

**Town of Charlton
Saratoga County**

**PUBLIC HEARING
June 24, 2019**

**Regarding a Local law providing for a four-year term for the elective office of Town
Clerk of the Town of Charlton**

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

The Public Hearing began at 7:04 p.m.

The Town Clerk had read the following Legal Notice and confirmed that it was published in the official newspaper, The Daily Gazette on June 13th, 2019:

**PUBLIC HEARING
Saratoga County
TOWN OF CHARLTON**

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Town Board of the Town of Charlton will hold a public hearing **regarding two proposed Local Laws providing for a four-year term: LL(1) for the elective office of Tax Collector, LL(2) for the elective office of Town Clerk, on the 24th day of June, 2019** at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall of the Town of Charlton, 758 Charlton Road, Charlton, New York, at which time and place all persons desiring to be heard thereon will be heard.

Brenda Mills
Town Clerk
6/11/19

Councilman Ranaletto entered the Hearing at 7:07 p.m.

The Floor was opened to public comment.

Suzanne Voight asked why the Town wanted to change to a 4 year term. Have other Towns changed to 4 year terms? It could be a disadvantage if the person is not doing a good job.

Supervisor Grattidge said that originally the position was set up with a 2 year term, but Towns are allowed to change the terms to 4 years if they go through this procedure. The positions have generally not been contested They have been unopposed for election and it takes a considerable amount of time and effort every 2 years to do the petitions and the campaigning. A number of Towns have gone to 4 year terms already. This will be a mandatory referendum in November. It will be on the ballot asking people if they approve of the 4 year term.

Supervisor Grattidge said that some of the Town's other positions are already a 4 year term, such as the Councilman and the Town Justices.

Attorney Craig said that a lot of Towns have found that 2 years is just not long enough to determine if the person is doing a good job or a bad job. The first year they are just getting their feet wet learning the job and then the 2nd year they are running for election again already. Two years is just not enough time to determine if the person is doing a good job, at least for a new person, it take closer to 4 years to learn the job. 4 years is a much better time period.

Councilman Grasso said that he looked at the advantages and disadvantages. The only disadvantage that he sees is that if there is a problem in the position, it takes longer to get them out. As far as advantages,

Charlton has been blessed with stability in the positions, so it goes hand in hand with less effort to have to run for election every two years. 4 years gives the person more opportunity to settle into the position. Each person has their own way of doing things and there is a lot to learn. There is also a lot of training to take place and it takes time to apply that training so 4 years just gives a better opportunity to do that. He has been on the Board for 5 years and recently attended finance school for the Town and he is still learning things. When you are up for election every 2 years, you don't have as much opportunity for training and applying the skills.

Town Clerk Mills said that when she came into office, she was the 3rd Town Clerk in 3 years. It takes at least two years to learn the job and start to feel comfortable in the position. She said that she feels it is a disservice to residents to possibly have a change in the position every two years.

Ed Snyder asked if any other Towns have a 4 year term for these offices and other offices. The Town Clerk said that 2/3 of Towns in the County have already changed to a 4 year term for Town Clerk. Towns in Saratoga County with a 4 year term are: Corinth, Halfmoon, Waterford, Stillwater, Providence, Galway, Edinburg, Ballston, Moreau and Saratoga. Towns that still have a 2 year term are: Wilton, Clifton Park, Malta, Hadley, Day and Northumberland. Supervisor Grattidge said that many Towns have changed many of their elective offices to 4 year terms. Galway was the last Town that he is aware of that switched all of their elective offices at once to a 4 year term.

Supervisor Grattidge again said that this will be on the ballot in November. If the referendum is passed, the new 4 year term will begin in January 2020.

RESOLUTION #128

Motion to Close the Public Hearing

Motion by Councilman Grasso

Seconded by Councilman Robbins

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

The Hearing adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Mills
Town Clerk