

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

March 27, 2017

The Agenda 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 Grattidge at 7:30 p.m. to set the agenda for the April 10th meeting.

Present: Councilman Gay, Councilman Grasso, Councilman Heritage, Councilman Hodgkins, Supervisor Grattidge, Town Clerk Brenda Mills.

RESOLUTION #82

Abstract of Claims

Motion by Councilman Gay

Seconded by Councilman Heritage

Discussion: Councilman Grasso asked Highway Superintendent Emerich to get the Board a reconciliation of winter spending to see an accurate view of the remaining budget. Mr. Emerich said that he has already turned in his winter bills so the budget report of -\$12,000 should be correct. Supervisor Grattidge added that November and December 2017 expenses will come out of this same winter budget.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board has approved the payment of bills as presented in **Abstract #106**, voucher numbers 158 – 181, in the amount of \$42,914.64 and **Abstract #5**, voucher number 317 in the amount of \$6,499.29

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

RESOLUTION #83

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Councilman Grasso

Seconded by Councilman Heritage

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board has approved the Town Board Minutes from the March 13, 2017 meeting.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Spring Brush Pick-up is scheduled for the week of April 24th. Tree stumps and commercially downed trees will not be picked up.

The Spring Newsletter will be going in the mail during the first week of April.

DISCUSSION

The Sales Tax report for the month was \$92,041.00 and the Mortgage Tax was \$10,411.50.

Councilman Hodgkins said he has been in contact with a resident on West Line Road who had a complaint about some snowplow damage to the sod at the edge of her lawn. The Councilman said that this is common to happen when plowing has to be done and there is no frost in the ground. Typically the Highway Department repairs this type of damage each year. He will contact the resident and inform her.

Supervisor Grattidge said that a resident on Martin Drive has contacted the Town with a complaint about the road paving that was done last summer. She stated that the new road does not meet her driveway. The Highway Superintendent said that Gorham Paving did not do a rake back on her driveway because her driveway was broken prior to the road repaving. It is always the homeowner's responsibility to take care of their own driveway.

Supervisor Grattidge said that he received a letter from the Town Engineer saying that it is time to put together the annual MS4 Report. He will need to meet with some of the Town Officials, including the Highway Superintendent and Building Inspector, and once the report is done it will be sent to the County to be pooled with other reports and be sent to the State.

A letter was received from the Charlton Seniors asking the Board to consider to some upgrades and projects at the Community Center. The list included painting inside and outside of the building, updating the bathrooms, and putting heavy plastic on the windows for the winter time. Supervisor Grattidge said that the Board is trying to be very careful with spending and not incur capital expenditures. He can check with the County and see if there is any grant money available for Seniors. Councilman Grasso said that some of the items seem relatively minor such as covering the windows and the interior painting. Maybe the Board could get pricing for that work. However, he feels that to do improvements to the bathrooms would require bringing them up to code and that would be a major expense. Councilman Hodgkins asked why the Seniors are not using the new Town Hall. Supervisor Grattidge said that we kept the old Town Hall initially for historic reasons and the thought was that we could get use out of it as a Community Center, rather than just abandoning it. Councilman Hodgkins asked if that is the plan to keep the building forever, because he feels it is a money pit. Supervisor Grattidge said that it is the plan until it changes.

Supervisor Grattidge said that the Town's maintenance man has resigned his position for family reasons, and he also was the person that cleaned the Community Center. The Town Clerk said that she spoke with Don Smith and he said it takes about 20 minutes to clean the Community Center. He wondered if the Seniors would be willing to clean the building. He may be willing to do maintenance work once every couple of months.

Supervisor Grattidge said that the last time the Town updated our wheel loader, we were able to buy a loader that was being turned in by a neighboring Town. There is a 2014 John Deere loader available from the Town of Providence for \$126,000. Our current loader is about 10 years old. Supervisor Grattidge said that if the Town is interested in getting the 2014 loader, we could have John Deere come out and give us an estimate of what we could get for our old loader. The last time we traded for our old loader and \$50,000.00. The cost of a new loader is \$156,000.00.

Supervisor Grattidge said that he has received a note from the Town of Galway regarding ethics training by their Town Attorney. They have invited the Town Board, Planning Board and Zoning Board. Supervisor Grattidge will send the notice to the Town Board members so they can decide who if anyone should attend.

Supervisor Grattidge said that he has received a couple of letters of concern from residents that do not have internet access and what they can do to get it. Two letters were from western Charlton Road and one from West Charlton on West Line Road. The Board will see if the new company, Spectrum, is any more willing to work with areas that have less population. The Board is also going to meet with Spectrum to see what kind of information they can get. If there is State grant money, they want to see if Spectrum can use some of that money to wire the remaining sections of Town that don't have internet.

Supervisor Grattidge said that he received an email today from a company saying that they are willing to do an E-waste day. He will contact the company to see what the cost is.

Councilman Gay said that 4 of the 6 Town Department audits have been conducted. He said that there are some computers in a few departments that still need to be upgraded.

Highway Superintendent Emerich gave a report of the roads that the Highway Department will be working on this summer. The roads include Eastern, Maple, Peaceable, Newman and Division Street. If funds permit, they will work on DeGraff Road.

Councilman Grasso said that the Town needs to get a scissor lift so that light bulbs in the Town Hall meeting room can be changed. Mike Emerich will check into the cost of renting a lift.

Councilman Grasso said that the Planning Board continues to review that Stewarts application and are in the final site plan review stage. They are into very detailed information and more revisions are expected, however, he feels that the Planning Board will be in position to take action at the April meeting and if not, by the May meeting.

Councilman Grasso said that he has not heard from Verizon regarding the cell tower application. There are a couple residents that are interested in updates. He said if the Board was okay with it, he would like to ask Dave Brennan to come to a Board meeting to give the Board an update to see what they are working on, and so the Board can provide up to date information when people ask.

Attorney Van Vranken said that he sent a letter to the Board and wants to get their input. The issue is regarding landscaping around solar arrays. When an application for solar arrays with no landscaping plan is received by the Zoning Administrator, he sends the application for the ZBA for consideration. Attorney Van Vranken said he feels that the Zoning Administrator could try to work with the applicant to see if they could submit a satisfactory landscaping plan. Attorney Van Vranken does not feel that the ZBA is necessary for this purpose and that Mr. Gizzi is as qualified as anyone else to handle this. Supervisor Grattidge said that there are guidelines in the Zoning Ordinance. Attorney Van Vranken said that the Zoning Ordinance states that solar energy equipment shall be located in manner to reasonably minimize view/blockage for surrounding properties and shading of properties to the north while still providing adequate solar access for collectors. Councilman Grasso said that he feels that the Town Board could provide some simple guidance regarding what the intent of the zoning is, because it was newly created. He thought that the intent was just to provide screening of the understructure of the ground mounted array, not blocking sunlight. The Board agreed that they did not feel it is appropriate to send all of the applications to the ZBA, and that Mr. Gizzi can work with the applicants. Attorney Van Vranken will report this back to Mr. Gizzi.

MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND AUTHORIZATIONS

RESOLUTION #84

A resolution to authorize the seasonal use of the Town's volleyball courts by the Old Timers

Motion by Councilman Hodgkins

Seconded by Councilman Gay

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board has authorized the use of the volleyball courts in Elmer Smith Park by the Old Timers on Wednesday evenings, 6pm to dark from May 3rd through September 6th.

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

RESOLUTION #85

A resolution to authorize the seasonal use of the Town's volleyball courts by the Tuesday TriAthletes

Motion by Councilman Heritage

Seconded by Councilman Hodgkins

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board has authorized the use of the volleyball courts in Elmer Smith Park by the Tuesday Try-Athletes on Tuesday evenings, 6pm to dark from May 2nd to September 5th.

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

Councilman Heritage verified that the Parks Committee is working on acquiring additional bids for the seal coating project at Elmer Smith Park. Bids were delayed because of the recent snow.

Councilman Heritage said that one of the laptop computers in one of the police cars went bad. Tom Parks purchased a new laptop with his own funds. The cost was over \$800.

RESOLUTION #86

A resolution to authorize the reimbursement to Tom Parks up to \$900 for the purchase of a policecar laptop.

Motion by Councilman Gay

Seconded by Councilman Heritage

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board has authorized the reimbursement of up to \$900 for the purchase of a laptop computer for one of the police cars.

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

Tom Parks reported that Greg Parks will be attending Police/Peace Officer training beginning April 1st.

RESOLUTION #87

A Motion to allow Privilege of the Floor at tonight's Agenda Meeting

Motion by Councilman Grasso

Seconded by Councilman Hodgkins

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board authorizes the addition of Privilege of the Floor to the agenda for this evening's meeting.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Bob Killeen, Sweetman Road, said that he feels that the cell antenna makes the most sense to be put on the water tower. The structure, power and road are already there. The water tower was built prior to 1970 and was already there before the homes in that neighborhood were built. When you move into an area like that you have to accept the fact that the Town may need to make changes to the tower at some point. The revenue would help the Town and water district. He also suggested that if the Town is looking for more revenue there is untapped revenue from Route 67 and Route 147. He said that drivers go too fast and drive unsafely and would suggest ticketing of drivers on those roads to generate revenue. Mr. Killeen said he is opposed to allowing Stewarts to build a new and bigger super store on the new proposed lot. Charlton has done a good job of keeping commercialism at bay.

Larry Leone, Maple Avenue, said a solicitor came to his door last week selling a painting service. He asked what the solicitor rules are in Town. Attorney Van Vranken said that soliciting is prohibited unless it is granted. Charlton has not granted solicitors permission.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Mills
Town Clerk