

**Town of Charlton
Saratoga County**

**PUBLIC HEARING
For 2022 Preliminary Budget**

**October 25, 2021
7:00 PM**

The Public Hearing for the 2022 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 7:22 p.m.

Present: Councilman Robbins, Councilwoman Smith, Supervisor Grasso, Attorney James Craig, Town Clerk Brenda Mills.

Excused: Councilman Glavin, Councilman Ranaletto

Town Clerk Mills read the following Legal Notice and confirmed that it was published in the official newspaper, The Daily Gazette on Wednesday October 14th, 2021:

**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 2022 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 25th 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 \$14,000.00
Town Councilman (4) \$6,500.00
Town Clerk \$43,600.00
Highway Superintendent \$70,000.00

BY THE ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD

Brenda Mills, Town Clerk
10/12/21

Supervisor Grasso read the following summary report on the budget:

Charlton 2022 Town Budget

The following is a summary of the proposed 2022 Town of Charlton Preliminary Budget. There will be a public hearing on the proposed budget at 7:00 PM on Monday, October 25th at Charlton Town Hall. The Town Board is expected to adopt a 2022 Budget at their regularly scheduled Town Board meeting on Monday, November 8th.

Budget Summary

The proposed budget continues a three decade-long tradition of no General Fund or Highway Fund tax on our residents. The town's major sources of revenue include distributions of sales tax collected by the County, County mortgage tax receipts, franchise fees, State reimbursements for investments in our roads, and Town Court imposed fines.

The proposed budget is balanced in that anticipated appropriations match projected revenues. There is no proposed use of unreserved fund balance of the General Fund (currently approximately \$349,549) or unreserved fund balance of the Highway Fund (currently approximately \$215,732).

General Fund and Highway Fund

The budget proposes an increase in appropriations for both the General Fund and Highway Fund from 2020 levels. This is made possible in large part due to a strong rebound of sales tax revenues as we come out of the COVID pandemic. Sales tax revenues for 2022 are projected to be 3.7% above 2020 pre-pandemic levels.

Besides salary increases, there are proposed investments in our Town Community Center, funds allocated for Founder's Weekend, funds for replacement of one of our Police vehicles and funds for the purchase of a new tandem plow truck for the Highway Department. The budget also continues voluntary funding for the Ballston Community library, summer recreation programs and other long standing community service organizations that important provide services to our residents.

The budget includes various debt payments including continued repayment of bonds for the construction of our town hall and one new bond for the purchase of the new highway truck.

We will continue to make smart investments in our highway equipment fleet and with the repaving of approximately two and a half miles of our 47 miles of town owned roads.

Special Districts

There are no proposed tax increases for Water District #1 or Water District #2 customers, and no proposed increase in water billing rates. There will continue to be investments made into our water infrastructure including placing into operation our newly installed chlorination system. To balance the water fund's budget, the budget proposes use of a portion (\$94,870) of our Water Fund unreserved fund balance (\$529,894) which has continue to grow in recent years.

There is a proposed 2% increase in the tax rate for the Ambulance District which is comprised of the three emergency service providers that serve the Town of Charlton (Community Corps EMS, Galway EMS and Ballston Lake EMS). The proposed tax increase is substantially less than the over 5% increase in funding requests received for emergency medical services.

Salary Adjustments

The proposed budget includes salary adjustments for many of our town staff. There were no "across the board" increases. Each position was reviewed individually based on the skills of the employee, demands of the position and comparable salaries paid for the same position in other municipalities. The exceptional work performed by our dedicated staff continues to be a cornerstone of our ability to meet the growing demands for service to our community.

American Rescue Plan Act Funding

The budget does not rely on use of funds that have been appropriated to the Town via the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Half of this funding was received in 2021 and another tranche is expected to be received in 2022. Allowable uses of this funding are very restricted. Funds will be used to cover the cost of various items

that were deferred due to drop in revenue during the COVID pandemic; reimburse the Town for direct costs due to COVID relief efforts; and for other permitted infrastructure improvements. Due to the limited amount of funding received and the significant impact the COVID pandemic had on the Town's operations, the Town doesn't anticipate distributing the ARPA funding to any outside agencies or service organizations.

Supervisor's Note

I commend all of the Town Department Heads and Town Board members for their participation in the budgeting process and appreciate their help in crafting a budget that is fiscally responsible yet continues to ensure the Town provides essential services to our residents.

Here's to a safe and prosperous future,

Supervisor Joe Grasso

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Torben Aabo, resident, said that the Town has budgeted \$20,000 for the Community Center. He asked if there was additional money available if needed. Supervisor Grasso said that there is a line item of \$36,000 which is intended for both the Town Hall (\$16,000) and Community Center. It is possible that there may be some Fund Balance available or the possibility of money from other lines in the budget that are underspent. Councilwoman Smith said that she thought the ARPA funding could be used for deferred maintenance. Supervisor Grasso confirmed. Mr. Aabo thanked the Board for their continued monetary support of the Charlton Seniors.

Judge Vern Ketchum asked if the Board could go into Executive Session tonight to discuss an employee pay request. The Board agreed to go into Executive Session after the regular Board meeting tonight.

MOTION #153

Motion to Close Public Hearing

Motion by Councilwoman Smith

Seconded by Councilman Robbins

Vote: All Ayes, No Nays, CARRIED.

The Public Hearing closed at: 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Mills
Town Clerk