

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

July 25, 2022

The 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 Councilman Robbins at 7:35 p.m.

Roll Call: Councilman Glavin, Councilman Robbins, Councilman St. John, Councilman Tasse.

Excused: Supervisor Grasso.

Also present: Town Clerk Brenda Mills, Attorney Jim Craig.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION #127

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Councilman Glavin

Seconded by Councilman Tasse

BY MOTION the Town Board approved the minutes of the Public Hearing regarding the Parks Repair Reserve Fund expenditures on July 11, 2022.

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

MOTION #128

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Councilman Tasse

Seconded by Councilman Glavin

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be a free summer concert sponsored by the Town of Charlton at Gideon Hawley Park on August 2nd at 7pm. The band Soul Provider will be providing the music. Refreshments will be provided as a fund raiser for the Community Center renovations.

A water usage restriction was put in place on July 21st for residents in the water district that do outdoor watering. Residents with even number house numbers are asked to water only on even number calendar days and residents with odd number house numbers are asked to water only on odd number calendar days. Councilman Glavin said that the town-wide water usage normally averages 110,000 gallons per day, but recently the average has been 290,000 gallons per day. The Department of Health requires that our overall usage average 150,000 gallons or less.

COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Robbins said the Town Board received a letter from Natalie White about speeds in the hamlet.

MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

RESOLUTION #129

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF THE SUM OF \$32,658.22 FROM THE TOWN OF CHARLTON PARKS REPAIR RESERVE FUND FOR SURVEY WORK AT MILL POND PARK AND TO PAY FOR A KUBOTA ZERO TURN MOWER

Motion by Councilman Glavin

Seconded by Councilman Tasse

Discussion: Councilman Robbins said that the Town was awarded a matching grant from Saratoga County which will pay for part of the survey work that was done at Mill Pond Park. The County requires that the Town pay for the work and then reimbursement is made.

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

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 129
July 25, 2022**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF THE SUM OF \$32,658.22 FROM THE TOWN OF CHARLTON PARKS REPAIR RESERVE FUND FOR SURVEY WORK AT MILL POND PARK AND TO PAY FOR A KUBOTA ZERO TURN MOWER

WHEREAS, on June 27, 2022, the Town Board approved a resolution setting a public hearing regarding the expenditure of funds from the Parks Repair Reserve Fund for the Town of Charlton; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board held the public hearing at 7:30 p.m. on July 11, 2022, in compliance with Town Law; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board determined following the public hearing that it was necessary and in the best interest of the Town to pay for the survey work completed at the Mill Pond Park, and to pay for the purchase of the Kubota zero turn mower, from funds held in the Parks Repair Reserve Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Town has received an invoice from Environmental Design Partnership (“EDP”), of 900 Route 146, Clifton Park, New York, 12065, in the amount of \$17,482.50, for survey work completed at Mill Pond Park, and an invoice to purchase the Kubota zero turn mower in the amount of \$ 15,175.72.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor is hereby authorized to appropriate the sum of \$17,482.50 from the Town of Charlton Parks Repair Reserve Fund to be used to pay Environmental Design Partnership (“EDP”), of 900 Route 146, Clifton Park, New York, 12065, for survey work completed at Mill Pond Park, at the cost of \$17,482.50, and to appropriate sums needed and necessary to purchase the Kubota zero turn mower in the amount of \$15,175.72, with a portion of the survey expense thereof to be reimbursed to the Town from the Saratoga County Trails Grant Program, and be it further

RESOLVED, the Town Supervisor is hereby authorized to pay the Environmental Design Partnership for said survey work as set forth in the invoice attached hereto the sum of \$17,482.50, and purchase and pay for the Kubota zero turn mower in the amount of \$15,175.72, all with funds from the Town of Charlton Parks Repair Reserve Fund, and to sign all necessary documentation, do all things and pay all amounts necessary in order to effectuate same.

MOTION BY: Councilman Glavin

Voting: Supervisor Grasso	Absent
Councilman Glavin	Aye
Councilman Robbins	Aye
Councilman St. John	Aye
Councilman Tassè	Aye

SECONDED BY: Councilman Tasse

The resolution was duly adopted on July 25, 2022.

Brenda Mills, Town Clerk

ABSTRACT OF CLAIMS

MOTION #130

Approval of Abstract of Claims

Motion by Councilman Tasse

Seconded by Councilman Glavin

BY MOTION, the Town Board approved the processing of Abstract 114, voucher numbers 395-419 in the amount of \$82,626.50 which was audited by Town Board members.

Vote: All Ayes, No Nays. CARRIED

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Torben Aabo said that there will be a 50/50 raffle at the summer concert on August 2nd as well as refreshment sales. Both will be to benefit the Community Center renovations.

J C Quirin, 833 Swaggertown Road, read the following letter:

2022-07-25

To Supervisor Grasso and Charlton Town Board Members,

My name is JC Quirin, and I live at 833 Swaggertown Road. My spouse and I moved here last year, after a long search for a town where we could put down roots. We love that we found our dream of having a farm while also being part of a close-knit community.

Our farm is in a unique location, situated at the confluence of three heavily-used roads: Charlton Road, Swaggertown Road, and Jockey Street, with significant road frontage on both Charlton and Swaggertown Roads. This location has allowed us to meet so many neighbors and friends: families with children in strollers, dogs out for their daily walks, joggers and cyclists out for morning exercise.

This also puts us in a prime position to see the worst aspects of our roads: drivers who ignore or flaunt speed limits or floor their accelerators driving in and out of town, and those who seem to derive pleasure from excessive noise from modified exhaust. At best, these hurt the peace and character of our town; at worst, they are a serious threat to public safety.

Not coincidentally, the most egregious speeders are often also those who disturb the peace with excessive noise. It is nearly a daily occurrence to hear vehicles with what are almost certainly illegally-modified exhausts hitting their accelerators long before leaving the Hamlet speed zone, and most commonly late at night. I, for one, do not relish the thought of having children awakened by this, and feel deeply for those parents currently suffering.

I know this isn't the first time that the Board has considered traffic speed and safety, and I appreciate the step of placing the radar speed sign along Charlton Road. I am concerned that the sign's current placement, in the center of the 30mph zone near Town Hall, could be improved upon by positioning signs at the edge of the speed zone where some of the worst infractions occur.

I do not claim special expertise on traffic dynamics or city planning; but, **I propose that the Board set up a committee to review the various safety concerns and recommend further action.**

Some ideas include:

- Position permanent radar speed signs at (or before) the edge of the 30mph speed zone
- Widen the shoulders of Charlton Road and/or other key safety corridors to provide space for pedestrians and cyclists
- Initiate nighttime enforcement of speed and noise violations (New York has recently passed the SLEEP Act, raising potential fines on illegally-modified exhaust to \$1000 - increased enforcement could not only improve health and safety, but serve as an additional source of revenue)

- Review speed limits on county roads (ie. Charlton Rd, Swaggertown Rd), with recommendations to be submitted to Saratoga County
- Create crosswalks at common intersections in town to improve visibility and recognition of pedestrians
- Install permanent or temporary speed humps to moderate traffic speed (with consideration of impact to snow plows and other critical services)

I know that, while our view of this is largely localized to the Hamlet due to the location of our farm, this is hardly the only part of Charlton with these concerns. I will let others speak to the specifics of their areas, but I will add my voice to theirs in calling for greater action to be taken to ensure the peace and security of everyone who shares our roads.

We love living in Charlton. We walked to the Board meeting tonight, we walk here to vote, and we walk to town events. We want our town a safe place to walk our dogs, ride our bikes, visit our neighbors, and feel safe at home with our children and farm animals.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration and I look forward to working with you on this critical issue.

JC Quirin
833 Swaggertown Rd
Charlton, NY 12019
202-642-4152

Ed Valenta, 764 Charlton Road, said that he has lived in Charlton for close to one year, and would like to see better control over speeding through Town. Over the long term, he would like to see better pedestrian access around trails and Town and possibly connecting trails and Town. He said that he would also like the Town

Board meetings to be live streamed. Councilman St. John asked him if he has contacted law enforcement for any of this speed and safety concerns. He said he has not.

Robin Sevinsky, 838 Charlton Road, said that maybe the Board could take a better look at the traffic speeds throughout the Town. She would be in support of live-streamed meetings.

Torben Aabo, 510 Charlton Road, said about 20 years ago, Mrs. Schaus worked on information for getting street lights and side walks in the hamlet. Her project did not go anywhere.

Aileen Valenta, 764 Charlton Road, said that she was jogging on Maple Avenue and was run off the road two times last week. She feels that we should be a community that honors our roads and pedestrian access.

Blais Wyle, 795 Charlton Road, said that he has a problem with the speed, noise and drivers not paying attention. He feels it is scary to walk along the road. He is in support of sidewalks and downward facing street lights. He said that the Town Hall flag is looking tattered.

Megan Meraglia, 833 Swaggertown Road, said that she has dogs and other animals. She is nervous walking on our roads and bike riding. She is in support of live streaming meetings.

Councilman Robbins said that the Town had the State do a traffic study and the Town asked the County to put new bigger speed limit signs at the entrance and exit of the hamlet. The County replaced the signs with small signs. He said residents should call 911 if they witness drag racing or a specific incident. The Councilman said that the Town is in the process of getting a new police car and may install an internal light bar that will make the car less conspicuous to speeders.

Councilman Glavin said that the Town set up the speed wagon on Charlton Road recently. One period of time was 16 days and then again for 8 days. In the 24 days monitored, the average speed was between 33.78 mph and 33.92 mph. The maximum speed recorded was 81 mph in the 16 day period and 71 mph in the 6 day period. The 85th percentile speed was 38 mph.

Councilman Robbins said that the speed wagon software is becoming obsolete and the Town needs to consider if that is something that the Town wants to invest in. Also, the battery is having trouble. It was replaced a couple of years ago.

Councilman Robbins thanked the residents for coming to the meeting and for their comments. He said that the Town will do what they can and what is feasible. The Constables are doing speed controls.

MOTION #131

Motion to adjourn the meeting

Motion by Councilman Glavin

Seconded by Councilman Tasse

BY MOTION the Town Board adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Mills
Town Clerk