

**TOWN OF CHARLOTTE
TOWN MEETING
MARCH 6, 2018
CHARLOTTE CENTRAL SCHOOL**

APPROVED

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

ADMINISTRATION: Dean Bloch, Town Administrator

MODERATOR: Charles Russell

The Moderator reviewed Roberts Rules and the procedure for the Town Meeting. Specific non-residents were authorized to speak. Mike Yantachka reported on current house bills.

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

MOTION by Gerald Bouchard, seconded by Nancy Wood, to hear the reports of the Town officers and to act upon the same.

VOTE on Article 1: carried by voice vote.

Nancy Wood requested the Selectboard report on the status of the Affordable Housing Committee, and whether the \$139,594 in the Housing Trust Fund will be used, or whether it should be returned to voters.

Mark Dillenback reported on the emergence of the Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive insect destructive to Ash trees.

Article 2: Will the Town vote to have taxes payable on or before November 15, 2018 and to have payments made to the Town Treasurer under 32 VSA § 4773?

MOTION by Gerald Bouchard, seconded, to have taxes payable on or before November 15, 2018 and to have payments made to the Town Treasurer under 32 VSA § 4773? .

VOTE on Article 2: carried by voice vote.

Article 3: Will the Town approve the Selectboard's budget of \$3,145,465 for the fiscal year July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 of which an anticipated sum of \$1,761,899 will be raised by taxes and an anticipated sum of \$1,383,566 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 Gerald Bouchard, seconded, to approve the Selectboard's budget of \$3,145,465 for the fiscal year July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 of which an anticipated sum of \$1,761,899 will be raised by taxes and an anticipated sum of \$1,383,566 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 TO AMEND by Vince Crockenberg ("First Amendment"), seconded, to provide a \$500 donation to the Charlotte News in the donation portion of the Selectboard Budget, bringing the Article 3 bottom line up to \$3,145,965.

VOTE on the First Amendment to Article 3: carried by voice vote.

MOTION TO AMEND by Dave Garbose ("Second Amendment"), seconded, to add \$30,000 to the 2018-2019 budget for the Trails Reserve Fund to be used in conjunction with existing reserve fund to complete the trail on the north side of State Park Road from Mount Philo State Park to the Mack Trail. Any money remaining from the project will be returned to the Trails Committee Reserve Fund.

There was a motion to cease debate, and it was seconded.

VOTE on ceasing debate of the Second Amendment to Article 3. The voice vote was not determinative. The Moderator called for a division of the House by standing. The Moderator ruled those in favor of ceasing debate outnumbered those against ceasing debate.

VOTE on Second Amendment to Article 3. The voice vote was not determinative. The Moderator called for a division of the House by standing. The Moderator ruled the nays outnumbered the ayes. A count of the division

of the House by the Justices of the Peace was requested. The count was 53 Ayes, 75 Nays. The Second Amendment failed.

MOTION TO AMEND by Mary Mead (“Third Amendment”), seconded, to reduce the Selectboard budget by \$100,000 to \$3,045,965.

VOTE on the Third Amendment: failed by voice vote.

VOTE on Article 3 as amended by First Amendment: carried by voice vote.

Article 4: Will the Town approve raising \$50,000 by taxes, in addition to those monies raised pursuant to Article 3, for the purpose of purchasing and installing emergency propane generators at the Senior Center and Town Hall, which approval shall not become effective until further approval by Australian ballot vote in accordance with the requirements of the charter of the Town of Charlotte?

MOTION by Gerald Bouchard, seconded, to approve raising \$50,000 by taxes, in addition to those monies raised pursuant to Article 3, for the purpose of purchasing and installing emergency propane generators at the Senior Center and Town Hall, which approval shall not become effective until further approval by Australian ballot vote in accordance with the requirements of the charter of the Town of Charlotte?

There was a request to cease debate, and it was seconded.

VOTE on ceasing debate on Article 4. The Moderator ruled those in favor of ceasing debate outnumbered those against ceasing debate.

VOTE on Article 4: The voice vote was not determinative. The Moderator called for a division of the House. The Moderator ruled the ayes outnumbered the nays. The article carried.

Article 5: Will the Town approve raising \$30,000 by taxes, in addition to those monies raised pursuant to Article 3 and Article 4, for the purpose of recreation capital improvements, to be added to the Recreation Reserve Fund, which approval shall not become effective until further approval by Australian ballot vote in accordance with the requirements of the charter of the Town of Charlotte?

MOTION by Gerald Bouchard, seconded, to approve raising \$30,000 by taxes, in addition to those monies raised pursuant to Article 3 and Article 4, for the purpose of recreation capital improvements, to be added to the Recreation

Reserve Fund, which approval shall not become effective until further approval by Australian ballot vote in accordance with the requirements of the charter of the Town of Charlotte?

VOTE on Article 5: carried by voice vote.

Article 6: Will the Town approve the purchase of airpacks with bottles to replace existing airpacks that date from 1995 and 2005 at an approximate cost of \$220,000, to be paid from the Fire & Rescue Reserve Fund?

MOTION by Gerald Bouchard, seconded, to approve the purchase of airpacks with bottles to replace existing airpacks that date from 1995 and 2005 at an approximate cost of \$220,000, to be paid from the Fire & Rescue Reserve Fund?

There was a request to cease debate, and it was seconded.

VOTE on ceasing debate on Article 6. The Moderator ruled those in favor of ceasing debate outnumbered those against ceasing debate.

VOTE on Article 6: carried by voice vote.

Article 7: 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 Valerie Graham, seconded, to 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?

VOTE on Article 7: carried by voice vote.

Article 8: To transact any other business proper to come before said meeting.

MOTION by Jane Krasnow, seconded, to transact any other business proper to come before said meeting.

VOTE on Article 8: carried by voice vote.

ADVISORY MOTION by Jane Krasnow, seconded, to have the Town study the feasibility of purchasing the lot on the Southeast corner of Route 7 and Church Hill Road. Its strategic location and accessibility from both East & West

Charlotte could turn out to be a valuable asset to the town. She indicated she believes that Town ownership of the property can ensure that future development directly benefits the residents and is consistent with the majority with the town voters.

VOTE: carried by voice vote.

MOTION by Susan Ohanian, seconded, that the Town request that the Vermont state legislature modify our gun laws in imitation of the federal assault weapons ban that was in effect from 1994-2004, which act imposed a ban on the manufacture, importation, and sale of assault weapons, and restricted their possession and disposal, and which laid down specific conditions in such a way as to maintain consistency with the Constitution and the Second Amendment and that such request be sent from the Charlotte Selectboard to the President Pro Tem of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and our Representative, Mike Yantachka.

VOTE: carried by voice vote.

The Moderator asked if there was interest in reviewing the Australian ballot articles; none shown. MOTION to adjourn. Jonathan Freese seconded the motion.

VOTE: carried by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Jonathan Freese, seconded, to adjourn.

VOTE: carried by voice vote.

The Moderator ruled the Town Meeting 2018 was adjourned at 12:21pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Freedra Powers
Recording Secretary