

**ABSTRACT OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 6, 2012**

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS: Charles Russell (Chair), Edward Stone, Winslow Ladue, John Owen & Dennis Delaney

MODERATOR: Jerry Schwarz

Jerry Schwarz called the meeting to order at 9:00AM in the Charlotte Central School Multi-Purpose Room. The polls were open from 7AM until 7PM.

- ARTICLE 1:** Reports of the Town Officers were accepted by voice vote.
- ARTICLE 2:** Article was passed by voice vote to have property taxes paid on or before November 15, 2012 and to have payments made to the Town Treasurer under 32 VSA § 4773.
- ARTICLE 3:** The Selectboard 's budget of \$2,820,412 was amended by Nancy Menard to reduce the budget by \$5,000 for the holiday party to recognize volunteers, for a total budget of \$2,815,412. The amendment failed by voice vote. An amendment by Richard Bernstein to reduce the budget by \$3,200 to eliminate two fertilizations for the Berry Farm ballfield maintenance for a total budget of \$2,817,212 passed by a vote of 123 yes to 51 no. A third amendment by Bob Chutter to add up to \$5,000 to the budget to cover expenses of a 250th Charlotte Town Anniversary Celebration, for a total budget of \$2,822,212 carried by voice vote. A fourth amendment made by Jim Donovan to reduce the budget by \$2,000 to eliminate the fertilization of the Town Beach ballfield, for a total budget of \$2,802,212 failed by a vote of 95 yes to 102 no. The amended budget of \$2,822,212 passed by voice vote.
- ARTICLE 4:** The article to authorize the Selectboard to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipated revenues for the next fiscal year passed by voice vote.
- ARTICLE 5:** The article to authorize the Selectboard to construct a sidewalk 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 passed by a vote of 141 yes to 124 no.
- ARTICLE 6:** Article was passed by voice vote to exempt property owned by Charlotte Volunteer Fire & Rescue Services Inc. from education and municipal taxes, pursuant to 32 VSA §3840, for a five year period commencing with FY2012-13.
- ARTICLE 7:** The Town voted to exempt property owned by the Friendship Lodge #24 F&AM located on Church Hill Road from education and municipal taxes, pursuant to 32 VSA § 3840, for a period of five years commencing with FY2012-13, passed by voice vote.
- ARTICLE 8:** The report of the West Charlotte Wastewater Committee regarding its study of allowing connections to the municipal wastewater system located on the so-called Burns Parcel (town-owned) for the purpose of providing wastewater disposal for private residential and commercial uses in the West Village was heard.

ARTICLE 9: The Town authorized the Selectboard to explore the creation of a capital budget and program as provided by 24 VSA § 4430 & 4443, and also explore the creation of an associated reserve fund for the purpose of providing funds for capital projects identified in the capital budget and program; passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 10: An advisory motion that the voters of the Town urge the Vermont Congressional Delegation and the US Congress to propose a US Constitutional amendment for the States' consideration which provides that money is not political speech, that corporations are not persons under the US 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 passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 11: Several advisory motions were discussed under other business. A motion was made and passed that town lands be fertilized with organic fertilizer if/when needed. A second motion was made and passed that the Town support the celebration of Arbor Day on May 4, 2012. A third motion to support our local food sovereignty also passed by voice vote. A fourth motion was made and passed that the Selectboard request 48 hours notification from the Agency of Agriculture regarding herbicide treatments at the VELCO station in Charlotte. A fifth motion was made and failed to vote by Australian ballot for expenditures, such as sidewalks, in the future.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 PM. The full text of the minutes is available in the Town Clerk's Office.

**BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT (MARCH 6, 2012)
ARTICLE TO ELECT TOWN OFFICERS**

TOWN & SCHOOL MODERATOR (1 YEAR)	JERRY SCHWARZ
SELECTMAN (2 YEARS)	WINSLOW LADUE
SELECTMAN (3 YEARS)	CHARLES RUSSELL
DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR (1 YEAR)	MARY A. MEAD
AUDITOR (3 YEARS)	NANCY E. WOOD
CEMETERY COMMISSIONER (3 YEARS)	STEPHEN BROOKS
ROAD COMMISSIONER (1 YEAR)	HUGH LEWIS JR.
LISTER (3 YEARS)	KAY GAULT
TRUSTEE OF PUBLIC FUNDS (3 YEARS)	HEATHER GARVEY MANNING
TOWN GRAND JUROR (1 YEAR)	TED BRAUN
TOWN AGENT (1 YEAR)	EDWARD MERRITT
CCS SCHOOL DIRECTOR (3 YEARS)	CLYDE E. BALDWIN
CCS SCHOOL DIRECTOR (2 YEARS)	KRISTIN C. WRIGHT
CHARLOTTE LIBRARY TRUSTEE (5 YEARS)	DORRICE HAMMER
TOWN CLERK & TOWN TREASURER	MARY A. MEAD
3/6/2012 CCS BUDGET (\$6,945,915) CCS REVENUE	IN FAVOR – 585 IN FAVOR - 766 AGAINST - 370 AGAINST- 181

