

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

March 27, 2023

The Regular 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 Grasso at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Supervisor Grasso, Councilman Glavin, Councilman Robbins, Councilman St. John, Councilman Tasse.

Also present: Deputy Town Clerk Laurie Kruppenbacher, Attorney Craig.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION #97

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Councilman Robbins
Seconded by Councilman Tasse'

BY MOTION the Town Board approved the minutes of the Town Board Meeting on March 13, 2023.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR FOR AGENDA ITEMS

No one chose to speak.

SUPERVISORS REPORT

Roadside Cleanup hosted by ECC is scheduled for April 22nd, 9-noon, tree give-away 12-1. Spring Brush pickup will be the week of April 24th to 28th. Town offices are closed for Good Friday April 7th.

Communications: none

Town Updates: Councilman Robbins and Supervisor Grasso gave a presentation of "Happenings Around Town" to approximately 25 seniors which included responses to questions on 67 Café; Special Use Applications, abandoned houses in Town, and Cook Rd Culvert. The Seniors requested that we look at bulk item pickup instead of drop off at the Hwy Department as many of them struggle dropping off large items. The Town Board will discuss with Hwy Superintendent Heritage to see if this is a possibility.

Financial Updates: March County Sales Tax receipts were \$123,127.00. March is historically lowest sales tax of the year. We received \$386,866 versus our budgeted \$387,501 year to date. March is up 110.34% from March of 2022. As you can see the Town is in very good financial shape.

County: Economic Grant Program – the Town used to budget for installation of Right to Farm and Farm Friendly signs to be displayed in Town as was recommended in the Farmland Protection Plan. Grant funding is available up to \$7100.00 which is likely more than is needed for signage. Supervisor Grasso asked Board if they support the completing of a grant application.

Councilman Robbins asked if all the funding needed to be for signage and one project only?
Supervisor Grasso stated no.

Councilman Robbins asked if possibly funding could also help to add a band to Founders Day?
Supervisor Grasso stated yes as Founders Day is a community event. The Board was in support of this.

COUNCILMAN REPORTS

Councilman Tasse': He completed the IT survey and has given it to the insurance for security cyber application. We are looking at options but want to take the most cost-effective track.

Councilman Robbins – Asked Marshall Heritage if we have a date for the new furnaces. Mr. Heritage stated an order was put in on 3/27 for 2 new boilers and we should know the status of delivery by end of the week.

Party in the Park had their first meeting on 3/21 and it went very well. We still need many hands to make this all run smoothly so come on out to the next meeting on 4/25 at 7:00. We are planning on having a local favorite Band at the Gazebo on Friday night to kick off Founders Day Weekend. We have 1 band confirmed for Saturday night. We added several new food vendors, Taco Truck, Coffee Truck along with our regulars. We are trying to be careful to not have vendors that are competing against each other.

Councilman Glavin – Water: I have the contract for the water completed and sent to Supervisor Grasso for signature.

Councilman St. John – Planning Board:

To answer a question from last meeting. The agenda for Planning Board/ZBA is a completed a week before the meeting date.

Planning Board Meeting of 3/20/23 included a public hearing for 5 subdivisions: Approved unanimously was Finkle with 3 lots on 18 acres on Jockey Street and Lachtrupp was 2 lots on 11 acres on Sacandaga Rd. A public Hearing was set for April 17 for Holbrook subdivision of 3 lots on 87 acres on Rt 67 and 2 lots on 5 acres for Anderson on Finley Rd and 3 lots for Ward on 31 acres located on Route 67 and Maple Ave. Councilman St John strongly encourages the board and town residents to read the comments from the original public hearing and view the map proposed by applicant.

The Charlton School has presented their plan for renovation and discussed the building of new dorms to replace the existing dorms which will eventually be demolished. Their goal is to begin the planning phase by April 2024 and conclude the planning phase by July 2024.

Land Use Committee met on 3/23/23- we reviewed actual subdivision applications that have gone before the Planning Board to get a real world perspective on the types of subdivisions facing the town. The members continued discussion on practical suggestions for preserving rural character in the Town of Charlton.

Councilman Glavin stated that he attended the Charlton School presentation and it was very informative. They want to increase resident base from 24-36. Their renovations are all within the existing campus so there is no expansion as the new dormitory to be built will replace the present dorms.

Supervisor Grasso met with the Town Engineer, Councilman Robbins and Hwy Supervisor Heritage regarding the MS-4 Stormwater program. They had a good discussion and should have a final copy available for public review and distribution in a couple of weeks.

Presently the Planning Board Agenda is prepared but not subject to an email blast similar to the Town Board Agenda. We may need to add this step which would be helpful to let residents know ahead of time what is being discussed. Supervisor Grasso asked the Board if they had any questions? No questions were raised.

Fall Elections are fast approaching and previously we have changed the terms of the Tax Collector and Town Clerk from 2 years to 4 years. We did not change the Supervisor or Hwy Superintendent at that time. We should continue with this as it is extremely helpful to the person running to be able to have time to learn and accomplish positive actions before turning around and getting voted in again.

Attorney Craig: There are two ways to extend the term. One is by Resolution subject to a mandatory referendum in the fall (must be put on the ballot for the voters to approve). The other is by local law, which also is subject to the same mandatory referendum requirement.

The Highway Superintendent can be done either way, but the Town Supervisor position can only be done by the Resolution method, as we are in a County that has a Board of Supervisors, and that is the only prescribed method in which to do it for the Town Supervisor position in those counties.

Under the Resolution method, the resolution MUST be passed no less than 150 days prior to the November election. If the voters approve it, the New 4 year term would start not in January of 2024, but rather in January of 2026. (Still leaving a 2 year term for 2024-2026)

Under the local law method (which requires a public hearing), there is a shorter time period of 30-60 days (rather than the 150 days) between the passing of the law and the election in November, so we have more time. But under this scenario, the new 4 year term would start immediately in January of 2024. This can only be done for the Highway Super position as stated above.

Supervisor Grasso said that having been on the Town Board for years prior to becoming Supervisor I can confirm that there is a learning curve to understand the roll and responsibilities. By the time you see the results of working with the Town Board you are running for election again. To be judged on performance a year after being elected is difficult. We want to make these positions more appealing to residents. When the Tax Collector and Town Clerk were up for the term change it was widely approved. If you have any questions and want to talk with any of us about this in the coming weeks, we welcome your comments. The disadvantage would be if someone is proven to be ineffective, you are stuck with them for four years.

MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

RESOLUTION #98

Budget Transfer Resolution

Motion by Councilman Robbins

Seconded by Councilman St. John

Roll Call: Councilman Glavin: Aye, Councilman Robbins: Aye, Councilman St. John: Aye, Councilman Tasse: Aye, Supervisor Grasso: Aye. **CARRIED**

3/27/23

Resolution # 98

Resolution transferring funds

Be it resolved that the Supervisor is authorized to make the following transfer

For Budget Year 2023:

A3001 –State Aid-State Revenue Sharing
to

A2750-AIM Related Payments

In the amount of \$33,000.00, to recognize expected Revenue to the Town of Charlton.

Moved by Councilman Robbins

Voting: Councilman Glavin Aye

Councilman Robbins Aye

Seconded by Councilman St. John

Councilman St. John Aye

Councilman Tasse Aye

Supervisor Grasso Aye

The resolution was duly adopted on March 27, 2023.

Laurie Kruppenbacher, Deputy Town Clerk

RESOLUTION #99

RESOLUTION To Appoint a New Town Justice to Fill Seat Recently Vacated By Justice Vernon L. Ketchum

Motion by Councilman Glavin

Seconded by Councilman Robbins

Roll Call: Councilman Glavin: Aye, Councilman Robbins: Aye, Councilman St. John: Aye, Councilman Tasse: Aye, Supervisor Grasso: Aye. **CARRIED**

**TOWN OF CHARLTON
COUNTY OF SARATOGA
STATE OF NEW YORK**

**RESOLUTION NO. 99
March 27, 2023**

**RESOLUTION TO APPOINT A NEW TOWN JUSTICE TO FILL
SEAT RECENTLY VACATED BY JUSTICE VERNON L. KETCHUM**

WHEREAS, Town Justice Vernon L. Ketchum, resigned and vacated his seat as Town Justice, effective February 28, 2023, creating a vacancy in one of the Town's two Justice positions; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board desires and needs to temporarily fill the position through the end of the year with the seat to be permanently filled by the voters of the Town of Charlton in the November 2023 elections; and

WHEREAS, the Town posted the position, accepted and reviewed applications and conducted interviews to fill said vacancy; and

WHEREAS, the Town received an application from Sean J. Piasecki, of 1278 Eastern Avenue, West Charlton, NY, 12010, and after interviewing him and reviewing information provided, found him to meet the requirements of the position, amply qualified, capable and willing to fill the position and to serve the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board hereby appoints Sean J. Piasecki to the position of Town Justice for the Town of Charlton, for a partial term commencing April 1, 2023, and ending on December 31, 2023, at a salary as set forth in the 2023 Town Budget, in the amount of \$14,560.00 per year, prorated accordingly, with the same benefits, if any, as are provided to current Town of Charlton Justices; and it is further,

RESOLVED, said position is an elected position that must be permanently filled by the voters of the Town of Charlton in the November, 2023 election, for a full-term commencing January 1, 2024.

The resolution was duly adopted on March 27, 2023.

Moved by Councilman Glavin

Seconded by Councilman Robbins

Voting: Councilman Glavin Aye
Councilman Robbins Aye
Councilman St. John Aye
Councilman Tasse Aye
Supervisor Grasso Aye

Laurie Kruppenbacher, Deputy Town Clerk

RESOLUTION #100

RESOLUTION : Authorizing The Payment of A Stipend To Justice Hart

Motion by Councilman Tasse'

Seconded by Councilman St. John

Roll Call: Councilman Glavin: Aye, Councilman Robbins: Aye, Councilman St. John: Aye, Councilman Tasse: Aye, Supervisor Grasso: Aye. **CARRIED**

**TOWN OF CHARLTON
COUNTY OF SARATOGA
STATE OF NEW YORK**

**RESOLUTION NO. 100
March 27, 2023**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF A
STIPEND TO JUSTICE HART**

WHEREAS, Town Justice Vernon L. Ketchum, resigned and has vacated his seat a Town Justice, effective February 28, 2023, creating a vacancy in one of the Town's two Justice positions; and

WHEREAS, that vacancy has added additional time obligations and responsibilities to the Town's remaining Justice, Kevin Hart, as well as will be adding on further additional time to Justice Hart's schedule to train and mentor the new justice appointee; and

WHEREAS, in consideration of the added time, duties and responsibilities imposed upon Justice Hart, it becomes necessary for the Town to compensate him for his added time and responsibilities by the award of a monthly stipend.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Charlton hereby authorizes the payment of a stipend in the amount of \$1,000.00 per month, payable to Justice Hart, beginning on April 1, 2023, and continuing monthly thereafter until such time as the Town Board terminates the stipend, however no later than December 31, 2023, unless further extended thereafter by Resolution of the Board.

Moved by Councilman Tasse

Seconded by Councilman St. John

Voting: Councilman Glavin Aye
Councilman Robbins Aye
Councilman St. John Aye
Councilman Tasse Aye
Supervisor Grasso Aye

The resolution was duly adopted on March 27, 2023.

Laurie Kruppenbacher, Deputy Town Clerk

ABSTRACT OF CLAIMS

MOTION #101

Approval of Abstract of Claims

Motion by Councilman Robbins

Seconded by Councilman Tasse

BY MOTION, the Town Board approved the processing of Abstract 106, voucher numbers 167-192 in the amount of \$17,846.92, which was audited by Town Board members.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Suzanne Voigt from Dawson Rd asked about the term extension if it had to be 2 years or 4 years or could it be 5 or 10 years? Attorney Craig responded that the 2 year and 4-year term is NY State Law.

Suzanne Voigt continued that she has spent a great deal of time cleaning up the sides of the roads on Dawson, Crane up to Saddlebrook and Newman. She would like to request either cameras be installed to see who is doing all the littering or a police presence on these roads. She feels Friday and Saturday nights are the best times to catch the littering being done. Supervisor Grasso thanked Suzanne for her cleanup efforts and appreciates all the residents who spend time cleaning up the road sides in town.

Suzanne Voigt asked who can she contact regarding the roadside cleanup? Bob Killeen is the contact and his cell number can be given out.

Suzanne Voigt stated that Courtney Pettis will be handling the facebook page. If the Town needs anything to be sent out, please let her know.

Sean Piasecki of Eastern Ave thanked the Board for the additional funding for Justice Hart. Justice Hart has spent a great deal of time welcoming and acclimating Sean into the roll of Justice. It is refreshing to him to see the Board supporting this with compensation. He is looking forward to being able to have a positive roll in the Town of Charlton.

Councilman Robbins stated that the bare root seedlings to be distributed on 4/22 are from Saratoga County Soil & Water and include 30 of each Blue Spruce, Norway Spruce, Paper Birch, Red Maple, Forsythia, Lilac and White Flowering Dogwood.

MOTION #102

Motion to adjourn the meeting

Motion by Councilman Glavin

Seconded by Councilman Tasse'

BY MOTION the Town Board adjourned the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Kruppenbacher
Deputy Town Clerk