

1 **CHARLOTTE SELECTBOARD MEETING**  
2 **January 23, 2025**  
3 **Charlotte Town Hall and via teleconference**  
4 **DRAFT**

5 *Draft minutes are subject to correction by the Charlotte Selectboard.*

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7 **SELECTBOARD MEMBERS:** James Faulkner, Chair; Frank Tenney, Vice Chair; Lewis  
8 Mudge; Kelly Devine; Natalie Kanner

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10 **ADMINISTRATION:** Nathaniel Bareham

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12 **OTHERS:** Robert Caldwell, John Snow, Jamie Valyou, Ed Sulva, Carrie Spear, Charles Russell,  
13 Richard Hendrickson, Maura Wygman, Mary Mead

14  
15 **AGENDA ITEMS**

16 6:30 PM Adjustments to the Agenda

17 6:31 PM Approval of Warrants to Pay Bills

18 1 6:35 PM Review & Finalization of the Town's FY26 Proposed Budget, to include:

19 a. CVFRS Appropriation

20 b. Trails Committee Article

21 c. Donation Requests

22 2 7:30 PM Review of the 2026 Draft Town Meeting Warning and Articles

23 8:00 PM Adjournment

24  
25 *James Faulkner Called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.*

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27 **Adjustments to the Agenda**

28 None.

29  
30 **Approval of Warrants to Pay Bills**

31  
32 **Review & Finalization of the Town's FY26 Proposed Budget, to include:**

33 **CVFRS Appropriation**

34 Mary Mead gave a summary of previous discussions. Last year the budget was less, James  
35 Faulkner said. A \$100,000 increase has been requested. If the Selectboard does try to reduce the  
36 proposed budget, it will go to a floor vote at Town Meeting, Kelly Devine said. She called for  
37 discussion on regionalization and opportunities for collaboration and to collectively reduce costs.  
38 There was a \$15,000 request from capital reserve by John Snow for the equipment they need.  
39 This was money that CVFRS took out of the operating budget and put into capital reserve last  
40 year upon request by the Selectboard, he said. This budget has been voted on separately in the  
41 past, Frank Tenney said. This works by Australian Ballot, but not on the Town Meeting floor,  
42 Kelly said. No official action taken.

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44 **Trails Committee Article**

45 How Articles were handled in the past for the Trails Committee was discussed. Mary presented a  
46 historical record of funding numbers in these Articles. The current Ferry Road section was

47 discussed. Junior Lewis will be contacted for an estimate, James said. Further discussion is  
48 needed. Natalie Kanner asked why the Town isn't responsible for the costs of grooming the trails  
49 rather than the committee. Lewis Mudge said the committee has the volunteer hours that far  
50 surpass doing it through the Town. The Town saves money on trail grooming by having the  
51 committee handle this, he said. Charlie Russell spoke about how the reserve fund has been  
52 utilized in the past for the recreation and trails committees. Separate maintenance funds for the  
53 trails should be added to the budget, Lewis Mudge said. This should be taken from the reserve  
54 fund, Frank said.

55

### 56 **Donation Requests**

57 The vetting process for the Town's donations was reviewed. Recipients, the services provided,  
58 and the benefits to the town were discussed. A straw pole was taken. Lewis Creek Association,  
59 UVM Health Network, Agewell, Steps to End Domestic Violence, and Charlotte Food Shelf  
60 were approved. Association for the Blind, Vermont Rural Fire Protection, and Vermont Family  
61 Network were taken off the list.

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### 63 **Review of the 2026 Draft Town Meeting Warning and Articles**

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**DRAFT WARNING  
TOWN OF CHARLOTTE  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
2025**

69 The legal voters of the Town of Charlotte are hereby notified and warned to meet in-person at  
70 the Charlotte Central School Multi-Purpose Room, located at 408 Hinesburg Road in said Town,  
71 on Saturday, March 1, 2025 at nine o'clock in the forenoon (9:00 A.M.) to act upon the articles  
72 set forth below not involving voting by Australian ballot (Articles 9, 10), and to meet at the  
73 Charlotte Town Hall, located at 159 Ferry Road in said Town, on the Tuesday, March 4, 2025 to  
74 vote by Australian ballot to begin at seven o'clock in the forenoon (7:00 A.M.) and to close at  
75 seven o'clock in the afternoon (7:00 P.M.). The legal voters of the Town of Charlotte are further  
76 notified and warned that a **public informational hearing to explain and discuss the**  
77 **Australian ballot articles set forth below (Articles 6-9) will be held on Monday, February**  
78 **24, 2025**, at the Charlotte Town Hall, located at 159 Ferry Road in the Town, beginning at six  
79 o'clock in the afternoon (6:00 P.M.). The public may attend the informational hearing in person  
80 or on Zoom at the following information:

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- **Meeting Link:** <https://shorturl.at/GerwD>
- **Meeting ID:** 879 7042 9352
- **Meeting Passcode:** 123456

### 86 **ARTICLES TO BE VOTED FROM THE FLOOR**

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

**Article 2:** Shall the voters authorize the payment of property taxes, with the payment due on or before Friday, November 14, 2025, and to have payments made to the Town Treasurer, as provided in 32 VSA § 4773(b)?

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94 **Article 3:** Shall the voters approve total fund expenditures, as set forth in the Selectboard's  
95 budget, of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the fiscal year July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026, of which an anticipated  
96 sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ will be raised by taxes and an anticipated sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ will be  
97 raised by non-tax revenues.

98

99 **Article 4:** Shall the voters approve raising a sum of \$62,000 by property taxes, in addition to  
100 those monies raised pursuant to Article 3, to be allocated to the Trails Reserve Fund, for the  
101 purpose of constructing a new section of the Town Link Trail on Ferry Road?

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103 **Article 5:** Shall the voters approve raising a sum of \$40,000 by property taxes, in addition to  
104 those monies raised pursuant to Article 3, to be allocated to the Recreation Capital Fund, for the  
105 purpose of constructing a new bathhouse at the Charlotte Beach?

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107 **Article 6:** Shall the Town of Charlotte vote on all budget articles by Australian Ballot, as  
108 provided in 17 V.S.A. § 2680(c).

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110 **Article 7:** Shall the Town of Charlotte vote on all public questions by Australian Ballot, as  
111 provided in 17 V.S.A. § 2680(d).

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

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#### 115 **ARTICLES TO BE VOTED BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT**

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117 **Article 9:** To elect Town Officials.

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119 **Article 10:** Shall the voters authorize the Town to submit to the General Assembly of the State  
120 of Vermont a proposal to adopt a municipal charter which contains the following sections:

121 Section 1: Corporate Existence

122 Section 2: General Provisions

123 Section 3: Routine Adoption of Land Use Bylaws

124 Section 4: Separability

125 Section 5: Amendment

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#### 127 **Discussion:**

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129 The 2026 draft town meeting, warning, and articles were reviewed. Total expenditures for the  
130 year were estimated at \$4,259,470, representing a 0.38% increase over the previous year's  
131 operating budget. The balance rate of taxes was projected to be negative 0.26, with anticipated  
132 revenues of \$1,734,637, a 1.45% increase over the previous year.

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134 The Selectboard discussed setting a public hearing date for Australian ballot arguments, with the  
135 inclusion of budget numbers in the warning. Frank said Article 4 funds should be used for the  
136 Town Link Trail, rather than specifying Ferry Road. No decision was made.

137

138 Funding for a new bathhouse at Charlotte Beach was discussed. A \$40,000 allocation for a  
139 scoping study and minor repairs to the existing bathhouse, with the intention of building a new  
140 one in the future was agreed upon. Raising more funds in the coming years to apply for a  
141 matching grant was mentioned. Kelly Devine said townspeople deserve a better bathhouse and  
142 suggested \$75,000 to get the job done. Maura Wygman said as soon as 50% of the money is in  
143 the bank, they can apply for the grant. James said staying with \$40,000 for now is prudent.  
144 Maura said \$40,000 is enough to get it started. The importance of informing the public about the  
145 project was emphasized. Chris Boffa said this is only the start of a bigger project and that should  
146 be conveyed to the public.

147  
148 Removing Town Meeting Day and replacing it with a vote on the budget articles by Australian  
149 ballot was discussed. Lewis expressed opposition. Mary suggested this change would allow more  
150 people to participate in the voting process. John Snow agreed with Mary and said there is  
151 superior voter turnout with Australian ballot. This is an important question for the Town. James  
152 agreed. Kelly said positions in the town on this issue are very divided. This would need to be  
153 voted on by the voters.

154  
155 Proposed Article 10 is a small Town Charter change. Kelly said the change conflicts with a  
156 recent State law that is unlikely to pass in Montpelier. Lewis agreed and said he did not support  
157 the article. For clarification, March 1<sup>st</sup> is Town Meeting, Australian Ballot voting is on March 4<sup>th</sup>  
158 Kelly said.

159  
160 **Adjournment**

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162 **MOTION by Kelly Devine, seconded by Natalie Kanner, to adjourn at 9 pm. VOTE: 5**  
163 **ayes, 0 nays; Motion Carried.**

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165 Minutes respectfully submitted by Lynn Monty, Minute Taker.