

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

**September 29, 2014**

The Agenda meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Charlton, Saratoga County, New York was held at the Charlton Town Hall and called to order by Supervisor Grattidge at 7:32 p.m. to set the agenda for the October 14th Town Board Meeting.

Present: Supervisor Grattidge, Councilman Grasso, Councilman Hodgkins, Councilman Lippiello, Councilman Verola, Town Clerk Brenda Mills, Attorney Van Vranken.

**RESOLUTION #152**

**Abstract of Claims**

Motion by Councilman Verola

Seconded by Councilman Lippiello

Discussion: Councilman Grasso asked if Rural Water was something that is used by the Water Department. Councilman Lippiello said he would check with John Morgan. Supervisor Grattidge asked the Town Clerk to change the account code on Attorney Van Vranken's voucher to A1420.4.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board has approved the payment of bills as presented in Abstract No. 118, vouchers number 541 - 601 in the amount of \$98,564.85,

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

**RESOLUTION #153**

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Councilman Verola

Seconded by Councilman Hodgkins

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board has approved the Town Board Meeting minutes from September 8, 2014.

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The town-wide Fall Brush Pick-Up will be the week of October 27<sup>th</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>.

**DISCUSSION**

The Sales Tax for the month was \$112,026 which is up 3% from last year. The Mortgage Tax for August was \$11,030.00.

Supervisor Grattidge said that he has given the Town Board the August Supervisor's Report, bank reconciliations and the Key Bank Custodial Statement.

09/15/2014 14:35:03

### MONTHLY REPORT OF SUPERVISOR

**TO THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF CHARLTON:**

Pursuant to Section 125 of the Town Law, I hereby render the following detailed statement of all moneys received and disbursed by me during the month of August, 2014:

DATED: September 15, 2014

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SUPERVISOR

	Balance 07/31/2014	Increases	Decreases	Balance 08/31/2014
<b>A GENERAL FUND - TOWNWIDE</b>				
CASH - CHECKING	6,441.26	34,239.13	34,236.80	6,443.59
CASH - SAVING	401,091.74	126,834.93	37,880.78	490,045.89
PETTY CASH	500.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
Park Fees Reserve	86,219.20	7.82	0.00	86,227.02
<b>TOTAL</b>	494,252.20	161,081.88	72,117.58	583,216.50
<b>DA HIGHWAY FUND</b>				
CASH - CHECKING	0.00	166,986.01	166,986.01	0.00
CASH - SAVINGS	320,068.48	247.73	166,986.01	153,330.20
CASH, SPECIAL RESERVE	15,461.65	0.00	0.00	15,461.65
<b>TOTAL</b>	335,530.13	167,233.74	333,972.02	168,791.85
<b>F WATER #1 FUND</b>				
CASH - CHECKING	0.00	11,757.83	11,757.83	0.00
CASH - SAVINGS	184,691.00	13,333.88	12,013.04	186,011.84
WATER SERIAL BOND	34,272.56	1.46	0.00	34,274.02
CASH, SPECIAL RESERVES	121,160.82	5.15	0.00	121,165.97
<b>TOTAL</b>	340,124.38	25,098.32	23,770.87	341,451.83
<b>SW WATER #2 FUND</b>				
CASH - CHECKING	0.00	100.60	100.60	0.00
CASH - SAVINGS	25,387.46	1.95	100.60	25,288.81
<b>TOTAL</b>	25,387.46	102.55	201.20	25,288.81
<b>TA TRUST &amp; AGENCY</b>				
CASH - CHECKING	1,067.93	33,818.65	33,987.40	899.18
DEER RUN SUBDIVISION	151,316.72	0.00	0.00	151,316.72
<b>TOTAL</b>	152,384.65	33,818.65	33,987.40	152,215.90
<b>H CAPITAL PROJECTS</b>				
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL ALL FUNDS</b>	1,347,678.82	387,335.14	464,049.07	1,270,964.89

The Board discussed the footbridge for Elmer Smith Park. Councilman Hodgkins has found a prefabricated 6x6 3/8 tubing galvanized steel bridge that is being sold for \$2,500.00. The Town Engineer had a structural engineer that is affiliated with EDP look at the bridge and he agreed that the bridge is built strong enough for a pedestrian bridge. He did feel that there may need to be some customizing of the hand rails as well as a center support. It will need to have footboards added. The Board estimated that the additional costs for rails, footboards and concrete footings would be approximately \$2,000 - \$2,500. Councilman Hodgkins has offered to deliver the bridge free of charge to the Town. Councilman Grasso said that the Board should check to see if it is really necessary to have balusters 4 inches on center as the existing bridge does not have them and the context of the park may not lend itself to them.. Councilman Lippiello said he was concerned if the Highway crew has the experience to install the footings. Councilman Grasso said after talking to the Highway Superintendent, he feels comfortable that they can handle the job, as long as Mr. Emerich feels comfortable doing it. Councilman Grasso said that he has spoken with Herb and Carol Smith and they are interested in doing some kind of memorial at the park for their deceased son, Glen Smith. They thought that this project is something that they might be interested in contributing financially to. Supervisor Grattidge said that Glen's grandfather was Elmer Smith and the park has special meaning to his family. Supervisor Grattidge said that even if the Town had to pay for the bridge, there is ample money in the Park Reserve Fund to cover the cost.

#### **RESOLUTION #154**

#### **Authorize the purchase of footbridge for Elmer Smith Park at the cost of \$2,500.00**

Motion by Councilman Verola

Seconded by Councilman Lippiello

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board has authorized the purchase of a 6x6 3/8 tubular galvanized steel foot bridge from Kevin Helm at a price of \$2,500.00, and the total project not exceed \$5,000.00.

Roll Call Vote: Councilman Grasso: Aye, Councilman Hodgkins: Aye, Councilman Lippiello: Aye, Councilman Verola: Aye, Supervisor Grattidge: Aye **CARRIED**

Councilman Grasso suggested that the Board and Parks Committee defer the replacement of the gazebo until next spring because of its size and complexities. The Board would continue to work with the Park Committee through the winter on the project planning.

Supervisor Grattidge said that putting together the 2015 Town budget has been the most challenging budget in his tenure. The biggest obstacle this year has been the increase in our debt payments due to the unsuccessful litigation of the new Town Hall project. Overall spending is up \$160,000 over last year, but for the 36<sup>th</sup> straight year in a row, he is calling for no Town tax or Highway tax. To accomplish this, he is calling for reduced spending or no spending by all Town Departments. He also proposed the Supervisor and Town Board all take a 15% pay cut. There is a pay freeze for all other employees. There is a 15% reduction in some of the outside agencies which includes the Town of Ballston Library, Charlton Historical Society, CHS, and the Charlton Seniors. He said he is hoping that this will be temporary reductions, but said that the Board will need to review these in the future. He proposed that the Board continue to fund the Highway road programs and match the State CHIPS money, which is \$108,000 from the Town funds and \$108,000 from State aid. Any new large equipment purchases over the next five years will need to be delayed or bonded.. There will be reductions in services to residents, such as, no Summer Rec programs, no Bulk Item Pick-up, and no more mailed newsletters. He has proposed using 15% of our unallocated fund balance for 2015. He said that the budget will still meet the essential needs of the residents. The Board will have a workshop on October 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss the proposed budget and will hold a Public Hearing on October 27<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Grasso asked if there would be similar expenses for Dog Control next year. Supervisor Grattidge said that it is up in the air. He has talked to the Town of Glenville, but they do not have anyone right now. If they hire someone soon, they would finish out the year. Since the Dog Control Officer resigned, he turned his cell phone in to the Town Clerk and she has been monitoring the phone. Supervisor Grattidge said that he will look into other options as well.

Supervisor Grattidge said that the proposed Zoning changes have been put on the website and they have received comments from the ZBA Chairman and the Town Engineer. Supervisor Grattidge said that the Board

should discuss if they are ready to make the recommended changes and then schedule the Public Hearing. The Board discussed the steps of getting the Ordinance changes passed. Attorney Van Vranken said that he has reviewed the changes. Councilman Grasso said that there was a comment about the Right to Farm Law being added as an appendix. Councilman Verola said she would check with the Planning Board Chairman to see if he has any comments. The Board will continue to work on this.

The Fire Advisory Board is having a workshop for elected officials on October 25<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. to show them how fire service works. They are inviting all elected officials to attend.

Supervisor Grattidge said that he received an email from a Water Dept. customer, requesting that the Town remove the late charge that was imposed on his water bill because his payment was not received on time. The customer spoke with Kim Caron and Supervisor Grattidge and was not happy about the way the conversation went. He said he believes that his bill was lost in the mail, and in previous years he has always paid his bill on time. Councilman Grasso said that he felt that the fee should be waived. Attorney Van Vranken reminded the Board that if the fee were waived, it would set a new precedent, and the Board would have to waive the fee to anybody saying that there bill was lost in the mail. Supervisor Grattidge said that the Board's policy for waiving fees are for certain reasons, which are: resident serving in active military overseas, resident hospitalized, and death in the residence. Supervisor Grattidge said that he had offered to pay the customer's late fee rather than going against the Town policy. The Board did not waive the late fee. Councilman Grasso pointed out that the letter that is generated by the Water Department needs to be improved by adding more information to it.

Councilman Grasso said that he and Councilman Hodgkins attended the Southern Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce meeting at the Charlton Tavern, which was hosted by Peter Bardunias. There were a few Charlton business owners present. There were suggestions made for the Town Board regarding zoning changes and things that the Board should look at. Suggestions were made regarding how businesses are viewed, what businesses are allowed or not allowed, and the fact that we do not have a business zone. The Councilmen informed them that the Board is going through a zoning amendment process, and that the types of things they are talking about were not addressed in these changes. They informed them that the process that the Board is going through is a good forum for them to make their thoughts known. There will be a Public Hearing and their thoughts would be welcome. The Councilmen took notes to share with the rest of the Board. Councilman Grasso said that it was a very good meeting and he got a lot out of the meeting. He liked hearing from the Business owners about how they feel about doing business in the Town, areas of improvement, what makes their business successful, what they are working on, and how we can better work as a community to make sure that businesses here do well. Supervisor Grattidge said that the Chamber received a grant and the Southern Chamber is charged with working with Charlton.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Mills  
Town Clerk