

**Town of Charlton
Saratoga County**

PUBLIC HEARING

For 2012 Preliminary Budget

**October 31, 2011
7:00 PM**

The Public Hearing for the 2012 Budget of the Town of Charlton, Saratoga County, New York was held at 7:00 pm at the Charlton Town Hall and called to order by Supervisor Grattidge.

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

Town Clerk Brenda Mills confirmed that the following Legal notice was published in the official newspaper, The Daily Gazette on Wednesday October, 19th, 2011:

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ON PRELIMINARY BUDGET**

Town of Charlton
Saratoga County, NY

NOTICE is hereby given that the preliminary budget of the Town Charlton for the fiscal year beginning January 2012 has been filed in the office of Town Clerk, Charlton Town Hall, 758 Charlton Road, Charlton, NY, where it is available for inspection during business hours.

Further notice is hereby given that the Town Board of the Town of Charlton will meet and review said preliminary budget and hold a public hearing thereon at the Charlton Town Hall, 758 Charlton Rd, Charlton, NY at 7pm, on October 31st and that at such hearing any town resident may be heard in favor or against any item or items 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 \$10,000.00
Town Councilman (4) \$5,000.00
Town Clerk \$33,868.00
Highway Superintendent \$50,894.00

BY THE ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD

Brenda Mills, Charlton Town Clerk
10/14/11

Supervisor Grattidge said that this budget is a total of \$1,700,748.00. There is no proposed Town tax or Highway Tax. There will be no pay increases for employees or elected officials. One full-time position was added and funded for the Highway Department. The road-side pick-up program was funded. The budget maintained funding for primarily all of the outside groups including the Seniors, Historical Society and Burnt Hills Library. Increases were given to the Ambulance Corps and a slight decrease to Community Human Services. The funding for the Highway Department is the same as budgeted last year. The Board is committed to have the Town run with no Town and no Highway tax to the residents.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Terry Ostrander, Western Avenue asked what was included in Public Safety funding. It includes the Constables salaries & patrol maintenance, police cars, street lights. What are the Snow Removal items? The personal service line is the salaries from November to March. The contractual are equipment and salt.

Kevin Keelan, Jockey Street asked if the budget can be put on the website. Normally the budget is put on the website. With the changeover of the website in the past week, not everything was posted. The final adopted budget will be put on the website.

Don Schermerhorn, Sweetman Road said that he noticed that \$10,000 was budgeted for an audit. He asked if the Board was entering into an agreement for more than one year, as they may be able to get a better deal if it is more than one year. The Supervisor said that when they ask for proposals, that is something that they will ask for as well as the price for a single audit. Mr. Schermerhorn also asked about the escalating cost of employee benefits. He noted that between 2010 and 2011 there was approximately a 14% increase in benefits and asked what the Town is doing to harness the increases. The Supervisor said that the Town's hands are tied as to the costs of the NYS Retirement system. This year the health insurance increase is about 2% which is the lowest increase in many years. The percentages are off from the actual amounts because the Tax Collector participates in the Health insurance but reimburses the Town for it.

Terry Ostrander, Western Avenue asked to have the detailed budget emailed to him.

Al Halstead, 309 Stage Road asked why there was a \$17,000 reduction in the Culture line. The Board decided not to fund Party in the Park. Culture includes the libraries and youth programs that were funded.

Torben Aabo, Charlton Road said that donations were given to support Party in the Park and asked how much the event cost the Town. Supervisor Grattidge said that no money came out of the general fund for the event. Donations and a grant from the County covered all of the direct expenditures. The Highway Department has overhead expenses for the event because they spend time getting the park ready, as well as transporting the lights for the event, and clean-up after the event. Mr. Aabo asked if the people could expect the Town to spearhead the event for 2012. The Supervisor said that the Board had a split decision as whether or not to include the event. He felt that it is something that the Board could revisit before they finalize the budget, especially since they are able to raise the money from outside sources. Mr. Aabo asked how much money was funded for the Charlton Seniors and the Historical Society. The amount is that same as the previous year, \$2,121.00 for the Seniors and \$3,000 for the Historical Society.

Sharon Buell, 16 Crawford asked the Board to determine how much time the Highway Department spends getting ready for Party in the Park. Maybe the hours spent could be better spent somewhere else. She is also worried about safety issues with the parking.

Susan York, 18 Cortland Drive thanked the Town Board for their continued support of the Historical Society.

Eva Butler, 4170 Jockey Street thanked the Town Board for their support of the Seniors. They have over 200 members.

Councilman Gardner said that there is \$50,000 in the budget of revenue under disaster assistance. He is concerned about counting on that because of the condition that FEMA is in. He had some concerns about the budget as it does not include the \$55,000 for legal fees for the upcoming court case. Also, in the H Fund, they are not budgeting approximately \$153,000 for fees that are still owed for the Town Hall construction.

Councilman Salisbury said that they have reduced one of the Water Department salaries and moved it to General Fund. The Water fund needs to be reduced by \$4,388 and the General Fund needs to be increased by \$4,388. There is an insurance deductible of \$2,500 that needs to be added to the budget. They should be paying \$120,000 per year on the Bond Anticipation Note and they only budgeted \$100,000. As far as the income for gifts & donations of \$5,000 and other aid for \$2,200 and disaster aid, we would be lucky to receive by 2013 if at all. In the H Fund, there is money owed to Bennett and Rockmore, the Attorney for the Schmidt case and they are not in the budget. The Board needs to carefully look at the budget.

Supervisor Grattidge said that the Town Board decides on the final budget, so if the Board wants to meet again to discuss changes to the budget, he is open to it. A Board Workshop was set up for November 1st at 7 p. m.

The Public Hearing adjourned at: 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Mills
Town Clerk