

# Town of Charlton



FY 2015 Special Town Meeting  
Warrant with Motions Booklet

Tuesday, October 21, 2014



**Town of Charlton, Massachusetts**

**WARRANT FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
Tuesday, October 21, 2014**

To either of the Constables of the Town of Charlton:

In the County of Worcester,

**GREETINGS:**

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify the inhabitants of the Town of Charlton qualified to vote in elections to meet in the Charlton Middle School, Oxford Road in said Charlton, on **Tuesday, October 21, 2014 at seven o'clock** in the evening, for the purpose of taking action on the following articles:

**ARTICLE 1. APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR UNPAID BILLS OF A PRIOR FISCAL YEAR**

To see if the Town will vote to raise by taxation, transfer or borrow and appropriate a sum or sums to accounts to be specified at the town meeting for payment of one or more prior fiscal year's bills not paid due to an insufficiency of appropriation or for other reasons, or take any action relative thereto or thereon.

**SPONSOR: VARIOUS TOWN DEPARTMENTS AND OFFICIALS**

**Motion: I move that the following prior year bills, not previously paid due to insufficiency of appropriation or late billing, be paid from the following FY15 accounts as printed below:**

| <u>Unpaid Bills</u>                                   | <u>For</u>                             | <u>Amount</u> | <u>From</u>                        |
|---|--|---------------|------------------------------------|
| Animal Control – Animal Care Equipment & Services LLC | Ketch All 4'-6' Extension and shipping | \$131.58      | Animal Control Expense             |
| Police Department –American Printing                  | Arrest Envelope booklet                | \$141.00      | Police Department Expense          |
| Highway Dept. – Standard Source                       | Catch Basin Clamshell                  | \$675.00      | Highway Expense                    |
| Board of Health- New England Office Supply            | Date Received Stamp                    | \$64.99       | Board of Health Department Expense |

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: FinCom supports this motion.**

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN: BOS supports this motion.**

**VOTE NEEDED: 9/10THS to extent not paid due to insufficiency of appropriation**

**ARTICLE 2. INTER/INTRA DEPARTMENTAL TRANSFERS AND/OR APPROPRIATIONS FOR FY2015 BUDGET**

To see if the Town will vote to raise by taxation, borrow or transfer, and appropriate from available funds, including so called “free cash” and /or funds previously appropriated to other uses, a sum or sums of money to accounts and for purposes to be specified at the Special Town Meeting, or take any action relative thereto or thereon.

**SPONSOR: BOARD OF SELECTMEN, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR AND VARIOUS TOWN DEPARTMENTS**

**MOTION: I move that the following sums be raised by taxation or transferred, whichever is indicated below, and appropriated to the following accounts for any purpose for which funds may be expended from the latter accounts, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen or Chief Procurement Officer to enter into such contracts, including leases, and to take such other action as may be necessary or advisable to effectuate the purposes of the foregoing vote, each item being considered a separate appropriation:**

| <u>To The following Accounts</u> | <u>Purpose</u>                  | <u>Amount</u> | <u>From the following Source or Account</u> |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|---|
| Reserve Fund                     | Unforeseen expenditures         | \$1,000       | Veteran’s Agent Salary                      |
| Streetlights                     | Restore Budget                  | \$10,000      | Health Insurance                            |
| Streetlights                     | Restore Budget                  | \$15,000      | Environmental                               |
| Library Salaries                 | Staffing during Maternity Leave | \$3,000       | Health Insurance                            |
| Fire Salaries                    | Staffing IOD & Sick Leave       | \$15,000      | Veteran’s Agent Salary                      |
| Fire Salaries                    | Staffing IOD & Sick Leave       | \$15,000      | BayPath Voc Transportation                  |
| Finance Committee                | Increase in dues                | \$4.00        | Veteran’s Agent Salary                      |

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: FinCom supports this motion.**

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN: BOS supports this motion.**

**Majority Vote Needed.**

**ARTICLE 3. CAPITAL ITEMS AND RELATED CONTRACTS**

To see if the Town will vote to raise by taxation, borrow or transfer from available funds, including so called “free cash” and funds previously appropriated to other uses, and appropriate a sum or sums to purchase capital items and/or for service, repair, improvement, architectural, construction, renovation, improvement and/or other contracts relating to town buildings, facilities and other property, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen, Chief Procurement Officer, or other appropriate town official, board, commission or committee to enter into such contracts or leases, and to take such other action, as may be necessary or advisable to effectuate the purposes of such votes, or take any action relative thereto or thereon.

**SPONSOR: BOARD OF SELECTMEN/VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS**

**MOTION: I move that the town vote to appropriate the following amounts to the following departments’ respective accounts, for the FY2015 Budget, to be expended for the following purposes, each item being considered a separate appropriation, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen or Chief Procurement Officer to enter into such contracts, including leases, and to take such other action as may be necessary or advisable to effectuate the purposes of the foregoing vote:**

| Department/Board/Committee | Project/Item Requested   | FY15 - Recommended | Funding source                              |
|----------------------------|--|--------------------|---|
| Police                     | Cruiser Replacement (1)  | \$45,000           | Free Cash                                   |
| Fire Department            | Matching Grant 5% for Ladder Truck (EMW-2013-FV-01242)                       | \$47,000           | Free Cash                                   |
| Fire Department            | Escalation for Fire Engine   | \$50,000           | Borrowing subject to debt exclusion         |
| Town Hall                  | Cooling Split System (Town Clerk, Historic, BOS, TA, Treasurer, COA offices) | \$40,000           | Free Cash                                   |
| Town Hall                  | Municipal Center Capital   | \$275,000          | Free Cash                                   |
| Town Hall                  | Municipal Center Capital   | \$10,000           | Mun Ctr Paint Soffit                        |
| Town Hall                  | Municipal Center Capital   | \$1,437            | Mun Ctr Windows                             |
| Town Hall                  | Municipal Center Capital   | \$2,000            | Mun Ctr Brickpointing                       |
| Town Hall                  | Municipal Center Capital   | \$19,110           | Mun Fixed Glass                             |
| Town Hall                  | Municipal Center Capital   | \$40,000           | Mun Ctr Stair Repair                        |
| Town wide                  | Replace Phone System   | \$55,000           | Borrowing- paid from Cable Account- 3 years |
| Water/Sewer Commission     | Capital Repair on sewer treatment plant                                      | \$93,000           | Sewer Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings     |

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: FinCom supports this motion.**

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN: BOS supports this motion.**

**2/3 Vote Needed.**

**ARTICLE 4. REAUTHORIZATION OF CAPITAL DEBT EXCLUSION**

To see if the Town will vote to raise by taxation, borrow or transfer from available funds the following sums to purchase capital items, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen or Chief Procurement Officer to enter into such contracts, and to take other such action, as may be necessary to effectuate the purposes of such votes:

| Department | Purpose                       | Amount            | Funding Source  |
|------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Fire       | Replace and combine T-1 & E 5 | \$ 321,840        | Borrowing subject to debt exclusion referendum ballot approval for such exclusion |
| Highway    | 2015 Freightliner Dump truck  | \$ 117,756        | Borrowing subject to debt exclusion referendum ballot approval for such exclusion |
|            | <b>TOTAL</b>                  | <b>\$ 439,596</b> |   |

or take any action relative thereto or thereon.

**SPONSOR: BOARD OF SELECTMEN/FIRE CHIEF/ HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT**

**Motion: I move that Article 4 be accepted as printed.**

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: FinCom supports this motion**

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN: BOS supports this motion.**

**Two-Thirds Vote Needed.**

**ARTICLE 5. TRANSFER TO/FROM STABILIZATION FUNDS**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate a sum or sums to or from the Stabilization Fund Account, or take any action relative thereto or thereon.

**SPONSOR: BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Motion: I move that the town vote to transfer and appropriate the following sum to and from the following Account and Fund.**

| <u>To The following Accounts:</u> | <u>Amount:</u> | <u>Source from:</u> | <u>Purpose:</u> |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Stabilization Fund                | \$383,206      | Free Cash           | Reserves        |

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: FinCom supports this motion**

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN: BOS supports this motion.**

**Two-Thirds Vote Needed. [G.L. c. 40, sec. 5B]**

*❖ NOTE: If all items above are voted as proposed, balance in Stab Fund will be \$1,296124*

**ARTICLE 6. GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMITTEE / CHARTER COMMISSION**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to create and appoint a government study committee and/or a charter commission, and to report back to Town Meeting with any recommendations for improvements to form and processes of the form of Charlton town government, or take any action relative thereto or thereon.

**SPONSOR: BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Motion: I move that Article 6 be accepted as printed.**

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: Finance Committee approves this motion.**

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN: BOS approves this motion.**

**Majority Vote Needed.**

**ARTICLE 7. MUNICIPAL AGGREGATION OF ELECTRICITY, CONTRACTS FOR ELECTRICITY, ETC.**

To see whether the Town will vote:

A. To approve the following **Resolution to Seek Lower Electric Rates in a Competitive Market** or take any action relative thereto:

**Resolution to Seek Lower Electric Rates in a Competitive Market**

Whereas, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, by enacting Chapter 164 of the Acts of 1997, has established a competitive marketplace through deregulation and restructuring of the electric utility industry; and

Whereas, the citizens of the Town of Charlton in Worcester County have substantial economic, environmental, and social interests at stake; and

Whereas, Charlton's residential and business consumers are interested in reducing their electricity rates;

Be it therefore resolved, that the Town Meeting of Charlton hereby grants the Board of Selectmen authority to study, develop and participate in any municipal electric aggregation plan on such terms as the Board deems to be in the best interest of the town and its residential and business consumers, to amend, restructure or reconstitute such plan as may be necessary and appropriate so as to execute a contract, or contracts, for power supply and other related services, independently, or in joint action with other municipalities through the Hampshire Council of Governments, and to authorize the Board or the Town Administrator as chief procurement officer to sign any contracts and other instruments needed or advisable in order to effectuate the purposes of this resolution. Provided that if any such contract(s) were to be approved, individual consumers would retain the option not to participate and instead to choose any alternative service they desire; and

Be it further resolved, that the Board of Selectmen may appoint a representative for a committee to oversee such joint action.

And

B. To Authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a contract or contracts on the Town's behalf, with a term of one or more years, for the purchase of electricity for use in or for town-owned, leased or utilized buildings and town-owned equipment, machinery and vehicles, from whatever supplier and on whatever terms the Board deems to be in the best interests of the Town, and to authorize the Board or the Town Administrator as chief procurement officer to sign any contract(s) and other instruments needed or advisable in order to effectuate the purposes of this vote.

, or take any action relative thereto or thereon.

**SPONSOR: BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Motion: I move that Article 7 be accepted as printed.**

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: Finance Committee approves this motion.**

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN: BOS approves this motion.**

**Majority Vote Needed.**

#### **ARTICLE 8. ACCEPTANCE OF LAMBS POND CIRCLE**

To see if the Town will vote (1) to accept as a public way "Lambs Pond Circle", said way being shown on a plan entitled "LAMBS POND ESTATES, Flexible, Development – Definitive Plans,, Charlton, Massachusetts", dated September 29, 2010, prepared by James B. Kalloch, P.L.S. & P. E. Engineer/Surveyor, and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 887, Plan 15, a copy of said plan being on file in the office of the Town Clerk, and (2) to authorize the Selectmen, in the name and on behalf of the Town, to accept such deeds of easement or fee for public way purposes and other instruments as the Selectmen shall deem advisable to accomplish such acceptance, or take any action relative thereto or thereon.

**SPONSOR: LANDOWNER**

**Motion: I move that Article 8 be accepted as printed.**

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE PLANNING BOARD: Planning Board approves this motion.**

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN: BOS approves this motion.**

**Majority Vote Needed.**

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No vote shall be taken on any motion relating to Articles 9 and 10 below until the Planning Board has submitted a report with recommendations thereon to the Town Meeting, if 21 days have not elapsed since the public hearing before the Planning Board was held on the proposed amendment to the Zoning By-law set forth in said Article. (Gen. Laws Chapter 40A, Section 5, paragraph 3).

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**ARTICLE 9. ZONING BY-LAW REVISION: ALLOWING GOLF RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE INDUSTRIAL-GENERAL (IG) ZONE**

To see if the Town will vote to revise the Charlton Zoning By-Law as follows:

1. Amend Section 3.2 Use Regulations by changing the use designation for “Standard golf and par-3 golf courses” as listed in sub-section 3.2.2.4 Recreational Uses-Principal Use #1 for the Industrial General (IG) zone from its current “N” (not allowed) designation to “P” (allowed via site plan approval).
2. Amend Section 3.2 Use Regulations by changing the use designation of “Golf driving ranges and miniature golf courses” as listed in the sub-section 3.2.2.4 Recreational Uses-Principal Use #2 for the Industrial General (IG) zone from its current “N” (not allowed) designation to “P” (allowed via site plan approval).

, or take any action relative thereto or thereon.

**SPONSOR: PLANNING BOARD**

**Motion: I move that Article 9 be accepted as printed.**

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE PLANNING BOARD: Planning Board approves this motion.**

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN: BOS approves this motion.**

**2/3s Vote Needed.**

**ARTICLE 10. PETITION**

To amend Charlton’s zoning map for land located easterly off of Griffin Road, northerly of Route 20, herein identified as Assessor’s Map 27, Block B, Parcels 8, 9, 10 and 12 by rezoning said parcels from the present zoning designation of Business Enterprise Park (BEP) to Industrial-General (IG) zoning designation.

**SPONSOR: PETITION**

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN: BOS approves this request.**

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE PLANNING BOARD: Planning Board recommends approval of this petition.**

**2/3s Vote Needed.**

\* \* \* \* \*

And you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies thereof, one at each of the Post Offices, one in Dexter Memorial Hall and one in the Charlton Municipal Offices (George C. McKinstry, III Building) in said Town, fourteen days at least before the time and place of holding meeting.

Hereof, fail not, and make due returns of the Warrant with your doings thereon to the Town Clerk at the time and place of holding meeting.

Given under our hands this 30<sup>th</sup> day of September, in the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Fourteen (2014).

**Board of Selectmen**

Frederick C. Swensen, Chairperson

Joseph J. Szafarowicz, Vice-Chairperson

C. Cooper, Clerk

David M. Singer, Member

John P. McGrath, Member

A true copy:

Attest: Darlene Tully 10/2/14

Posted as directed: By hand

Constable/Police Officer of Charlton, Massachusetts

Allan Anderson III

**Article 3. Capital**

| Department/Board/ Committee | Project/Item Requested   | FY15- Requested  | FY15 - Recommended | Funding source                              |
|-----------------------------|--|------------------|--------------------|---|
| Police                      | Cruiser Replacement (2)  | \$90,000         | \$45,000           | Free Cash                                   |
| Fire Department             | Matching Grant 5% for Ladder Truck (EMW-2013-FV-01242)                       | \$47,000         | \$47,000           | Free Cash                                   |
| Fire Department             | Escalation for Fire Engine   | \$50,000         | \$50,000           | Borrowing subject to debt exclusion         |
| Town Hall                   | Cooling Split System (Town Clerk, Historic, BOS, TA, Treasurer, COA offices) | \$40,000         | \$40,000           | Free Cash                                   |
| Town Hall                   | Municipal Center Capital   | \$306,053        | \$275,000          | Free Cash                                   |
| Town Hall                   | Municipal Center Capital   | \$10,000         | \$10,000           | Mun Ctr Paint Soffit                        |
| Town Hall                   | Municipal Center Capital   | \$1,437          | \$1,437            | Mun Ctr Windows                             |
| Town Hall                   | Municipal Center Capital   | \$2,000          | \$2,000            | Mun Ctr Brickpointing                       |
| Town Hall                   | Municipal Center Capital   | \$19,110         | \$19,110           | Mun Fixed Glass                             |
| Town Hall                   | Municipal Center Capital   | \$40,000         | \$40,000           | Mun Ctr Stair Repair                        |
| Town wide                   | Replace Phone System   | \$55,000         | \$55,000           | Borrowing- paid from Cable Account- 3 years |
| Water/Sewer Department      | Capital Repair on sewer treatment plant                                      | \$93,000         | \$93,000           | Sewer Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings     |
|                             |  | <b>\$753,600</b> | <b>\$677,547</b>   | <b>TOTAL</b>                                |

|                                |                 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Capital Transfers-General Fund | <b>\$72,547</b> |
| Free Cash Total                | \$407,000       |
| to Stab                        | \$383,206       |
| Ending Stab Fund Balance       | \$1,170,071     |

|                                    |                    |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>TOWN HALL ADA PROJECT</b>       |                    |
| Municipal CTR- transfers/free cash | \$347,547          |
| Grant                              | \$358,000          |
| Prior Authorization                | <u>\$450,000</u>   |
| <b>TOTAL FOR Mun Ren Proj</b>      | <b>\$1,155,547</b> |
| Engineered Est (incl bath rm)      | \$1,139,170        |
| Architect                          | \$47,430           |
| <b>TOTAL EST COSTS</b>             | <b>\$1,186,600</b> |

\$790,206 free cash

\$912,918 stab fund-est.

|                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Water Retained Earnings | \$17,145    |
| Sewer Retained Earnings | \$1,118,920 |

**Charlton Town Hall  
Accessibility Improvements  
Charlton, MA**

October 13, 2014

**GRAND SUMMARY**

|                            |      |             |
|----------------------------|------|-------------|
| BASE ESTIMATE              |      | \$841,947   |
|                            |      | -----       |
| TOTAL DIRECT COST          |      | \$841,947   |
| GENERAL CONDITIONS         | 12%  | \$101,034   |
| GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE O&P | 10%  | \$94,298    |
| P&P BOND                   | 1.0% | \$10,373    |
| CONTINGENCY                | 5%   | \$52,383    |
| ESCALATION ( spring 2015)  | 3%   | \$33,001    |
| TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COST    |      | \$1,133,034 |

**ALTERNATES:**

|  |  |           |
|--|--|-----------|
| ALTERNATE NO. 1 - MISC. ACCESSIBILITY UPGRADES AT<br>VARIOUS TOILET ROOMS  |  | \$6,136   |
| ALTERNATE NO. 2 - NEW ACCESSIBLE RAMP TO CHIP-IN LVL   |  | \$38,611  |
| ALTERNATE NO. 3 - NEW ACCESSIBLE COUNTERS AND<br>WORK STATIONS   |  | \$17,181  |
| ALTERNATE NO. 4 - NEW CONC. FLOOR SLABS IN SELECTED<br>GROUND FLOOR RMS TO REMOVE VARIOUS BARRIERS                     |  | \$103,476 |
| ALTERNATE NO. 5 - REMOVE AN EXISTING GROUND FLR STAIR<br>& MAKE RELATED IMPROVEMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH<br>THE DEMOLITION |  | \$55,528  |



DURLAND • VAN VOORHIS

October 6, 2014

Ms. Robin Craver  
Office of the Town Administrator  
Charlton Town Hall  
37 Main Street  
Charlton, MA 01507

Re: Phases III & IV – Charlton Town Hall Accessibility Improvements

Dear Ms. Craver:

Congratulations on your successful grant application; I know very well that this good news has been a long time coming. I am really excited to complete the project that we started together so many years ago.

I have already discussed this issue with Mr. Meskus, but since our work began over five years ago, a newer edition of the State Building Code was published. The project was originally designed for the old 7th Edition of the Building Code, and there are several items that need to be reviewed and revised as a result of the newer 8th Edition. These include an updated Chapter 34 review by the structural engineer, some of the energy code assumptions, building system requirements and possibly even some of the bid alternates.

We also discussed the need for developing a new cost estimate before the fall town meeting. It would be terribly unfortunate if the funds currently available from the grant and the town turned out to be insufficient for the project when bid. The new estimate should provide a level of comfort with the funds available while providing an opportunity to add to them, if necessary.

In addition, neither the bidding nor contract administration services were ever part of our original agreement, though the option for them to be added later was. So to complete this project, we propose to provide architectural services for bidding and construction administration to complete the project. In summary our work will include, but not be limited to the following:

Ms. Robin Craver

October 6, 2014

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Proposed Scope of Services

- Review & Revise Bid Documents.
  - Update bid package to reflect the new scope of work.
  - Update plans
  - Update specifications
  - Update cost estimate
- Provide Construction Procurement Services.
  - Pre-bid meeting
  - Advertising
  - Bidding Services
  - Bid & sub-bid review
  - Perform Reference Checks
- Provide Construction Administration Services.
  - Pre-construction meeting
  - Review of all technical submittals
  - Review of all pay requests (assistance with itemizing by funding source as necessary)
  - On-site construction monitoring & inspections
  - Attend regular project meetings
  - Review of all change order requests
  - Completion statements project/occupancy

The proposed fee for this work is further broken down by phase below:

|   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| <u>PHASE III – Construction Documents (Review &amp; Revision)</u> |                        |
| Updated Cost Estimate   | \$4,300                |
| <u>Updated Construction Documents</u>                             | <u>\$13,000</u>        |
|   | <b>\$17,300</b>        |
| <u>PHASE IV – Bidding &amp; Contract Administration</u>           |                        |
| Design Fee Breakdown  |                        |
| Bidding   | \$5,000                |
| <u>Contract Administration</u>                                    | <u>\$25,000</u>        |
|   | <b><u>\$30,000</u></b> |
| <b>Fee Total</b>  | <b>\$47,300</b>        |

Ms. Robin Craver

October 6, 2014

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I do not expect this work to take too long, and the project should easily be ready for bidding by late winter that would conveniently allow for an early spring construction start.

If you find this proposal acceptable, please sign a copy and return it to me. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me any time.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Van Voorhis', written in a cursive style.

Charlie Van Voorhis, RA, LEED AP

Principal



HAMPSHIRE COUNCIL  
OF GOVERNMENTS

ELECTRICITY

## Q&A: Municipal Aggregation of Electricity

### Q1: How does our electricity service work now?

National Grid has two major roles in electricity: **Delivery** and **Supply**. They are listed and priced separately on your bill. It maintains the poles and high power lines (**Delivery**), and also arranges the purchase of the actual power (**Supply**).

### Q2: What are we asking Charlton to do now?

Charlton would join at least forty other towns and cities in Central and Western Massachusetts in changing how **Supply** is purchased. The Electricity program of the Hampshire Council of Governments would seek to obtain lower prices for all Charlton residential and business customers who have not signed up with another supplier. The Hampshire Council is a full voting member of the New England Power Pool, so it can buy electricity at wholesale prices without a broker. This requires authorization by **Town Meeting**, and approvals by the **Board of Selectmen** and the state **Department of Public Utilities**.

### Q3: What if my power goes out? What if a tree falls on a power line?

National Grid will continue to provide **all Delivery services**. All emergencies will continue to be the responsibility of National Grid, from high power lines to local service. Officials and staff of National Grid have been completely cooperative with the Hampshire Council in our efforts.

### Q4: How much will this cost the Town?

**Nothing**: All costs will be paid by the Hampshire Council of Governments.

### Q5: Have other towns done this successfully?

The twenty-one towns on Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard organized the Cape Light Compact in 2000. The City of Marlborough adopted Municipal Aggregation in 2006. The Hampshire Council and 35 municipalities in Central and Western Massachusetts filed plans with the state to begin service soon. Four additional towns approved it this spring. Worcester County towns include Barre, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Mendon, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Upton, and West Brookfield. Our program has the support of the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission.

### Q6: Has the Hampshire Council saved its residential customers money?

In a separate program in the Town of Lancaster, Hampshire Power reduced residential prices by 10%, with an average customer saving of \$6.82 monthly. We provided the City of Lowell with an all-green product that is saving residents about 25% below the new National Grid prices, for a total of \$9.5 million. With over three dozen towns and over 150,000 people, the bulk purchasing power may bring even lower prices.

### Q7: What other customers are served by the Hampshire Council?

The Hampshire Council has over 100 customers, including towns and school districts in Worcester, Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire counties. It also serves the state's Department of Fish and Wildlife and several non-profits and small businesses.

### Q8: What about "green power"?

The Hampshire Council will offer an *entirely voluntary option* to all customers, which will provide funds **directly to town governments** for renewable and conservation programs. The Council is a licensed broker of Solar Renewable Energy Credits, and assists municipalities reduce their budgets with its Solar RFP and Municipal Net Metering programs. We have successfully designed custom green power programs for several communities.

### Q9: How has National Grid responded?

National Grid has been helpful and cooperative, including its management, staff, and attorneys.

### Q10: What other services are provided by the Hampshire Council of Governments?

The Hampshire Council was established by the legislature in 1999 as successor of the Hampshire County government. **Charlton just joined the Council's health insurance program** for employees and their families of over 60 municipal employers. Towns buy everything from school supplies to asphalt to fuel oil to ice cream. The Council's Wellness, Tobacco Free, and RSVP programs serve people of every age.

### Q11: What if I do not want to participate?

The law allows anyone to opt-out and choose another Supplier or remain with their utility. There never will be a charge to opt-out. The opt-out provision is a requirement of MGL Chapter 164 Section 134(a).

