

**CHARLOTTE SELECTBOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING
CHARLOTTE CENTRAL SCHOOL
MARCH 6, 2017**

APPROVED

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS: Lane Morrison, Chair; Carrie Spear, Matthew Krasnow, Fritz Tegatz, Jacob Spell (arrived at 6:10 p.m.).

ADMINISTRATION: Dean Bloch, Town Administrator.

OTHERS: John Snow, Dick St George, Gerald Bouchard, Michael Yantachka, Heather Manning, Nancy Wood, Mary Mead, Robert Mack, Jordan Paquette, and others.

ITEM TAKEN UP:

- Article 12 of the Warning for the Town of Charlotte Annual Town Meeting, 2017, which states: Shall bonds of the Town of Charlotte in an amount not to exceed Six Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars and 00/100 (\$625,000.00) be issued to finance the purchase of a new fire pumper truck and related equipment to replace the 1980 fire pumper truck

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Morrison called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ARTICLE 12 OF THE WARNING FOR THE TOWN OF CHARLOTTE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING, 2017, WHICH STATES: SHALL BONDS OF THE TOWN OF CHARLOTTE IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED SIX HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$625,000.00) BE ISSUED TO FINANCE THE PURCHASE OF A NEW FIRE PUMPER TRUCK AND RELATED EQUIPMENT TO REPLACE THE 1980 FIRE PUMPER TRUCK

John Snow, CVFRS Corporate President, reviewed that the Fire Department has hosted two open houses at the Fire Station regarding Article 12 and the need for a new pumper truck.

Fire Chief Dick St George explained a proposed 20-year bond for an amount not to exceed \$625,000 for the purchase of a new Compressed Air Foam pumper truck to replace the 1980 pumper currently in use. The department search committee has narrowed the search to three vendors and received estimates. RFP's for bids will be sent out if Article 12 passes at Town Meeting, said Chief St George.

Mr. Morrison asked if the 1980 pumper truck had any value. Chief St George replied that the main value was as scrap metal. A collector might want it for a fire equipment collection, but the truck itself has little value, said Chief St George.

Ms. Mead asked why the Town needed to purchase another pumper when the 2004 truck was not paid for yet. Chief St George said that the Fire Department bonds replacement vehicles over 20 years. If a new truck is purchased then the 2004 pumper will replace the

1980 truck as a second line vehicle. The 1980 truck has exceeded its life use and needs to be replaced. Apparatus has a 20-year life span and a 10-year life as a reserve. The 2004 truck will be 14 years old before the new truck is delivered, pointed out Chief St George.

Mr. Spell asked if CVFRS has provided copies of the department's bank statements. Chief St George said that CVFRS has honored every request as per the MOA contract.

Ms. Wood asked what the total bond interest payments will be. She has reviewed past equipment purchases and last year a new truck was estimated to cost \$550,000, said Ms. Wood. Chief St George replied that the estimate was \$575,000. Estimates were received from multiple vendors. The tank size was increased to meet ISO rating requirements, which could translate into lower homeowner insurance premiums, explained Chief St George.

Ms. Wood asked how an insurance company would know ISO ratings have changed. Chief St George said that the carrying capacity of the new truck will be 4,000 gallons of water "on wheels", which meets ISO ratings standards. For a community with an ISO rating it could mean 4-7 percent savings on insurance rates. For example, Shelburne has hydrant areas with an ISO rating of 6, and non-hydrant areas that are ISO rated 9-10. In Charlotte there are no hydrants and the ISO ratings are 9-10. The ISO rating would change to 8-6 in Charlotte with the 4,000 gallons of water "on wheels", said Chief St George.

Ms. Wood said she has reviewed prior Town Reports. Originally the Fire Department said a new truck would cost \$348,000, last year it was \$550,000, and now the cost is \$625,000. Rescue will ask for a new ambulance next year and that is a concern, said Ms. Wood. Chief St George said the estimate is the cost of the truck plus hoses and other equipment.

Mr. Mack stated that the 2004 truck was purchased as a replacement for the 1980 pumper. Chief St George replied that the 1980 Mack was a front line truck and was replaced by the 2004 truck. The 1980 truck became the reserve 2nd line pumper. It has exceeded its useful life. It carries 750 gallons of water in the tank and the tank leaks. The 2004 front line pumper carries 1,000 gallons. For a lower ISO rating you need 4,000 gallons of water, said Chief St George.

Ms. Wood asked if the public will be able to ask questions regarding the bond during the Town Meeting. CVFRS is asking for \$120,000 in the Capital Reserve fund in addition to the bond, noted Ms. Wood. Mr. Morrison replied that will be up to the Town Moderator. Mr. Snow will narrate a power point presentation during the Town Meeting. There will be discussion on the Capital Reserve fund, explained Mr. Morrison.

The Selectboard thanked everyone for their input.

**MOTION by Mr. Spell, seconded by Mr. Tegatz, to adjourn the meeting.
VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted, Kathlyn L. Furr, Recording Secretary.