

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

September 11, 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 7:35 p.m.

The flag salute was recited.

Roll call: Supervisor Grasso, Councilman Glavin, Councilman Robbins, Councilman Tasse.

Excused: Councilman St. John, Attorney Craig

Also present: Town Clerk Mills,

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION #156

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 August 28, 2023.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR FOR AGENDA ITEMS

No one chose to speak.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Town Clerk – Clerk Mills said for the month of August, the Town Clerk's office took in \$1,992.00. \$681.13 was paid to the Supervisor's office as revenue, and \$1,310.87 was paid to other Governmental agencies

SUPERVISORS REPORT

Announcements: Supervisor Grasso said that every month the County honors a deceased veteran from a Town in the County. This month on September 19th at 2:00 pm they will be honoring David McDonald who was from Charlton. He served as a field artillery man from 1966-1968. He was awarded the National Defense Service medal. The Supervisor asked the Town Clerk to prepare a proclamation for the service.

Town Updates:

Supervisor Grasso is asking residents to submit names of roads in Town that they would like to request a speed limit reduction on. He would like to compile one letter to the County and State with a list of roads, within the next few weeks.

DEPARTMENT, COMMITTEE & COUNCILMAN REPORTS

Councilman Tasse, Liaison:

Ballston Community Public Library, formerly Town of Ballston Library - Director Rebecca Verhayden gave the following presentation to the Town Board for her budget request of a \$54,000 contribution from the Town for 2024.

- Proposing a 4% increase for Library District residents, which translates to a \$3 increase for a home value accessed at \$150,000 Allocating Fund
- Proposing a return to Charlton's 2008 funding level. At \$54,000 that is \$12.50 per resident annually
- Draws on the Library's Fund Balance to pay for one-time expenses including marketing and legal expenses.

The Ballston Community Public Library is facing rising costs associated with inflation, wage, healthcare, and utilities. The Trustees aimed for a conservative budget that maintains materials, programs, and services.

The proposed budget reflects a 4% increase for Library District residents, which translates to a \$3 increase for a home value accessed at \$150,000 and a return to 2008 funding levels from the Town of Charlton. Returning to the amount of the contract in 2008, \$54,000, works out to be \$12.49 per resident annually.

The library recently completed construction on its new Local History Room and LED lighting upgrade. We now offer three separate spaces that non-profit groups can reserve to hold meetings or events.

Programming continues to be an important part of the services we offer at the library. We have offered 312 programs and have had 8,187 people attend so far this year, a 27% increase in attendance. We have worked hard to not only offer programs at the library but to go where our patrons are. We held programs at Elmer Smith Park, Little Troy Park, visited the Charlton Seniors, and visited each class at Charlton Heights Elementary to promote the Summer Reading Challenge. The library was also happy to be part of the Founder's Day Weekend Parade and Party in the Park.

Circulation of physical items is up 18% from 2022 to 2023. Charlton residents have borrowed 9,483 physical items year to date. Circulation of digital downloads; including eBooks, eAudiobooks, Movies, and Magazines are up 6.2%. The library has 6,250 registered card holders, 918 of which are Charlton Residents.

Questions were asked and Ms. Verhayden gave the following information: The physical items borrowed from the library were up 18% and the number of physical items borrowed were 53,861 in 2022. She confirmed that 88% of their funding comes from taxpayers in the Library District. The library's total budget is \$730,731.00 for 2023 and the projected budget for 2024 is \$792,094.00. The library's current fund balance is just under \$200,000.00.

Councilman Robbins, Liaison:

Highway – Marshall Heritage read the following report:

1. Did paving on Jolly Road and Old Route 67
2. Helped the Town of Greenfield pave
3. Mowing road sides with the arm mower
4. We shimmed the edge of roads on West Line
5. Consaul, upper Peaceable Street Vines Dead end Sweetman
6. Pulled stumps on Rocky Ridge
7. Helped the Town of Ballston pave
8. Cleaning ditches on Vines Road and cutting the shoulders
9. Changed two driveway culverts on Vines Road
10. Mowing the town lawn and cemetery's
11. 811 locations were 33

Superintendent Heritage said that the Highway Department has scheduled paving on September 19th for Vines Road, Meadowbrook, Oak and Crawford Drive.

Parks Department - Chairman David Pohl reported that the gentleman that he has been speaking to about purchasing an 8 foot picnic table from, only has 6 foot picnic tables left. He would like the Board to purchase one or two for Elmer Smith Park.

Town Hall – Councilman Robbins said that the Town is in the process of having the interior lighting at Town Hall changed to LED lights.

Councilman Glavin, Liaison, gave the following report:

Water:

1. In preparation for the Town of Charlton 2024 Budget, Supervisor Grasso requested me to prepare an estimate of water usage looking back several years for the town total usage and associated costs.

The results were as follows:

- a. For 6/20-5/21: Total Volume ~ 59.2 million gallons at a cost of ~\$139,800
- b. For 6/21-5/22: Total Volume ~ 49.8 million gallons at a cost of ~\$117,000
- c. For 6/22-5/23: Total Volume ~ 50.2 million gallons at a cost of ~\$117,900

Councilman Glavin noted an increase volume use between 20/21 and 21/22 of approximately 19% with corresponding cost increase. Councilman Glavin had informed the Water Superintendent and the Water Clerk with request as to why usage had risen and was awaiting response. Councilman Glavin stated that he would request a mid-year reading on ~11/30, to see where the town usage stands at the mid-point of the metered annual period. Additionally, Councilman Glavin will compare total of town water users meter readings against the Main meter reading from the Town of Glenville to determine if any significant differences exist that may help explain the most recent increase in usage.

Councilman St. John, Liaison: (reports ready by Supervisor Grasso)

Constables – In August, there were 3,558 miles traveled, 35 patrols, 17 complaints, 9 911 calls 1 accident and 2 EMT/ Fire calls were responded to 31 tickets were issued (11 on Route 67).

Dog Control – In August, there were 13 calls received of which 4 were related to other animals. 2 dogs were seized and returned to owner. 2 dog bite cases were recorded.

ABSTRACT OF CLAIMS

MOTION #157

Approval of Abstract of Claims

Motion by Councilman Glavin

Seconded by Councilman Tasse

BY MOTION, the Town Board approved the processing of Abstract 117, voucher numbers 482-507 in the amount of \$ 191,836.70 which was audited by Town Board members.

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

Supervisor Grasso said that the abstract is large this month because it includes a large paving invoice and the last two bond payments on the Town Hall.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Suzanne Voigt, resident, asked if there any rules about fireworks in Town. Supervisor Grasso said yes, anyone using fireworks in Town needs to get a permit from the Building Department.

Robins Sevinsky, resident, asked when the Board would like speed limit reduction requests by. Supervisor Grasso said that he would like to receive the requests within the next couple of weeks so that he can submit the requests on one list to the County and State. Ms. Sevinsky also asked if there was a follow-up meeting after Party in the Park to discuss what went well and what did not. Councilman Robbins said that they did not meet to discuss that, but will discuss that at the first planning meeting in February 2024. Ms. Sevinsky stated

that the road closure, in particular the closing of Maple Avenue took a toll on the Farmers Market and vendor sales. Councilman Robbins said that the Town did not order the closing of Maple Avenue and it was found to be someone from the Historical Society that restricted the parking.

Darlene McGraw, resident of Halfmoon, said that she supports people with disabilities. She attended a NYSERDA meeting in Albany recently and she is willing to help the Town of Charlton with our playgrounds and getting a playground for disabled individuals. She spoke about benchmarking and Clean Energy. She said that the Town of Clifton Park is the only Town in Saratoga County that is a Clean Energy Community, and that if Charlton was interested in becoming a Clean Energy Community, there is a lot of money available from NYSERDA. Supervisor Grasso thanked Ms. McGraw for her comments.

Marco Reymer, resident, said that he was at the August Board meeting voicing his complaints about lights and chickens. Since then, the neighbor behind him has changed his light to a motion light and it has helped the situation. There are still chickens in the neighborhood. He asked if the Charlton Police could be given authority to fine residents that have chickens?

Jenna Reymer, resident, said that she would like Charlton to adopt a light ordinance. She said that there are other states and counties that have light rules. She showed that Board examples of light shields. She said that too many lights make it difficult to see the stars in the sky. She quoted a 2015 study that told of the effects of lights and the ability to see the stars. She does not like bright LED lights in neighborhoods and has many concerns. She does not like that a house on her street still has Christmas lights on the house. She would like something done to regulate the LED bulbs that people are using.

Supervisor Grasso thanked the Reymers for coming and voicing their concerns. He said that chickens are not allowed in residential zones. Complaints regarding chickens are handled by the Code Enforcement Officer and he is currently handling their complaint. Code Enforcement can write a ticket.

Supervisor Grasso said that he recently purchased a light meter for the Town's use including the Code Enforcement Officer or Constables. He offered to go and take measurements of the lights that the Reymers are complaining about. He noted that there Charlton does not currently have light regulations and we may not ever have them, but it is something that we will educate ourselves on. He stated that lighting color is measured on a Kelvin scale, where warmer lighting has lower values and bright white lighting has higher levels, and we need to understand the different ways lighting can be measured and types of lighting impacts. He also stated the Dark Sky Association is a good source of information on ways to reduce exterior lighting impacts.

Marco Reymer said that there is a lot of speeding on Crooked Street and Maplewood. He asked if the police could sit on an adjacent side street and catch speeders. He asked for a speed limit reduction on Crooked Street. Supervisor Grasso confirmed that the Crooked Street will be on the request letter for a speed limit reduction.

MOTION #158

Motion to adjourn the meeting

Motion by Councilman Tasse

Seconded by Councilman Glavin

BY MOTION the Town Board adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Mills
Town Clerk