

**TOWN OF CHARLOTTE
MARCH TOWN MEETING
MARCH 5, 2013**

APPROVED

MEMBERS PRESENT: Charles Russell, Chair; Ed Stone, Winslow Ladue, John Owen.
Absent: Dennis Delaney.

ADMINISTRATION: Dean Bloch, Selectboard Clerk.

MODERATOR: Jerry Hoekstra.

Mr. Hoekstra, Moderator, called the 2012 March Town Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Michael Yantachka, State Representative, reviewed a legislative report.

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

MOTION by Tina Flood, seconded by Frank Reynolds, to hear the reports of the Town officers and to act upon the same.

VOTE: carried by voice vote.

Article 2: Will the Town vote to have Property Taxes payable on or before November 15, 2013 and to have payments made to the Town Treasurer under 32 VSA § 4773?

MOTION by Tina Flood, seconded by Frank Reynolds, to have Property Taxes payable on or before November 15, 2013 and to have payments made to the Town Treasurer under 32 VSA § 4773.

VOTE: carried by voice vote.

Article 3: Will the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard to raise \$200,000 from property taxes to be deposited into the highway fund for the purpose of funding the repair or replacement of Town bridges?

MOTION by Tina Flood, seconded by Frank Reynolds, to authorize the Selectboard to raise \$200,000 from property taxes to be deposited into the highway fund for the purpose of funding the repair or replacement of Town bridges.

AMENDMENT by Winslow Ladue, seconded by Ruth Uphold, to reduce the sum of \$200,000 to \$100,000 was AMENDED by Chris White and seconded, to change the \$100,000 amount to \$150,000. A vote called by the Moderator as a "fill in the blank" vote for approval of the \$200,000 amount was defeated by voice vote. A vote on the AMENDMENT to raise \$150,000 from property taxes carried 173 ayes, 166 nays by division of the house. A vote on the main motion as amended to raise \$150,000 from property taxes carried by voice vote.

Article 4: Will the Town adopt the Selectboard's budget of \$3,013,766 for the fiscal year July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 less anticipated revenues?

MOTION by Tina Flood, seconded by Frank Reynolds, to adopt the Selectboard's budget of \$3,013,766 for the fiscal year July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 less anticipated revenues.

AMENDMENT by Steven Kiernan, seconded by Alan Hughes, to reduce the Fire and Rescue Operating Budget line item to \$309,334 for 6 months of operation while the Town evaluates contracting with the Town of Shelburne for fire and rescue coverage for the north end of Charlotte and Vergennes for coverage of the south end of Charlotte, and to present those alternatives at the end of 6 months, for a total Selectboard budget of \$2,704,441 was **AMENDED** by Clark Hinsdale III as a **FRIENDLY AMENDMENT** and agreed to by Steven Kiernan and Alan Hughes, to reduce the Fire and Rescue Operating Budget line item by \$138,779 for a total Selectboard budget of \$2,874,987 failed by paper ballot, 142 ayes, 163 nays.

AMENDMENT by Heather Manning, seconded by Robert Mack, to reduce the Fire and Rescue line item for an administrative assistant to \$18,000 and to raise the Selectboard budget by \$5,000 for Mary Mead, Town Clerk/Treasurer, to continue handling the Fire and Rescue bookkeeping, that would reduce the Fire and Rescue Operating Budget line item from \$618,650 to \$605,650 for a total Selectboard budget of \$3,766,000 failed on voice vote. Vote on the original motion for a total Selectboard budget of \$3,013,766 carried 123 ayes, 95 nays by paper ballot.

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?

MOTION by Tina Flood, seconded by Frank Reynolds, 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: carried by voice vote.

Article 6: Will the Town vote to allow the use of vote tabulator machine(s)?

MOTION by Tina Flood, seconded by Frank Reynolds, to allow the use of vote tabulator machine(s).

VOTE: carried by voice vote.

Article 7 Will the Town vote to move the WWII monument, currently located at the Charlotte Central School, to a "monument garden" to be constructed on the Town Green? Advisory motion only.

ADVISORY MOTION by Tina Flood, seconded by Frank Reynolds, to move the WWII monument, currently located at the Charlotte Central School, to a "monument garden" to be constructed on the Town Green

VOTE: carried by voice vote.

Article 8: Will the voters of the Town instruct the Selectboard to enact the resolution that follows to protect citizen health and safety, water bodies and other natural resources, in relation to tar sands oil transport through Vermont? Advisory motion only.

ADVISORY MOTION by Tina Flood, seconded by Frank Reynolds, to instruct the Selectboard to enact the resolution that follows to protect citizen health and safety, water bodies and other natural resources, in relation to tar sands oil transport through Vermont:

Whereas, the oil industry appears to be planning to use an aging oil pipeline, built in 1950, to bring Canadian tar sands diluted bitumen through Vermont on its way to Portland, Maine for export; and
Whereas, pipelines carrying tar sands have a greater likelihood of leaks and spills because of the corrosive properties of tar sands, and such spills are more costly and difficult to clean up than conventional oil spills, as demonstrated by a 2010 tar sands spill that contaminated the Kalamazoo River in Michigan.

Now, therefore, be it resolved:

1. That the Town expresses its opposition to the transport of tar sands oil through Vermont, and its deep concern about the risks of such transport for public health and safety, property values and our natural resources;
2. That the Town shall require every fuel vendor, as a precondition for doing business with Tow, to provide complete and current lists of the refinery sources of origin for all fuel the vendor sells and thereby direct the Town's purchases as much as possible toward vendors whose refinery sources do not use any material derived from tar sands; and
3. That the Town encourage the State of Vermont and other northeast states to support policies phasing out fuel purchases as quickly as possible from vendors shoes refinery sources of origin use any form of tar sands, and support policies such as a Clean Fuels Standard to help keep such fuels out of the region's fuel supply; and
4. That the Town call upon the Vermont State Legislature and the US Congress to ensure thorough environmental impact reviews of any tar sands-related pipeline proposals, including the health and safety impacts of potential tar sands oil spills, along with clear guidelines for tracking the origins and chemical composition of pipeline contents and feedstocks; and
5. That the Town transmit a copy of this resolution to all relevant state, federal and Canadian officials, and the CEOs of Portland Pipe Line Corporation, Montreal Pipe Line Limited, Imperial Oil, ExxonMobile, and Enbridge inc.

VOTE: carried by voice vote.

Article 9: To transact any other business proper to come before said meeting.
ADVISORY MOTION by Heather Manning, seconded by Moe Harvey, that the Board of Directors of Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue, Inc., accept a request of the voters of the Town of Charlotte to dissolve their corporation no later than June 30, 2013; by operation of its bylaws, in the case of such dissolution, all of the assets

of Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue, Inc., automatically become the property of the Town of Charlotte; further, that in such case Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue fails to dissolve as requested, the Town Selectboard is directed to withhold any and all disbursements of Town monies on behalf of Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue, Inc., until such time that the referred dissolution has been voted and completed by Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue, Inc.; further, the Town Selectboard shall appoint five community members to a newly formed Public Safety Commission for the purpose of immediate planning and assumption of all executive authority duties respecting the operation and delivery of Fire and Rescue services to the inhabitants of the Town, and the receiving of all related assets previously owned by Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue, Inc. A FRIENDLY AMENDMENT by Gordon Troy to appoint a Task Force of 5-7 members consisting of community members, a Charlotte Fire and Rescue representative and a Selectboard member was not recognized by Heather Manning. VOTE on the original Advisory Motion failed by voice vote.

ADVISORY MOTION by Gordon Troy, seconded by Jeff McDonald, to form a Task Force to assist the Selectboard and Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue, Inc. FRIENDLY AMENDMENT by Dick St George, for interested parties to volunteer for the Advisory Board to assist the Corporate Board. Following further discussion Gordon Troy withdrew the motion.

MOTION made and seconded to adjourn the 2013 March Town Meeting carried by voice vote.

The 2013 March Town Meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted, Kathlyn Furr, Recording Secretary.