

**TOWN OF CHARLOTTE
TOWN MEETING
MARCH 1, 2025
CHARLOTTE CENTRAL SCHOOL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: James Faulkner, Chair; Frank Tenney, Vice-Chair; Kelly Devine; Lewis Mudge; Natalie Kanner.

ADMINISTRATION: Nathaniel Bareham, Town Administrator Ruah Swannerfeld

MODERATOR: Charles Russell

The Moderator reviewed Roberts Rules and the procedure for the Town Meeting. Specific non-residents were authorized to speak.

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

MOTION by Nancy Wood, seconded by Ruth Uphold, to accept the reports of the Town officers with the provision that the Selectboard review, finalize, and implement the recommendations of the 2018 working committee on affordable housing.

Charles Russell ruled the motion is in order, and stated that this decision may be challenged.

Barry King asked for clarification whether this is an amendment to the warned Article 1, or is Nancy speaking directly to the Article. Charles Russell stated that Nancy's motion replaced Article 1. Barry King stated that Nancy's motion should be included under Article 9, not Article 1.

MOTION by Barry King, seconded by Tom Hyman, to appeal the decision of the Town Moderator on Article 1: carried by voice vote.

MOTION by Barry King, seconded, to hear the reports of the Town officers and to act upon the same.

VOTE on Article 1: carried by voice vote.

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)?

MOTION by Lee Krohn, seconded by Brandon Tieso, to 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)? **VOTE on Article 2: carried by voice vote.**

Article 3: Shall the voters approve total fund expenditures, as set forth in the Selectboard’s budget, of \$4,265,990.00 for the fiscal year July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026, of which an anticipated sum of \$2,531,353 will be raised by taxes and an anticipated sum of \$1,734,637.00 will be raised by non-tax revenues?

MOTION by James Faulkner, seconded by Maurice Harvey, to approve the Selectboard’s budget of \$4,265,990.00 for the fiscal year July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026, of which an anticipated sum of \$2,531,353 will be raised by taxes and an anticipated sum of \$1,734,637.00 will be raised by non-tax revenues?

MOTION TO AMEND by Robin Reid (“First Amendment”), seconded by Meghan Berlin, to include an additional \$5000 to Beach Attendant Wages, bringing the Article 3 bottom line up to \$4,270,990.00.

WITHDRAWAL of the motion by Robin Reid. The Moderator ruled that the withdrawal of the motion was acceptable.

VOTE on Article 3: carried by voice vote.

Article 4: Shall the voters approve raising a sum of \$62,000 by property taxes, in addition to those monies raised pursuant to Article 3, to be allocated to the Charlotte Trails Fund?

MOTION by Richard Hendrickson, seconded by Michael Roberts, to approve raising a sum of \$62,000 by property taxes, in addition to those monies raised pursuant to Article 3, to be allocated to the Charlotte Trails Fund.

CALL TO QUESTION by Mary Mead, seconded by James Faulkner. The Moderator called for a division of the house. The Moderator ruled the ayes outnumbered the nays. The motion carried.

VOTE on Article 4: carried by voice vote.

Article 5: Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to use not more than \$5,000 from the Charlotte Trails Fund for the purpose of maintaining Town recreational trails?

MOTION by Richard Mintzer, seconded by Garret Saddler, to discuss and vote on Article 7, and Article 8. The Moderator accepted the friendly motion as a point of order.

VOTE on the motion to first discuss and vote on Articles 7 and 8. The Moderator determined the voice vote was unclear, and called for a division of the house. The Moderator called for a division of the house. The Moderator ruled the ayes outnumbered the nays. The motion carried.

Article 7: Shall the Town of Charlotte adopt all budget articles by Australian Ballot, as provided in 17 V.S.A. § 2680(c).

MOTION by Rua Summerfelt, seconded Jon Snow, adopt all budget articles by Australian Ballot, as provided in 17 V.S.A. § 2680(c)?

VOTE on the motion to first discuss and vote on Articles 7 and 8. The Moderator determined the voice vote was unclear, and called for a division of the house. The Moderator called for a division of the house. The Moderator ruled the division of the house was unclear, and called for paper ballots. The Moderator determined that ayes totaled 101, and the nays 151. The motion fails.

Article 8: Shall the Town of Charlotte vote on all public questions by Australian Ballot, as provided in 17 V.S.A. § 2680(d).

MOTION by Matt Krasnow, seconded by Brandon Tieso, to vote on all public questions by Australian Ballot, as provided in 17 V.S.A. § 2680(d).

CALL TO QUESTION by Mary Mead, seconded by Eddie Krasner. The Moderator determined the voice vote was unclear, and called for a division of the house. The Moderator ruled the ayes outnumbered the nays. The motion carried.

VOTE on Article 8: carried by voice vote.

Article 5: Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to use not more than \$5,000 from the Charlotte Trails Fund for the purpose of maintaining Town recreational trails?

MOTION by Richard Hendrickson, seconded, to authorize the Selectboard to use not more than \$5,000 from the Charlotte Trails Fund for the purpose of maintaining Town recreational trails.

MOTION TO AMEND by Richard Hendrickson, seconded, to strike out for the purpose of maintain Town recreation trails. The Moderator determined this motion to amend is out of order.

MOTION TO APPEAL A DECISION OF THE MODERATOR by Richard Hendrickson, seconded by JD Herlihy.

CALL TO QUESTION by Jesse Bradley, seconded by Nancy Wood The Moderator called for a division of the house. The Moderator ruled the ayes outnumbered the nays. The motion carried.

VOTE on a motion to appeal a decision of the moderator: the Moderator’s decision was carried by voice vote.

VOTE on Article 5: carried by voice vote.

Article 6: Shall the voters approve raising a sum of \$40,000 by property taxes, in addition to those monies raised pursuant to Article 3, to be allocated to the Recreation Capital Fund, for the purpose of developing a new bathhouse at the Charlotte Town Beach?

MOTION by Brandon Tieso, seconded by Lewis Mudge, to approve raising a sum of \$40,000 by property taxes, in addition to those monies raised pursuant to Article 3, to be allocated to the Recreation Capital Fund, for the purpose of developing a new bathhouse at the Charlotte Town Beach.

VOTE on Article 6: carried by voice vote.

Article 9: To transact any other business proper to come before said meeting.

ADVISORY MOTION (first advisory motion) by Mike Yantachka, seconded, to approve a resolution condemning the Russian invasion of Ukraine and supporting the Ukrainian people that states the following: “Whereas it has been three years since Russia, under the dictatorship of Vladimir Putin, invaded the sovereign nation of Ukraine in an attempt to violently take over the country. Whereas the Ukranian people under the leadership of Vladimir Zelinski have fought to defend their country with the help of the United Stteas and our European allies. Where the support of the United States for Ukraine is under serious reconsideration. Therefore be is resolved that the citizens of the Town of Charlotte Vermont stand behind and support the continued efforts of Ukraine to maintain its independence, and that we urge the United States to continue providing military and financial aid to Ukraine.” And that copies of this resolution be

sent to the Vermont Congressional delegation, Senator Bernie Sanders, Senator Peter Welsh, and Congresswoman Becca Ballint, as well as to President Donald J. Trump.

VOTE: (first advisory motion) carried by voice vote.

ADVISORY MOTION (second advisory motion) by Tom Henglesburg, seconded, to request the Recreation Commission ceases its plans to build a non-ADA accessible ramp at the Town Beach and take council from volunteers and or professionals to help redesign the ramp to be fully accessible to all people.

VOTE: (second advisory motion) carried by voice vote.

ADVISORY MOTION (third advisory motion) by Matt Krasnow, seconded by Brandon Tieso, to request the Selectboard recommit to mailing the annual town report to every Charlotte resident.

VOTE: (second advisory motion). The Moderator determined the voice vote was unclear, and called for a division of the house. The Moderator ruled the ayes outnumbered the nays. The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mike Yantachka, seconded by James Faulkner, to adjourn.

VOTE: carried by voice vote.

The Moderator ruled the Town Meeting 2025 was adjourned at 1:37pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nathaniel Bareham
Town Administrator