

**Town of Charlton
Saratoga County
Town Board Agenda Meeting**

July 23, 2018

The Agenda Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Charlton, Saratoga County, New York was held at the Charlton Town Hall, 758 Charlton Rd, Charlton, NY and called to order by Supervisor Grattidge at 7:30 p.m. to set the agenda for the August 13th meeting.

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

RESOLUTION #134

Abstract of Claims

Motion by Councilman Grasso

Seconded by Councilwoman Heritage

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board has approved the payment of bills as presented in **Abstract #114**, voucher numbers 441-468, in the amount of \$38,884.46.

Vote: All Ayes, No Nays. **CARRIED.**

RESOLUTION #135

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Councilman Ranaletto

Seconded by Councilman Robbins

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board has approved the minutes from the Town Board Meeting on July 9, 2018.

Vote: All Ayes, No Nays, **CARRIED.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There is a Dixieland Concert scheduled for July 25th at the Gideon Hawley Park gazebo. A rain date of August 21st has been proposed if the weather forecast does not improve. An email blast will go out Wednesday morning informing people if the concert is rescheduled.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Sales Tax received this month was \$149,157.00, which is up about 6% over last year, and the Mortgage Tax was \$18,943.50.

The Water Clerk has provided the Town Board a report of water billing and the total amount was \$127,050.08. Last year's water usage was higher because of hydrant flushing, but this year's usage seems to be in line with previous years.

Supervisor Grattidge said that there was a need to fill the Chairman seat on the ZBA. Don Schermerhorn who was a former ZBA Chairman was asked and is willing to fill the vacancy. The Town Board had no objection.

Councilman Grasso said that he feels that Don did an outstanding job when he was Chairman before, so he is happy to have him back. Attorney Van Vranken will prepare a resolution of appointment for the next meeting.

Councilman Grasso said that he has spoken to the Director of the Charlton Girls School, and the Town Board has been invited for a tour of the facility on August 13 at 5:30 p.m.

The Town Board has been invited to participate in a Twilight Farm Tour and discussion on August 14th at 6pm at the William H Buckley farm. There will be a panel discussion of the issues facing Saratoga County agriculture.

Constable Tom Parks gave the Town Board information about purchasing a new 2019 Dodge police car. The State Contract price for the car is \$24,985.00. The Town is supposed to be receiving a \$5,000 grant from Senator Tedisco to be put towards the purchase of the car. The Town's 2010 police car can be sold for approximately \$4,000 so the end cost to the Town would be about \$15,985.00. The price is good for a while so the Board will wait on making the authorization and Supervisor Grattidge will follow up with the Senator for a status of the grant.

Highway Superintendent Heritage said that they are scheduled to begin paving on August 1st, but it may be pushed back because of the rain.

Supervisor Grattidge said that the trusses have been delivered for the pump house roof replacement, so they expect Relyea Builders to begin the work soon.

COMMUNICATIONS

Supervisor Grattidge said that the Town Board has discussed the possibility of creating an Ambulance Taxing District for the Town. There are time constraints with the County in order to get the tax on the January tax bills. If the district is approved the Town Board can allocate a tax to property owners based on the assessed value of non agricultural parcels. He asked Attorney Van Vranken to look into the State requirements for creating the district. Attorney Van Vranken said that a Map Plan Report is needed to make the taxing district. Once the Map Plan Report is done, there would need to be a notice to residents, eventually a Public Hearing where the Map Plan Report is presented. If the Board decides to move forward after the Hearing, they could pass a resolution to establish the District. There would be numerous filings required and the District would be created after a 45 day period. Residents can challenge the decision after the Hearing. If residents submit a petition with 5% of signatures of eligible property owners, the creation would go to vote and if voted down, the District would not be created.

Supervisor Grattidge said that the Board has met with Galway Ambulance and Ballston Ambulance and they have projections of what money is needed for their 2019 budget. A small portion of Town, about 30 parcels is served by Community Ambulance. Supervisor Grattidge said that the Town has not provided funding to them in the past, however, if an Ambulance District is set up, it would make sense to provide them with their portion of the taxes in their district. Supervisor Grattidge said that the total needed to be raised by taxes for 2019 would be \$85,423.00. The assessed value after farmland/ag district exemptions is \$341,695,342.00. With an Ambulance tax of \$.25 per thousand, an average home assessed at \$200,000.00 would have an ambulance tax of about \$50.00 for 2019. The Supervisor said they believe that based on the small amount of tax, it is a value that people can see when you call and get a paramedic that leaves within 5 minutes and comes to your home. He asked the Town Attorney to prepare a resolution for the August 13th meeting setting a Public Hearing for August 27th. The Supervisor said that they will need to get the Map Plan Report done by the August 13th meeting.

Councilman Grasso said that he is in support of the plan and feels it is the best option for the Town. He is concerned that it might be delayed with the Comptroller's Office having to review it. Attorney Van Vranken said that their involvement would be minimal and should not be an issue.

Supervisor Grattidge said that the Supervisors of Galway and Providence also agree that a taxing district is the best way for their Towns to help with the financial issues facing the ambulance corps. In the past the ambulances were staffed by volunteers, and it has been increasingly difficult to get people to volunteer, so they are having to have more paid staff. Now that the services are Advanced Life Support, they have to respond within 5 minutes of getting a call. That means that the ambulance staff must be on duty at the station, no longer coming from home when they get a call. They must have a paid Paramedic and a paid EMT in the station 24/7.

Some audience members discussed with the Town Board, the possibility of having a Town tax instead of an ambulance tax. Councilman Grasso said that he feels it will raise public awareness as to what people are paying to have ambulance service. He has seen a steady increase in the cost of having ambulance service.

The public was encouraged to contact a Town Board member if they had any questions or concerns. Supervisor Grattidge said that they will ask Ambulance Representatives available at the Public Hearing.

RESOLUTION #136

Resolution to set date for Public Hearing for the creation of an Ambulance Taxing District

Motion by Councilman Robbins

Seconded by Councilman Grasso

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board has scheduled a Public Hearing for August 27th, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. regarding the creation of an Ambulance Taxing District for the Town of Charlton.

Vote: All Ayes, No Nays, **CARRIED.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Mills
Town Clerk