

**TOWN OF CHARLOTTE
MARCH TOWN MEETING
CHARLOTTE CENTRAL SCHOOL
MARCH 5, 2019**

APPROVED

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lane Morrison, Chair; Carrie Spear, Matt Krasnow, Fritz Tegatz, Frank Tenney.

ADMINISTRATION: Dean Bloch, Town Administrator.

MODERATOR: Charles Russell.

Charles Russell, Moderator, called the 2019 March Town Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Charlotte Central School Multipurpose Room. The polls were open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. Specific non-residents were authorized to speak. Michael Yantachka reported on current house bills.

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

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

VOTE on Article 1: carried by voice vote; motion passed.

Article 2:

Will the Town vote to have Property Taxes payable on or before November 15, 2019 and to have payments made to the Town Treasurer under 32 VSA § 4773?

MOTION by Tina Flood, seconded by Nancy Rosenthal, to have Property Taxes payable on or before November 15, 2019 and to have payments made to the Town Treasurer under 32 VSA § 4773.

VOTE on Article 2: carried by voice vote; motion passed.

Article 3:

Will the Town approve the Selectboard's budget of \$3,264,779 for the fiscal year July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 of which an anticipated sum of \$1,881,785 will be raised by taxes and an anticipated sum of \$1,382,994 will be raised by non-tax revenues, which approval shall not become effective until said budget is adopted by Australian ballot vote in accordance with the requirements of the charter of the Town of Charlotte?

MOTION by Tina Flood, seconded by Nancy Rosenthal, to approve the Selectboard's budget of \$3,264,779 for the fiscal year July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 of which an anticipated sum of \$1,881,785 will be raised by taxes and an anticipated sum of \$1,382,994 will be raised by non-tax revenues, which approval shall not become effective until said budget is adopted by Australian ballot vote in accordance with the requirements of the charter of the Town of Charlotte.
AMENDMENT by Peter Demick, seconded by Bob Mesaros, to reduce the Trails Reserve fund to zero, and increase the Highway – Brush/Tree removal line item \$5,000 for a total of \$100,000.

CALL THE QUESTION VOTE: carried by voice vote; passed.

VOTE ON THE AMENDMENT: failed by voice vote; failed.

AMENDMENT by Mary Mead, seconded by Bob Mesaros, to reduce the Selectboard's budget by \$157,500 for a total budget of \$3,107,279 as follows:

- Reduce the CVFRS Capital Reserve fund by \$70,000
- Reduce the CVFRS Operating budget Town appropriation by \$53,000
- Reduce the Selectboard's Legal line item by \$25,000
- Reduce the Planning/Zoning – Planning Consultant line item by \$2,500
- Reduce the Donations by \$3,000
- Reduce the Energy Committee line item by \$4,000

VOTE ON THE AMENDMENT to reduce the Selectboard's budget by \$157,500 for a total budget of \$3,170,279: failed by voice vote.

VOTE on Article 3: 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 Tina Flood, seconded by Gerald Bouchard, 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 4: carried by voice vote.

Article 5: To transact any other business property to come before said meeting.
ADVISORY MOTION by Tina Flood, seconded by Jim Donovan, to transact any other business property to come before said meeting.
VOTE on Article 5: carried by voice vote.

ADVISORY MOTION by Catherine Bock, seconded by Rue Swenertfelt, to approve a Charlotte Climate Solutions Resolution, dated March 5, 2019,
Whereas extreme and erratic temperatures, increasingly severe storms, a rise in tick-borne diseases, and threats to farmers and maple sugar makers clearly demonstrate that climate change is one of the most urgent problems facing our state, nation and the world, and
Whereas the State of Vermont has a goal in the Comprehensive Energy Plan to achieve 90 percent of its energy from renewable sources by 2050, yet is making insufficient progress towards achieving that goal according to the Energy Action Network 2018 Annual Progress Report:
Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved:
Shall the voters of the Town of Charlotte urge the State of Vermont to:

- Halt any new or expanded fossil fuel infrastructure, i.e. liquid or gas transmission pipelines, electrical generation plants, or industrial fuel storage facilities,
- Commit instead to 100 percent renewable energy by 2030 for all people in Vermont, with firm interim deadlines and,
- Ensure that the transition to renewable energy is fair and equitable for all residents, with no harm to marginalized groups or rural communities.

VOTE on Advisory Motion: carried by voice vote.

ADVISORY MOTION by John Kerr, seconded by David Schermerhorn, to eliminate the property tax on the Masonic Lodge.
VOTE on Advisory Motion: failed by voice vote.

BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT

Article 6: To elect Town Officers.

Article 7: Shall bonds of the Town of Charlotte in an amount not to exceed Two Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars and 00/100 (\$275,000.00) be issued to finance the purchase of a new ambulance and related equipment to replace a 2006 ambulance?

Article 8: Shall bonds of the Town of Charlotte in an amount not to exceed Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars and 00/100 (\$700,000.00) be issued to finance the construction of an addition to the Charlotte Library.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION made and seconded to adjourn the 2019 March Town Meeting.
VOTE: carried by voice vote.

The 2019 March Town Meeting was adjourned at 12:27 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted, Kathryn Furr, Recording Secretary.

 3-28-19

Town Moderator