

**Town of Charlton
Saratoga County**

**PUBLIC HEARING For 2023 Preliminary Budget and
Town Board Meeting**

**October 24, 2022
7:30 PM**

The Public Hearing for the 2023 Budget of the Town of Charlton, Saratoga County, New York was held at the Charlton Town Hall and called to order by Supervisor Grasso at 7:35 p.m.

Present: Councilman St. John, Councilman Tasse, Supervisor Grasso, Attorney James Craig, Town Clerk Brenda Mills.

Excused: Councilman Glavin, Councilman Robbins

Town Clerk Mills read the following Legal Notice and confirmed that it was published in the official newspaper, The Daily Gazette on Wednesday October 12th, 2022:

**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 2023 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 7:30pm, on October 24th 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 \$14,560.00
Town Councilman (4) \$6,760.00
Town Clerk \$45,344.00
Highway Superintendent \$72,800.00

BY THE ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD

Brenda Mills, Town Clerk
10/11/22

Supervisor Grasso said that the budget process started a few months ago by soliciting budget requests from Department Heads and outside organizations. On September 26th, a workshop was held, and the tentative budget was filed with the Town Clerk at the end of September. Another workshop was held on October 3rd. The preliminary budget was submitted to the Town Clerk on October 11th, and a Public Hearing was scheduled for October 24th. The Board plans to vote on the final budget at the November 14th meeting.

The proposed budget continues a three decade-long tradition of no General Fund or Highway Fund tax on our residents.

Supervisor Grasso read the following highlights of the budget:

- No use of Fund Balances. This is a balanced budget
- Anticipates a small increase in Sales Tax revenue, 3.3% higher than 2022
- Includes a 4% salary increase for employees
- Includes funding for 2 speed signs on Charlton Road
- Includes funding for an additional part-time Constable (4 4-hour patrols weekly)
- 3% increase in funding for Town of Ballston Library
- No proposed increase for Water users
- *2% increase in Ambulance tax levy
- Anticipates 16% reduction in Mortgage Tax revenue (from \$182k in 2022 to \$156k in 2023)
- Carries \$20,000 for Capital improvements to Town owned buildings

The general fund appropriation for revenue and expenditures is 1,000,000.00 for 2023 which is a .2% reduction from 2022. The highway fund appropriation for revenue and expenditures is 1,190,500.00 which is a 12.6% increase for 2023.

Special Districts

There are no proposed tax increases for Water District #1 or Water District #2 customers. There is a proposed reduction in the tax rates from 95.9 cents per thousand in 2022 to 95.5 cents per thousand in 2023.

*There is a proposed 2% increase in the tax amount for the Ambulance District which is comprised of the three emergency service providers that serve the Town of Charlton. The proposed tax rate increase actually works out to only a 0.6% increase to homeowners due to the growth in our tax base. The rate in 2022 was 26.29 cents per thousand and it will be 26.45 cents per thousand in 2023.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Rebecca Darling, Director of the Town of Ballston Library thanked the Town Board for their continued support and for the 3% increase in funding. She values the relationship with the Town and enjoys using our Elmer Smith Park for library events.

Torben Aabo, resident, said that he would like the Town Board to make a separate line item in the budget to put money for the Community Center renovation project. Supervisor Grasso said that \$20,000 is budgeted for projects in the Town buildings. Probably most of that money will go to Community Center projects. He does not want to set up a reserve account because there are many stipulations attached to a reserve account. It is something for the Board to consider.

No one else chose to speak.

MOTION #165

Motion to Close public portion of the Public Hearing

Motion by Councilman St. John

Seconded by Councilman Tasse

A motion was made and seconded to close the public portion of the Public Hearing at 7:50 p.m.

Vote: All Ayes, No Nays, CARRIED.

COUNCILMAN COMMENTS

Councilman Tasse asked where the donations are in the budget. Supervisor Grasso said that they are under Celebrations. There is revenue line with \$8,000 in the budget and an expenditure line for \$15,000.

Councilman St. John said that he has very real concerns about 2023 increasing costs, inflation, materials for the highway department, possible lower sales tax revenue as we enter into a recession, and higher mortgage rates which will have an impact on the housing market. He is happy with how conservative the Board has been so far, carefully watching our spending but also addressing the need for an additional Constable.

No more comments were made for the public hearing and the Board continued with the agenda for the regular meeting at 8:00p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION #166

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Councilman Tasse

Seconded by Councilman St. John

BY MOTION the Town Board approved the minutes of the Town Board Meeting on October 11, 2022.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There are free Covid Test kits available at Town Clerk's office.

The Town is hosting Bulk item drop-off this week (October 24 through October 29) at Highway Garage. See the website or newsletter for detailed information.

The Highway Department will host bagged leaf pick-up the week of October 31st through November 4th.

The Town offices will be closed November 8th for Election Day. Polls are open 6am to 9pm.

The Town offices will be closed November 11th for Veterans Day.

DISCUSSION

Supervisor Grasso thanked Jason Arnold and his wife for donating and decorating the entrance to Town Hall and the Town Hall sign with beautiful fall flowers and pumpkins.

Supervisor Grasso said that the County has completed the paving of Jockey Street and just has some finish work to do such as driveway cuts and line painting. The Town Highway Department has completed the paving of Maple Avenue, Packer Road, Eastern Avenue and Division Street.

Saratoga County completed drainage work on Charlton Road in front of the Community Center. They provided the Town a lateral connection from the new storm drain for the Community Center foundation drain to tie into. The Highway Department has completed the drainage work around the Community Center and based on the work done, the crawl space drainage should now be gravity fed which should eliminate the need for the sump pump currently being used.

Supervisor Grasso said that the Land Use Advisory Committee will be meeting on October 26th.

ABSTRACT OF CLAIMS

MOTION #167

Approval of Abstract of Claims

Motion by Councilman St. John

Seconded by Councilman Tasse

BY MOTION, the Town Board approved the processing of Abstract 120, voucher numbers 554-576 in the amount of \$44,692.07 which was audited by Town Board members.

Vote: All Ayes, No Nays. CARRIED

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Suzanne Voigt, resident, said that she is concerned that the ECC has not met, and she would like the Town Board to allow Marv Schorr to retire and find a replacement. She said that invasive plant species are taking over and this is something that should be addressed.

MOTION #168

Motion to adjourn the meeting

Motion by Councilman Tasse

Seconded by Councilman St. John

BY MOTION the Town Board adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Mills
Town Clerk