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PUBLIC NOTICE
TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN

13 Notice is hereby given that the Town Council of the Town of Charlestown will conduct a public
14 hearing, open to the public, on the 9th day of August, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Charlestown Town
15 Hall, 4540 South County Trail on the following proposed Charter Amendment Question for
16 consideration at the November 8, 2016 General Election. Opportunity shall be given to all persons
17 interested to be heard upon the matter of the proposed Charter amendment. The proposed
18 amendment is available for review and/or purchase at the Town Clerk's Office between the hours
19 of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding Holidays, and on the Town website
20 at www.charlestownri.org.

21 Note: Words set as ~~strikeover~~ are to be **deleted** from the Town Charter; words set in underline are
22 to be **added** to the Town Charter.

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Section 1.

Question 1

AMENDMENT TO THE CHARLESTOWN TOWN CHARTER

(Amends Article XXVI Financial Referendum § C-86, Sec. B. – Date, Time and Purpose)

“Shall the Charter be amended to specify that any proposed warrant item that imposes a tax
burden by citizen's petition shall require voter approval on the November ballot as follows:

- A. The electors of the town qualified to vote upon a proposition to impose a tax or expenditure of money shall assemble each year at the Budget Public Hearing to be held no later than May 10 to receive and discuss the proposed budget and warrant item(s) from the Town Council in advance of the Financial Referendum by the electors qualified to vote upon a proposition to impose a tax or for the expenditure of money. The Financial Referendum shall be held on the first Monday in June from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- B. Those electors who wish to add or eliminate a municipal budget item have until ten (10) calendar days prior to the Budget Public Hearing to present their proposed warrant items for those actions signed by 200 of the town's voters qualified to vote upon a proposition to impose a tax or for the expenditure of money. This provision is not available for a proposal seeking to impose bonded indebtedness authorization on the town. Any proposal seeking to impose bonded indebtedness authority on the town shall follow this same procedure, but shall only be submitted to the town's voters at the next regularly scheduled general election. The Town Clerk shall accept all petitions and submit the petitions to the Town Solicitor to review for consistency with the Town Charter and state law. Those petitions found to be inconsistent shall not be acted upon at the Budget Public Hearing/Financial Referendum.
- C. The Town Clerk has until five (5) calendar days before the Budget Public Hearing to certify that sufficient valid signatures have been presented to qualify those warrant item(s) proposed by electors to be considered at the Budget Public Hearing.
- D. The electors who offer these warrant initiatives shall be given time to explain their proposals at the Budget Public Hearing.
- E. If there is a conflict between warrant items, the moderator of the Budget Public Hearing shall call for votes to determine which of the conflicting petitions for warrant items shall

- 47 appear on the Financial Referendum ballot.
48 F. The Town Treasurer shall, as part of all presentations in this process, provide an estimate
49 of the tax rate implication of the municipal-Town budget, the school budget and each
50 warrant item.
51 G. The Town Council shall adopt the budget and all warrant items for the Financial
52 Referendum no later than the second Monday in May.
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54 **Explanation:** This amendment is intended to require any referendum question involving
55 bonding authorization to be submitted to the voters at a general election.
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57 **Existing Provisions:** None.
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59 **Section 2.** The Town Clerk is hereby authorized to cause said Charter amendment to be submitted
60 as a referendum question to the voters at the general election scheduled in November, 2016.
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62 **Section 3.** This resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.
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64 Attested To By:

Passed By Town Council On:

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Amy Rose Weinreich, CMC Town Clerk

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72 **Advertised in the Westerly Sun: July 29, 2016**