

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

April 11, 2011

The Regular meeting of the Town Board of Charlton, Saratoga County, New York was held at the Charlton Town Hall and called to order by Supervisor Grattidge at 7:30pm.

Present: Councilman Gardner, Councilman Lippiello, Councilman Salisbury, Councilman Verola, Supervisor Grattidge, Town Clerk Brenda Mills, Attorney Van Vranken.

Supervisor Grattidge lead the pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Lippiello and seconded by Councilman Verola to accept the minutes of the Town Board Agenda Meeting held on March 28, 2011.

Discussion: Councilman Salisbury said that he had made more comments regarding the voucher for insurance than was stated in the minutes and he would like those comments added. He also pointed out that resolution number 80 was listed in the minutes as number 79 which needs to be corrected. Supervisor Grattidge said that the Town Clerk's minutes are a capsulation of the meeting and not verbatim. Councilman Salisbury said that maybe the minutes should be verbatim. The Board decided to table the minutes so the Clerk could review and update his comments.

A motion was made by Councilman Salisbury and seconded by Councilman Verola to table the minutes of March 28, 2011 to add Councilman Salisbury's comments.

VOTE: All Ayes, No Nays. *CARRIED*

APPROVAL OF ABSTRACT

A motion was made by Councilman Verola and seconded by Councilman Gardner to accept General Fund claim numbers 245 – 259 as set forth in Abstract #107 in the amount of \$18,854.73.

VOTE: All Ayes, No Nays. *CARRIED*

TOWN CLERKS REPORT

The Town Clerk reported taking in \$733.00 for the month of March. \$589.98 was paid to the Supervisor and \$143.02 was paid to other Governmental Agencies.

A motion was made by Councilman Verola and seconded by Councilman Lippiello to accept the Town Clerk's report.

Vote: All Ayes, No Nays *CARRIED*

The Town Clerk presented the Board with a seasonal park application from the BH-BL Little League – Majors Division who was requesting to use the Elmer Smith Park baseball fields every evening from 5pm – 8pm and every weekend from 10am to dusk from April thru August. The Board discussed the usage and felt that it was excessive. Councilmen Salisbury and Verola said they need to narrow down their usage. Supervisor Grattidge

said that there will need to be some type of flexibility for Saturdays when other residents want to use the field. Councilman Gardner said this request is too restrictive. Councilman Lippiello will review the League's usage in 2010 which seemed to work well and then discuss the 2011 usage with the league. The Board agreed to let Councilman Lippiello authorize the resolved usage.

SUPERVISORS REPORT

For the month of March I attended 10 Town meetings and 8 County meetings. Some of the highlights of the month:

- Attended working meetings on: New Town Web Site, Party in the Park planning committee, updating Community Center Use Policy, Water District Water Tank Project, and Storm Water Management Program.
- Attended a roundtable discussion on public infrastructure needs of the Towns and Counties held in Albany by Senator MacDonald.
- Was the guest speaker at the Saratoga County Farm Bureau Rural Urban Dinner.

No revenue and expense report was available at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Saratoga County Public Health Nursing Service has announced the dates for their Blood Pressure Screening Clinics. The flyer will be posted on the bulletin board.

Brush pick-up will be April 25th through April 29th. There will be no bulk-item pick-up this year. It will be an every other year event and is scheduled for next year.

The Town of Ballston Library report was received, which includes their long range plan as well as their annual report.

Supervisor Grattidge asked to enter into the record that a memo was received from the Comptroller's Office which shows that our accounting of the Justice Court payments was okay. More work needs to be done to how it shows up on the abstract and reporting. Also, follow-up emails were received the Town's insurance broker highlighting that advantages that the policy would have for the Town.

The Town Board received letters from Jane and George Davidson. One letter was regarding a subdivision application on Crane Street that they worked on with the Planning Board and were denied. The letter talked about the Escrow Account which needed more funding, and he was not happy about that. The other letter was from Mrs. Davidson concerning the application itself. Both letters will be entered into the record.

DEPARTMENT & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Highway – (report inaudible) Mr. Emerich wanted to remind residents to put the cut ends of brush towards the road during Brush-Pickup.

Zoning – 5 permits were issued, \$1320 was collected in Zoning fees and 10 CO's were issued.

Constables – there were 29 patrols, 8 complaints answered, 4 911 calls, and 18 tickets issued.

Planning Board – the Board held a Public Hearing on March 21st, deliberated on 3 subdivision applications and discussed the status update of a 4th application.

Dog Control – an inspection report was received from Ag & Markets and the Town is in compliance with everything.

Communications – the Town department heads will be meeting with Virtual Town Hall on April 26th to discuss information for the website. They will do a mock up of the site for each department to review.

Library – nearly 8,000 toddlers, teens, kids, adults, grandparents were involved in of 370 programs. 55 library classes were held for mostly adults. The Book Club is still going strong. The library is looking into video surveillance. Burnt Hills student's artwork is being displayed this month.

Water – EDP is developing specs for the painting of the tower, and also re-plumbing of the tower to bring in a shutoff valve before the paint job.

ECC – The annual roadside clean-up will be April 30th from 8 a.m. to noon. The tree seedling distribution will be from noon to 1 p.m. at the Highway Garage.

Parks – will be meeting on April 14th to discuss the new gazebo.

ZBA – There are two meeting scheduled. One Public Hearing will be held on April 20th, and an emergency Public Hearing will be held on April 26th for the Tiffany emergency.

MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, PROCLAMATIONS AND AUTHORIZATIONS

Attorney Van Vranken read the new Community Center Use Policy prior to the resolution.

A motion was made by Councilman Lippiello and seconded by Councilman Verola that Resolution No. 81 – A RESOLUTION APPROVING A NEW USE POLICY FOR THE CHARLTON COMMUNITY CENTER be approved.

Discussion: Councilman Salisbury said he had a problem with the way that number one was worded, and it is confusing because the word exemption is not in the sentence. He read a memo from Supervisor Grattidge which said that he felt we should charge a fee of \$25 to help cover the expense of the upkeep of the building with the exception of the nonprofit groups. Councilman Gardner asked if this pertained only to residents. Councilman Verola said that she thought that what Councilmen Gardner and Salisbury was asking was if the building would be open to non- residents. Councilman Gardner said that his point is that non-for-profits get to use it for free, but as a resident, if he wants to use it, he has to pay a fee. The group would use more of the resources to keep it up, but they get to use it carte-blanche. Supervisor said that there is a cost to have the Center, and he did not feel that it was unusual for Town's to charge to help cover the cost. The Town is not trying to make money off it. Councilman Lippiello asked Attorney Van Vranken to reword that paragraph. The Board had no objection to the rewording. Councilman Gardner said that he had a problem with number 8, which does not mention a specific fee if the Town has to clean up after an event. In other policies there was a rate. Councilman Salisbury said that he felt that there should be a fee listed. Councilman Lippiello said that the part that talks about liability may cover this. Supervisor Grattidge said that the way that he read it was, that we have a weekly cleaner that goes in, but if he has to go in special to clean up after an event, they would have to pay whatever we pay the cleaner. Right now we are paying \$25 per week. Councilman Gardner said why don't we just put in \$25. Supervisor Grattidge said that we could, but if it costs more than \$25, then you can't collect more, but if you don't mention an amount, you can charge whatever it costs. Van Vranken said that Ballston has a set fee and some groups have felt that the fee is low enough, that they leave the room a mess. He felt that the flexibility might be tried before setting a set fee. They are signing an application saying that they know the regulations. The Board discussed the numbering of the policy. The Board decided to move on the policy with the mentioned changes made.

Roll Call: Councilman Gardner: Aye, Councilman Lippiello: Aye, Councilman Salisbury: Aye, Councilman Verola: Aye, Supervisor Grattidge: Aye. CARRIED

A motion was made by Councilman Verola and seconded by Councilman Gardner that Resolution No. 82 – A RESOLUTION TO APPOINT KIMBERLY A. CARON AS CHAIRMAN OF THE TOWN OF CHARLTON BOARD OF ASSESSORS be approved.

Roll Call: Councilman Gardner: Aye, Councilman Lippiello: Aye, Councilman Salisbury: Aye, Councilman Verola: Aye, Supervisor Grattidge: Aye. CARRIED

A motion was made by Councilman Lippiello and seconded by Councilman Verola that Resolution No. 83 – A

RESOLUTION AMENDING THE TOWN OF CHARLTON 2011 BUDGET IN ORDER TO MAKE PAYMENT TO THE TOWN OF BALLSTON FOR BOTH ITS 2010 AND 2011 SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM CONTRIBUTION be approved.

Discussion: Supervisor Grattidge noted that a correction needed to be made to have the General Ledger account listed as A-599 Appropriated Fund Balance changed to A-599 Unappropriated Fund Balance.

Roll Call: Councilman Gardner: Aye, Councilman Lippiello: Aye, Councilman Salisbury: Aye, Councilman Verola: Aye, Supervisor Grattidge: Aye. CARRIED

A motion was made by Councilman Lippiello and seconded by Councilman Verola that Resolution No. 84 – A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE PROPOSALS FROM SCHRADER AND COMPANY INCORPORATED FOR DOOR AND SKYLIGHT REPLACEMENTS TO THE WATER WORKS BUILDING LOCATED ON STAGE ROAD be approved.

Roll Call: Councilman Gardner: Aye, Councilman Lippiello: Aye, Councilman Salisbury: Aye, Councilman Verola: Aye, Supervisor Grattidge: Aye. CARRIED

A motion was made by Councilman Verola and seconded by Councilman Lippiello to accept the proposal from D.A. Kenyon Enterprises, Inc. to do the landscaping maintenance and mulching for a total of \$1100 from April 24th to November 5th, 2011.

Councilmen Verola and Lippiello said that they felt that this was an excellent price. The Town would provide the mulch.

Roll Call: Councilman Gardner: Aye, Councilman Lippiello: Aye, Councilman Salisbury: Aye, Councilman Verola: Aye, Supervisor Grattidge: Aye. CARRIED

COUNCILMAN REPORTS

Councilman Gardner said that there is a training course for Town finances at the Gideon Putnam on May 12th and 13th.

Councilman Lippiello thanked the Highway Department for their work this winter. He also thanked Penny Heritage for the excellent job on the newsletter. He said that he has received a few compliments already.

Councilman Salisbury asked for a status on the front railings. Supervisor Grattidge said that Bennett said that the railings are still on order from Italy. Bennett says that they have contractors lined up to install them when they come in.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Karen Peper of Eastern Avenue – She stated that she was at the Board meeting in February about some minor issues regarding a dog license and building use for Brownies. She does not feel that the minutes reflect all of her comments and sentiments. She said that she has not heard if she owes past years fees on her dog license. She was surprised at the Community Usage Policy that was passed this evening, as she was at a previous meeting and certain things were not discussed. She was not able to attend the last workshop meeting because she did not know about it because it was not on the bulletin board or the website. She is frustrated with the communications from the Town government. She would like someone to get back to her regarding the fees and insurance requirements and what changed, what the factors and consideration was. She questioned that there was no opportunity to give input before it was voted on. She has been looking into accountability of the Town government. She stated that she has not received a response to her February FOIL request. She has two main issues, which she feels are: the actions and the attitudes create a less than open feel, and, information is not available. If she chooses to not give her personal or business email she should still be able to get the information that is available to other people. She urged the Board to look at the hours of the Town Clerks office and the cost involved in operating it. She asked the Board to look at why the Town is paying to have two buildings. She feels that the Board has a responsibility to be more fiscally responsible and more accessible.

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Mills
Town Clerk