconded by Lorna Jimerson, to adopt the Selectboard's budget of \$3,013,563 for the fiscal year July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 of which an anticipated sum of \$1,618,786 shall be raised by taxes and an anticipated sum of \$1,394,777 will be raised by non-tax revenues.

AMENDMENT by Francis Foster, seconded by Jessie Bradley, to add \$3,000 to the Town Budget, line item Volunteer Recognition, for the Volunteer Recognition Party. Following discussion and a proposal by Valarie Graham to hold a 'DIY' pot luck dinner/celebration at the Charlotte Central School, Ms. Foster and Ms. Bradley withdrew the amendment.

VOTE on Article 4: carried unanimously by voice vote.

Article 5: Will the Town authorize the Selectboard to allocate annually monies from the General Fund budget to the Conservation Fund in an amount not to exceed two cents on the tax rate?

MOTION by Tena Flood, seconded by Lorna Jimerson, to authorize the Selectboard to allocate annually monies from the General Fund budget to the Conservation Fund in an amount not to exceed two cents on the tax rate.

AMENDMENT by Liam Murphy, seconded, to allocate annually monies from the General Fund budget to the Conservation Fund in an amount at least one cent on the tax rate and not to exceed two cents on the tax rate.

Following discussion Larry Hamilton called the question to cease debate.

VOTE to call the question to cease debate: carried by voice vote.

VOTE on the amended motion: failed by voice vote.

Larry Hamilton called the question to cease debate on the original motion.

VOTE to call the question to cease debate: carried by voice vote.

VOTE on Article 5: carried by voice vote.

Article 6: 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 Tena Flood, seconded by Lorna Jimerson, 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 on Article 6: carried unanimously by voice vote.

Article 7: To transact any other business proper to come before said meeting.

ADVISORY MOTION by John Howe, seconded by Lane Morrison, to present options to improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety along Spear Street for consideration at the next Town Meeting, AMENDED to authorize the Selectboard to report/present options for pedestrian and bicyclist safety on Charlotte's roads for consideration at the next Town Meeting.

VOTE on Amended Advisory Motion: carried by voice vote.

ADVISORY MOTION by Bob Mesaros, seconded by Gerald Bouchard, to authorize the Selectboard to consider a sound system other than VCAM for the next Town Meeting.

Following discussion the Advisory Motion was withdrawn by Bob Mesaros and Gerald Bouchard.

ADVISORY MOTION by Matt Krasnow, seconded by Robin Reid, to request the legislature to reject Article 9 of the Charlotte Australian ballot for 2016 because its design marginalizes the immediacy of Town Meeting's direct democracy; by rejecting Article 9 the legislature be will allowing the Selectboard to have one year to design a model(s) for voting on the budget and budget-related articles which instead enhances Town Meeting's efficacy while providing the opportunity for every registered voter to be represented, and for such a model(s) to be presented, discussed, and selected at Town Meeting 2017 for a future vote.

VOTE on Advisory Motion: failed by voice vote.

ADVISORY MOTION by Raven Davis, seconded by Valarie Graham, to extend a thank you to VCAM for live streaming the Charlotte 2016 Town Meeting.

VOTE on Advisory Motion: carried unanimously by voice vote.

MOTION made and seconded to adjourn the 2016 March Town Meeting.

VOTE: carried by voice vote.

The 2016 March Town Meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted, Kathlyn Furr, Recording Secretary.