

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

**January 28, 2019**

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 February 11th meeting.

Present: Councilman Grasso, Councilwoman Heritage, Councilman Ranaletto, Councilman Robbins, Supervisor Grattidge, Town Clerk Brenda Mills, Attorney Craig.

**RESOLUTION #56**

**Abstract of Claims**

Motion by Councilman Ranaletto

Seconded by Councilwoman Heritage

Discussion: Supervisor Grattidge explained that Abstract 003 and 004 were the forwarding of fire taxes received and passed on to the 3 Fire Districts.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board has approved the payment of bills as presented in Abstract #102, voucher numbers 42 – 69 in the amount of \$56,896.44, and Abstract #003, voucher numbers 3001 and 3002 in the amount of \$199,716.25, and Abstract #004, voucher number 4001 in the amount of \$300,016.10

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

**RESOLUTION #57**

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Councilman Grasso

Seconded by Councilman Robbins

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board has approved the minutes from the Town Board Organizational Meeting on January 14, 2018 and the Town Board Meeting on January 14, 2018.

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

**COMMUNICATIONS**

The Sales Tax received this month was \$113,251.00 and the Mortgage Tax was \$9,444.50.

Supervisor Grattidge said that the Town's insurance carrier suggested that the Town establish a Local Law regarding a requirement for Prior Notice of Defect, and provided the Town with a template for the Law. The Board had no objection to using the template. Attorney Craig was asked to prepare a resolution for the February 11<sup>th</sup> meeting calling for a Public Hearing on February 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 to present the Local Law.

Supervisor Grattidge said that he has received a letter from the Association of Towns that Governor Cuomo, in his Budget Address has announced that he is cutting a program called AIM (Aid & Incentives to Municipalities) Funding. It is a cut of \$59,000,000 to Towns and Villages. He is still funding cities. This means a cut of \$32,695 of funding to Charlton, which the Town Board had included as revenue in the 2019 budget. Several Towns have passed resolutions opposing this cut and sent them to the State Representatives. The Board is in favor of passing a resolution opposing the cuts. Councilman Grasso said he is against a lot of the facts that are

listed in the Address and the fact that the cuts are not unilateral, as cities are still be funded. It definitely hurts the Towns. He feels it is wrong to wipe out the funding on such short notice without giving the Towns a chance to appropriately budget for it. The Councilman said that he is in favor of passing this resolution, but he wanted it to be known that he is not in favor of the Town being reliant on funds being passed down from State government. He would rather the Town be in control of our finances at a more local level. If this was something where the State was trying to cut their expenditures and in return cut State taxes, corporate taxes, income tax or any other tax) he would be in favor of a cut such as this. Supervisor Grattidge asked Attorney Craig to draft a resolution for the next meeting.

Supervisor Grattidge said that it appears that the CHIPS and PaveNY funding from the State seem to be intact for this year. Supervisor Grattidge said that if the Governor was able to cut the AIMS funding, in upcoming years he may look to cut this other aid to Towns.

Supervisor Grattidge said that after the Coffee with the Council meeting, there was a lot of interest from residents in getting involved to help with getting better cell service. The Town Board decided to appoint an Advisory Committee (not an Advisory Board) of people with interest and expertise in this subject. Councilman Grasso will work to solicit residents to be on the Committee. Ken Crotty and Torben Aabo have expressed interest in being on the Committee. The Board will put in the minutes that they are looking for people. Councilman Grasso suggested that this Committee focus on the cell service, as cable service is a different objective. He asked that people interested submit their names to him. The Board agreed that the Committee should consist of 5 to 8 residents.

The Town Board has been working on updating the Town's Employee Handbook. New York State requires that the Handbook be updated to include Sexual Harassment and Workplace Violence policies. The Town Board has budgeted for the Consultant that wrote the Handbook in 2006 to complete the updates. The Town Board will set up a workshop to meet with the Consultant to review changes to the Handbook. They will also need to set up a date for the State required annual training on sexual harassment and workplace violence.

Supervisor Grattidge said that the Town Board has had their first meeting with NYSDOT for the kick-off of the bridge project on Peaceable Street. The Town has been awarded a grant for \$998,000 to cover the cost of the bridge replacement. One of the first DOT requirements is for the Town to enter into an agreement with MJ Engineering for the design work and for overseeing the job. Supervisor Grattidge asked Attorney Craig is he has had a chance to review the agreement and is he comfortable to allow the Supervisor to sign the agreement. Attorney Craig said that he has noticed a few typos in the agreement that need to be corrected. Attorney Craig asked the Board if they felt that the 2 million dollar liability clause is high enough, and if the Board is comfortable with the \$300,000 dollar amount, and the whole amount being covered by the grant. Otherwise it is pretty much a standard agreement. Councilman Grasso said that once we execute this agreement, this binds us and work that is done binds us to start paying it. Typically you would wait until the contract with the State comes in and make sure that the language in the State agreement matches with the consultant agreement. We should do the State agreement first because he does not think that any costs incurred before the State agreement would be subject to State reimbursement. Councilman Grasso said that we could authorize both agreements at the same time, but he would not recommend authorizing the Consultant agreement first. Attorney Craig said depending on the timing issues, the Town Board may be able to pass a resolution saying that they plan to hire the MJ Engineering, but hold off on actually signing their contract until the State contract is signed.

Councilwoman Heritage said that she and the Town Clerk and Supervisor had a meeting with the Town's website provider to begin work on changes to the website. It will be ADA compliant and more mobile friendly. CivicPlus, the company that hosts the website is changing the platform and website changes are required.

Councilman Grasso said that the water main on Little Troy Road had a leak in a connection between the main and a service pipe. The leak was fixed by Bellamy today.

### **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

Torben Aabo, resident, thanked Councilman Robbins and Marshall Heritage for taking care of the repair work on the front door of the Community Center. As far as the Cell Tower Advisory Committee, he is willing to be on the Committee and help get members. He would like the Town Board to develop the criteria for the Committee. He also said that SBA is the company that put in the first cell tower in Charlton and maybe the Town should contact

them for the second tower. Mr. Aabo said that he has 276 signatures on the petition to the cell companies. Councilman Grasso commended Mr. Aabo for his work on the petition, and said that he will email criteria to Mr. Aabo. Councilman Grasso said that he would like to get the Committee going as soon as possible and they do not have to wait until they have all 5 to 8 members to start.

Suzanne Voigt, resident, said that she disagrees that the Committee should just focus on cell coverage and not cable coverage. She thinks that cable is intertwined and limiting the Committee to cell only is a detriment.

Marshall Heritage said that the new Highway Department truck is supposed to be ready next week.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Mills  
Town Clerk