

# Charlton Ambulance District

## Referendum Vote

Nov. 6, 2018

*--The intent of this brochure is to provide background information, and to share conclusions based on a thorough examination.--*

One issue facing small communities, both rural and suburban, is the lack of full-time Emergency Medical Services (EMS) such as those found in urban areas.

Currently, residents of Charlton are served by three EMS companies: Galway Emergency Medical Services (GEMS), Ballston Lake EMS, and Community Emergency Corps in Ballston Spa.

Each company serves a different area of Charlton, and all are required to have EMT's and Paramedics on duty at the station 24 hours a day, 365 days a year– to be able to respond immediately when calls come in.

As volunteerism has declined, EMS companies have had to become more reliant on paid personnel to fill shifts. As a result, the cost to operate EMS stations has risen substantially.

The Charlton Town Board is committed to maintaining support for this vital service, but recognizes that it is becoming increasingly difficult to absorb the cost for Emergency Medical Services into the Town's budget.

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### The 3 Main Sources of Revenue for EMS Companies are:

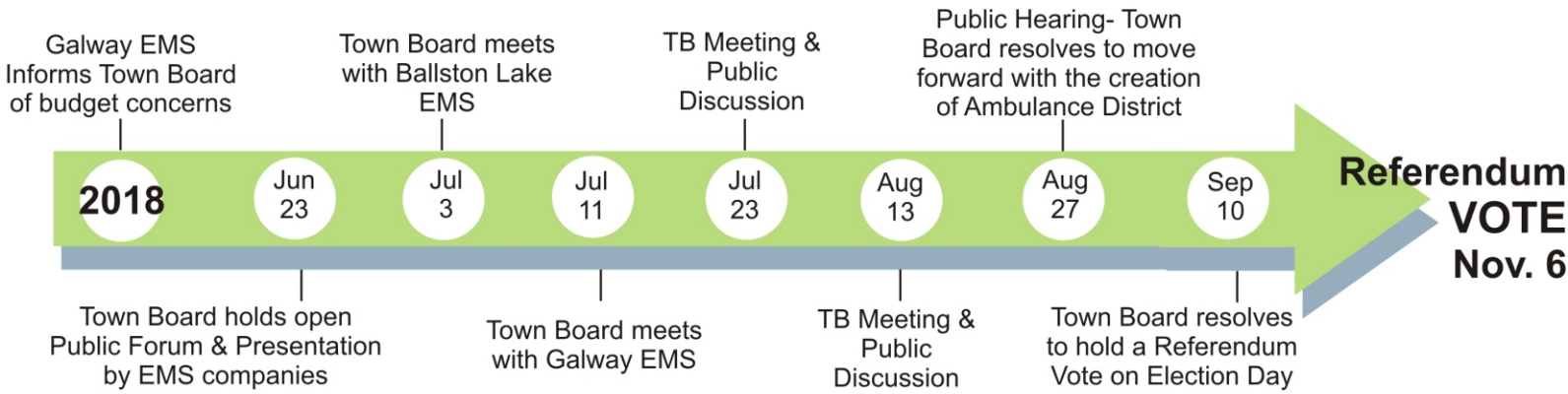
- Fundraising
- Reimbursements for Services
- Town Contracts

#### **Town contracts are proportionate to the % of calls.**

Example: Calls from Charlton serviced by Galway EMS last year were 75 out of 400, or 19% of their total calls.

Charlton's contribution, therefore, was roughly 19% of all funding from towns.

**Timeline**



**What it would Cost**

Based on projections for 2019, homeowners would pay  
**23¢** per \$1,000 of assessed value

Assessed Value

\$200,000  
\$300,000  
\$400,000

Amount per year

**\$46**  
**\$69**  
**\$92**

**Why we believe Creating the Charlton Ambulance District is the Best Option**

We believe a dedicated funding mechanism is the best way to ensure a stable future for this vital service. In the past, the Town of Charlton has supported the Ambulance Services from its General Fund. As EMS operating costs have risen, it becomes increasingly difficult to absorb within the Town budget– and would be subject to annual budgetary decisions, vulnerable to cuts and compromise. The Town Board believes this service is too important for that to happen.

Creating an Ambulance District guarantees that adequate funds would be available to operate the EMS companies. If approved, the Charlton Ambulance District would establish a Board of Commissioners, comprised of town residents, to act in an advisory role in annual budget decisions between the Town and the EMS companies.

## **Frequently Asked Questions:**

### ***Are we building an ambulance station in Charlton?***

No- the EMS companies will continue as they do now. There is not enough call volume to sustain a new station in Charlton.

### ***If I use the ambulance service, will I get a bill?***

Yes, the service will remain exactly the same as it is now.

### ***If the Charlton Ambulance District gets voted down, will we still have Ambulance service?***

Yes, we will continue to have service. The issue becomes finding the money to fund the EMS companies in upcoming years.

**This is the wording you will see on the ballot...**

**YES**

**NO**

Referendum #1: That a Special Ambulance District be established in the Town of Charlton according to Town Board Resolution No. 154, approved on September 10, 2018, authorizing a Town-wide vote as to whether or not to establish the Town of Charlton Ambulance District as described in said resolution. If approved, the District will be funded by a Town-wide tax levy set annually by the Charlton Town Board.

## **More information**

**Map, plan, report, and resolutions are posted on the Town website: [www.townofcharlton.org](http://www.townofcharlton.org)**

## **Questions or concerns?**

Please contact any Town Board member