

**Town of Charlotte
Selectboard
Meeting Conducted At Town Hall and via Teleconference
January 27, 2022**

APPROVED

Selectboard:

In person: James Faulkner (Chair), Frank Tenney (Vice Chair),

Remote: Louise McCarren, Matthew Krasnow, Lewis Mudge

Staff: Dean Bloch, Town Administrator (in person); Danielle Atherton, Recording Secretary (remote)

Others:

In person: Gerald Bouchard, Nicole Conley, Juliann Phelps

Remote: Bethany Myrick, Jules Polk, Mike Yantachka, Meredith Moses, Peter Joslin, Michael Krasnow, Michael Russell

Posted Agenda:

- 7:00 PM Use of ARPA funds allocated to Charlotte
- Review of suggestions
 - Request to use \$43,829.21 for Charlotte fiber-optic project
- 8:00 PM Redistricting proposal by the Vermont Legislature
- 8:30 PM Adjournment

CALL TO ORDER: James Faulkner called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Review of Suggestions:

James Faulkner explained the ARPA funds are reviewed by the Federal Government so there must be restrictions. The town has received 50 requests on the town website for ideas on what they should be used for, these ideas have been categorized into 3 buckets. Bucket 1 includes ideas that would be approved for the funding; bucket 2 includes ideas that would not be approved, and bucket 3 includes ideas that need further evaluation in order to be considered for the funds. The three items approved for funding are:

- Covid related
- Stormwater, sewer and potable water
- Broadband

The Selectboard went through the 50 suggestions and preliminarily categorized the suggestions as follows in terms of eligibility for using ARPA funds (and no other criteria):

Bucket 1: YES

- Stormwater
- Build out municipal water infrastructure
- Connect to Champlain Water District
- Improve broadband

- Improve water infrastructure in both village centers, creating opportunities for vibrant, high-density, mixed-use, walkable villages.
- Expand the current publicly-owned wastewater treatment system capacity in the west village.
- Purchase the Hinsdale property southwest of the Grange, and construct a publicly-owned wastewater treatment facility in the east village.

Bucket 2: NO

- Fund a town energy coordinator position
- Purchase property adjacent to the property being considered by Charlotte Family Health Center, to provide parking for the health center and for other town center activities.
- Build a town swimming pool; operating expenses to be covered by an annual use fee.
- Improve walkability and bike-ability with sidewalks and smart streets. (health/health equity goal)
- Bike lane markings/road widening.
- Improve town-owned property near the ferry landing to provide a place to watch sunsets, boats, etc.
- Honor Charlotte residents lost to Covid-19, such as a memorial orchard with a fruit tree for each person lost, producing fresh fruit to support health.
- Review Town Plan with Enhanced Energy Plan for project ideas which meet these established town goals, focusing on clean and healthy water, air, homes and energy.
- Create a staff position to help realize goals in Enhanced Energy Plan.
- Support/subsidize weatherization and efficiency for energy security, cost savings, emissions reduction, improved indoor air quality and therefore health based on income/energy burden (including renters) recognizing that our homes are our life boats in difficult times.
- Replace your ride: subsidize the trade in of expensive-to-maintain and polluting cars for inexpensive-to-own/clean-driving electric cars based on income/energy burden recognizing clean transportation is key to opportunities, self-reliance and cleaner air/improved health.
- Create a town revolving green fund, from which people can borrow money for improved health and resilience projects to their home/property/business/transportation at low rates.
- Increase electric vehicle charging infrastructure/encourage electric mobility.
- Bring back a bus stop. (Ideally more than one)
- Create a Charlotte Park & Ride (ideally with solar canopy covered parking).
- Create a local (Shelburne-Charlotte-Hinesburg) public transit route. Perhaps adding a Vergennes park & ride at train station to link to Amtrak passenger service (ideally in an electric van).
- Expand trails for health, recreation and clean/healthy transportation in town, adding on-road and off-road bike/ped lanes for safer mobility.
- Work with CCS to improve transportation - increasing student bus ridership, replace full buses with electric vans, create bike/ped lanes in mile radius around school, install electric bike and car charging at school.

- Incentivize creation of accessory dwelling units in existing buildings to increase number of smaller/more affordable housing units in town. Extra points for net zero units.
- Plant trees for shade, beauty, food and carbon sequestration.
- Purchase an electric mower to maintain town-owned properties.
- Purchase property in the west village to create a parking lot for other uses within the village.
- Create a memorial to those in town lost to Covid, consisting of an edible fruit tree per person, maybe in the park at the lake.
- Hiring a town manager to manage the town's assets in a fair and equitable manner that does not depend on personal and emotional relationships within the town.

Bucket 3: Needs further evaluation

- Energy efficiency improvements to town-owned buildings. (climate/health improvement goal)
- Establishing a new, permanent location for the Charlotte Food Shelf. (response to public health emergency and resulting negative impacts by assisting households via non-profits)
- Endowment to Charlotte Library to support ongoing health and safety of the community.
- Affordable housing; perhaps invest in property for affordable/senior/community housing.
- Enhance community placemaking/public health: public outdoor gathering places with seating, solar lighting, shade, food-growing, picnicking, & public art celebrating our community, open for a wide range of activities.
- Create opportunities for greater clean energy generation and consumption in town buildings, CCS, homes and businesses.
- Address water issues at CCS and bring back a public potable water source.
- Create small-scale community composting opportunities connecting neighborhood farms with non-farm households
- Enhance opportunities to engage with the lake: walking/bike trails, lakeside café, picnic areas, education on stormwater runoff and lake water quality.
- Build a community center which is designated as a town emergency shelter for public health emergencies (e.g. a pay-go investment in a facility for the delivery of vaccines); including backup generator.
- Improve highly utilized public-outdoor recreation space, e.g. executing the town beach master plan: build new tennis courts and pickleball courts, and renovating the bathhouse to include a covered outdoor pavilion - for recreation programs and services designed to build strong neighborhoods.
- Create an endowment to fund high quality and free town events, e.g. 4-5 times per year.
- Do nothing and return the money.
- Improve usability and search ability of town website.
- Work towards a more rapid completion of the Town Trail system as it provides more opportunities for healthy exercise and maybe a bit less driving to the lake or Mount Philo or "downtown" Charlotte.

- Assist in financing weatherization efforts for low income home owners and rental units, especially window inserts on single pane windows. (Window Dressers)
- Think grand: How about a Town transportation hub consisting of an equipment shed for the road crew with an adjacent park and ride with EV chargers and solar farm, and a bus stop on the property off of Route 7?
- Paying a professional Administrator for the oversight of CVFRS to ensure our Fire and Rescue services are professionally managed during this pandemic.

Request to use \$43,829.21 for Charlotte fiber-optic project

Mike Yantachka explained this request is for broadband buildout in the community. WCVT will be able to provide fiber to the remaining 25% of Charlotte residences (219 homes) which are not currently being served. The Vermont Community Broadband Board is willing to match the \$43,829.21. Mike Yantachka would like to use the ARPA funds to obtain this match. Lewis Mudge explained the project's estimated total cost is \$2.1 million, of which \$317,766 comes from the State of Vermont and the rest comes from WCVT's capital reserves for development funds. Matthew Krasnow added this amount is only 3.5% of the ARPA funds. Louise McCarren supports the motion.

MOTION by Frank Tenney to remove the topic from the previously tabled motion; seconded by Matthew Krasnow. VOTE: 5 ayes, motion carried.

MOTION by Lewis Mudge to approve \$43,829.81 from ARPA funds for the Charlotte Broadband Project; seconded by Louise McCarren. VOTE: 5 ayes, motion carried.

Redistricting proposal by the Vermont Legislature

James Faulkner explained there is a hearing scheduled for February 3rd for Chittenden County, and a decision needs to be made if a letter needs to be drafted, or a presence is needed at the meeting. Mike Yantachka explained a letter from the House Government Operations Committee was received by the Boards of the Civil Authority. The letter proposes district changes, and a decision needs to be made if the Selectboard wants to weigh in and respond. The proposed changes are demonstrated on the LAB Alternate 2022 Reapportionment Plan map. Michael Krasnow, the Chair of the Board of Civil Authority, explained the proposed district put both Representatives in one district. This was voted on and there was a unanimous decision to have two separate districts. The Board of Civil Authority is appealing the recommendation. Michael Krasnow is unsure if the Selectboard needs to weigh in. Frank Tenney was not at the meeting and doesn't want to offer input since he wasn't there. James Faulkner asked if a letter of support is what they are asking for, and Louise McCarren, who was at the meeting, suggested to let Michael Krasnow proceed without a letter for now.

MOTION by Frank Tenney to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Lewis Mudge. VOTE: 5 ayes, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 846 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Danielle Atherton

