

**TOWN OF CHARLOTTE
ANNUAL MARCH TOWN MEETING
CHARLOTTE CENTRAL SCHOOL
MARCH 6, 2012**

APPROVED

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

ADMINISTRATION: Dean Bloch, Selectboard Clerk.

MODERATOR: Jerry Schwartz.

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

Mr. Schwartz read a State of Vermont House of Representative Resolution, HCR 288, regarding the 250th anniversary of Charlotte document, sponsored by Mike Yantachka, to the assemblage.

Ms. Bean thanked the Charlotte Town Clerk, Mary Mead, for the Frank Thornton dedication in the Town Report.

Article 1: To hear the reports of the Town officers and to act upon the same.
MOTION by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Ms. Rosenthal, 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, 2012 and to have payments made to the Town Treasurer under 32 VSA § 4773?
MOTION by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Ms. Rosenthal, to have Property Taxes payable on or before November 15, 2012 and to have payments made to the Town Treasurer under 32 VSA § 4773.
VOTE: carried by voice vote.

Article 3: Will the Town adopt the Selectboard's budget of \$2,820,412 for the fiscal year July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013 less anticipated revenues?
MOTION by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Ms. Rosenthal, to adopt the Selectboard's budget of \$2,820,412 for the fiscal year July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013 less anticipated revenues.
AMENDMENT TO THE ARTICLE 3 MOTION by Ms. Menard, seconded by Mr. Weed, to reduce the proposed budget by \$5,000 for a holiday party to recognize volunteers, for a total budget of \$2,815,412.
VOTE on the AMENDMENT to ARTICLE 3 MOTION to reduce the budget by \$5,000: failed by voice vote.

AMENDMENT TO THE ARTICLE 3 MOTION by Dr. Bernstein, seconded by Mr. Hamilton, to reduce the budget by \$3,200 to eliminate two fertilizations from the Berry Farm ball field maintenance for a total budget of \$2,817,212.

VOTE on the AMENDMENT to ARTICLE 3 MOTION to reduce the budget by \$3,200 by a Division of the House: ayes 123, nays 51; amendment carried.

AMENDMENT to the ARTICLE 3 amended MOTION by Mr. Chutter, seconded by Ms. Bean, to add up to \$5,000 to the budget of \$2,817,212 to cover expenses of a 250th Charlotte Town Anniversary Celebration, for a total budget of \$2,822,212.

VOTE on the AMENDMENT to add up to \$5,000 for a total budget of \$2,822,212: carried by voice vote.

AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 3 amended MOTION by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Ms. Uphold, to eliminate fertilizing of the Town Beach Ball Field contract and to reduce the Land Maintenance line item and by \$2,000, for a total budget of \$2,802,212.

VOTE on the AMENDMENT to ARTICLE 3 MOTION to reduce the proposed budget by \$2,000, for a total budget of \$2,802,212 by a Division of the House by a standing head count: ayes 95, nays 102; amendment failed.

MOTION by Mr. Bouchard, and seconded, to call the question and to cease debate on Article 3 as amended for a budget of \$2,822,212.

VOTE to cease debate: failed by voice vote.

MOTION by Ms. Paris, and seconded, to call the question and to cease debate.

VOTE to cease debate: carried by voice vote.

VOTE on Article 3 as amended for a FY2012/2013 budget of \$2,822,212: carried by voice vote.

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 Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Ms. Rosenthal, 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 5: Will the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard to have a sidewalk constructed adjacent to the north side of Ferry Road, depicted as Segments A and B in a plan entitled "Sidewalk Planning, Overall Site Plan" by Civil Engineering Associates, Inc. dated January 12, 2012, at a cost not to exceed \$77,000 and authorize the Selectboard to increase the municipal tax rate sufficiently to pay for said construction?

MOTION by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Ms. Rosenthal, to authorize the Selectboard to have a sidewalk constructed adjacent to the north side of Ferry Road, depicted as Segments A and B in a plan entitled "Sidewalk Planning, Overall Site Plan" by Civil Engineering Associates, Inc. dated January 12, 2012, at a cost not to exceed \$77,000 and authorize the Selectboard to increase the municipal tax rate sufficiently to pay for said construction.

MOTION by Ms. Paris, and seconded, to call the question and cease debate.

VOTE to cease debate: carried by voice vote.

VOTE on Article 5 by a Division of the House by paper ballot: ayes 141, nays 124; motion carried.

Article 6: Will the Town vote pursuant to 32 VSA § 3840 to exempt property owned by Charlotte Volunteer Fire & Rescue Services, Inc. from education and municipal property taxes for a period of five years commencing with fiscal year 2012-13?

MOTION by Ms. Flood, seconded by Mr. Mesaros, pursuant to 32 VSA § 3840 to exempt property owned by Charlotte Volunteer Fire & Rescue Services, Inc. from education and municipal property taxes for a period of five years commencing with fiscal year 2012-13.

VOTE: carried by voice vote.

Article 7: Will the Town vote pursuant to 32 VSA § 3840 to exempt property owned by the Friendship Lodge #24 F&AM located on Church Hill Road from education and municipal property taxes for a period of five years commencing with fiscal year 2012-13?

MOTION by Ms. Flood, seconded by Ms. Knight, pursuant to 32 VSA § 3840 to exempt property owned by the Friendship Lodge #24 F&AM located on Church Hill Road from education and municipal property taxes for a period of five years commencing with fiscal year 2012-13.

VOTE: carried by voice vote.

Article 8: To hear the report of the West Charlotte Wastewater Committee regarding its study of allowing connections to the municipal wastewater facility located on the so-called Burns Parcel (town-owned) for the purpose of providing wastewater disposal for private residential and commercial uses in West Charlotte Village?

MOTION by Ms. Flood, seconded by Mr. Hamilton, to hear the report of the West Charlotte Wastewater Committee regarding its study of allowing connections to the municipal wastewater facility located on the so-called Burns Parcel (town-owned) for the purpose of providing wastewater disposal for private residential and commercial uses in West Charlotte Village.

VOTE: carried by voice vote.

Article 9: Will the Selectboard explore the creation of a capital budget and program as provided by 24 VSA § 4430 and 4443, and also explore the creation of an associated reserve fund (i.e. "Capital Project Reserve Fund") for the purpose of providing funds for capital projects identified in the capital budget and program? Advisory motion only.

MOTION by Ms. Knight, seconded by Mr. Schermerhorn, to authorize the Selectboard explore the creation of a capital budget and program as provided by 24 VSA § 4430 and 4443, and also explore the creation of an associated reserve fund

(i.e. “Capital Project Reserve Fund”) for the purpose of providing funds for capital projects identified in the capital budget and program.

VOTE: carried by voice vote.

Article 10: Shall voters of the Town of Charlotte urge the Vermont Congressional Delegation and the United States Congress to propose a United States Constitutional amendment for the States' consideration which provides that money is not political speech, that corporations are not persons under the United States Constitution, that the General Assembly of the State of Vermont pass a similar resolution, and that the town send its resolution to Vermont State and Federal representatives within thirty days of passage of this measure? Advisory motion only.

MOTION by Mr. Yantachka, seconded by Ms. Knight, that the voters of the Town of Charlotte urge the Vermont Congressional Delegation and the United States Congress to propose a United States Constitutional amendment for the States' consideration which provides that money is not political speech, that corporations are not persons under the United States Constitution, that the General Assembly of the State of Vermont pass a similar resolution, and that the town send its resolution to Vermont State and Federal representatives within thirty days of passage of this measure.

VOTE: carried by voice vote.

Article 11: To transact any other business proper to come before said meeting.

MOTION by Mr. Weed, seconded by Ms. Perkins, that the Town lands be fertilized with organic fertilizer if/when needed.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Krasnow, that, if on the basis of a soil analysis on Town land, it is found that nutrients need to be applied, then the Town would apply fertilizers that contain no harmful products, or that impairs water quality.

VOTE: carried by voice vote.

MOTION by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Mesaros, will the Town support in principle the celebration of Arbor Day on May 4th of this year 2012, and request the Selectboard to issue a proclamation designating the day in Charlotte thus encouraging the planting of trees and appreciation of trees on that one day at least.

VOTE: carried by voice vote.

MOTION by Ms. Hamilton, seconded by Ms. Reid, that we, the Charlotte community, value our ability to produce, process, sell, buy, and consume local foods; this ability is our local food sovereignty; given the growing uncertainty around industrial agriculture’s ability to provide food that is safe, healthy, minimally processed, humane, and compatible with the planet’s changing environment, it is increasingly important for us to strengthen our local food sovereignty and the infrastructure which supports it; therefore, because of the benefits of local food for both our physical and social-economic health and the health of our environment, we pledge as individuals and as a community, to

encourage and support the household- and commercial- level production (done with attention to long-term resource stewardship), and the distribution of these products of the land through means which gives fair access to all, including direct sale to consumers; we request the Charlotte Selectboard to convey this statement to all appropriate officials in Vermont State government and elsewhere.

VOTE: carried by voice vote.

MOTION by Ms. Knight, seconded by Mr. Hamilton, that the Selectboard shall request 48 hours notification from the Agency of Agriculture regarding herbicide treatments at the VELCO Station, in the Town of Charlotte.

VOTE: carried by voice vote.

MOTION by Ms. Paris, and seconded, that in the future expenditures, such as for sidewalks, will be placed on Australian ballot for voting by the Town.

VOTE: failed by voice vote.

MOTION by Ms. Lighthall, and seconded, to adjourn the 2012 March Town Meeting.

VOTE: carried by voice vote.

The 2012 March Town Meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted, Kathlyn Furr, Recording Secretary.