

**Town of Charlton  
Saratoga County**

**PUBLIC HEARING  
For 2019 Preliminary Budget**

**October 22, 2018  
7:00 PM**

The Public Hearing for the 2019 Budget of the Town of Charlton, Saratoga County, New York was held at the Charlton Town Hall and called to order by Supervisor Grattidge at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Councilman Grasso, Councilwoman Heritage, Councilman Ranaletto, Councilman Robbins, Supervisor Grattidge, Attorney Van Vranken, Town Clerk Brenda Mills.

Town Clerk Mills read the following Legal Notice which was published in the official newspaper, The Daily Gazette on Wednesday October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018:

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
ON PRELIMINARY BUDGET**

Town of Charlton  
Saratoga County, NY

**NOTICE** is hereby given that the preliminary budget of the Town of Charlton for the fiscal year beginning January 2019 has been filed in the office of Town Clerk, where it is available for inspection during business hours. Further notice is hereby given that the Town Board will meet and review said preliminary budget and hold a public hearing thereon at the Charlton Town Hall, 758 Charlton Rd, Charlton, NY at 7:00pm, on October 22nd and that at such hearing any town resident may be heard in favor or against any item therein contained. Pursuant to Section 108 of the Town Law, the proposed salaries of the following town officers are hereby specified as follows:

Town Supervisor \$10,500.00  
Town Councilman (4) \$5,300.00  
Town Clerk \$39,500.00  
Highway Superintendent \$58,140.00

BY THE ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD

Brenda Mills, Town Clerk

10/9/18

Supervisor Grattidge said that the Board has put forth a budget that includes no Town tax and no Highway tax. Supervisor Grattidge provided the following information about the budget:

- 2019 budget is down \$4,019 from 2018 budget
- General Fund spending is up 3.06 percent while Highway Fund spending is down 4 percent
- The main reason for the increase in the General Fund spending is because of an increase in employee costs. The Board is changing the part-time Account Clerk position to a full time position and there is an increase in health insurance benefits. The Account Clerk will take care of the Town's bookkeeping as well as split her time with the Highway Department assisting with their record keeping.
- The three ambulance companies that service Charlton are fully funded in the budget. Should the residents vote to create the ambulance district, that money would be put back in the general fund to build up fund balance and the ambulances would be paid for with tax money.

- The reason for the drop in the Highway budget is because in 2018 the budget included a large expense for a major piece of equipment. The Town will be continuing funding the roads program as they have in the past few years. The money for paving comes from Town money, State CHIPS money, and the Pave NY program. The Board has continued to pay down the Town's debt on bonds. The Town Hall bond will be paid off in 2019. The water tax is stable, there was no increase in the water tax this year. We are using a little fund balance to balance the water budget. Unless there is a major water main break or expense, the expenses should be within the budgeted amount.

### **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

Bert Wilson of 6 Cherry Lane asked if the Town Hall Bond that would be retiring was for the lawsuit or construction, and where the money budgeted for the bond payment would be spent in 2020? Supervisor Grattidge said it was for the lawsuit, and that the Board is using \$177,000 of fund balance (savings) to balance the budget. Not using savings to balance the budget would be the top priority. More money is needed to be put into highway equipment, as well as painting of the Town Hall and the Community Center. It would be nice to do an extra mile of road paving every year.

Bert Wilson asked how much money is in reserves. The Supervisor said that there is a dedicated reserve fund and a fund balance. The total of the two is currently about \$400,000.00 combined. The parks reserve is about \$40,000 or \$50,000.00. Councilman Grasso clarified that there is currently about \$300,000.00 in fund balance but once \$177,000.00 is used for the 2019 budget, the fund balance (savings) will be down to just over \$100,000.00.

### **COUNCILMAN COMMENTS**

Councilman Grasso said that in addition to the Town Hall bond retiring in 2019, there is also a Highway bond that is retiring in 2019 which was \$30,000.00 per year. This will free up \$280,000 from those two bonds. There have been numerous cutbacks in the past 5 years that will eat up a large portion of that money if reinstated. First and foremost is getting our fund balance back to a safe amount based on the budget. He would like to see the first few years be focused on building it up as we have gotten to an uncomfortable level with the fund balance.

### **RESOLUTION #168**

#### **Adjournment of Public Hearing**

Motion by Councilman Grasso

Seconded by Councilwoman Heritage

Vote: All Ayes, No Nays, CARRIED.

The Public Hearing adjourned at: 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Mills  
Town Clerk