

**Town of Charlton
Saratoga County**

PUBLIC HEARING

For 2017 Preliminary Budget

**October 24, 2016
7:15 PM**

The Public Hearing for the 2017 Budget of the Town of Charlton, Saratoga County, New York was held at the Charlton Town Hall and called to order by Supervisor Grattidge at 7:15 p.m.

Present: Councilman Gay, Councilman Grasso, Councilman Heritage, Councilman Hodgkins, Supervisor Grattidge, Deputy Clerk Laurie Kruppenbacher.

Deputy Clerk Laurie Kruppenbacher read the following Legal Notice and confirmed that it was published in the official newspaper, The Daily Gazette on Thursday October 13th, 2016:

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ON PRELIMINARY BUDGET**

Town of Charlton
Saratoga County, NY

NOTICE is hereby given that the preliminary budget of the Town of Charlton for the fiscal year beginning January 2017 has been filed in the office of Town Clerk, where it is available for inspection during business hours. Further notice is hereby given that the Town Board will meet and review said preliminary budget and hold a public hearing thereon at the Charlton Town Hall, 758 Charlton Rd, Charlton, NY at 7:15pm, on October 24th and that at such hearing any town resident may be heard in favor or against any item therein contained. Pursuant to Section 108 of the Town Law, the proposed salaries of the following town officers are hereby specified as follows:

Town Supervisor \$10,000.00
Town Councilman (4) \$4,800.00
Town Clerk \$37,885.00
Highway Superintendent \$56,545.00

BY THE ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD

Brenda Mills, Town Clerk
10/11/16

Supervisor Grattidge provided an overview the account balances for the Town of Charlton: General Fund- \$1,121,244,00. and Highway Budget- \$803,549 Both are funded by revenue streams and fund balances to complete the budgets. There is no money being raised from taxes.

Water District #1- \$264,894 ad valorem tax of \$115,566
Water District #2- \$2,336 tax being raised \$ 2,100

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Bert Wilson of 6 Cherry Lane saw in the Gazette that it stated for fiscal 2017 in order to pay down the bond we are cutting the Hwy Dept paving and Equipment budget. He asked if there had been any discussion regarding 2018-2019 how this would continue? He stated there are only so many years to cut items from the budget to minimize town tax. What is the discussion once you are past 2017?

Supervisor Grattidge responded that the Town Board is looking at projections of debt liability. There are bonds for the building here and for the litigation. They are on different timelines. We need to be conservative for the next 3 years, after that a large bond payment for the litigation ends. We can then be more aggressive with highway and road programs. We had raised our road construction costs last year to complete several projects. This budget change is rolling us back to where we were two years ago. The Hwy Superintendent is confident that the State will continue to put in another year of funding; another \$25,000. We received money this year as well and completed paving and repair jobs down in the development along with full road paving with that additional funding. A portion of the money that we cut out this year should be restored by the State funding we receive.

As far as the equipment costs we also bonded a Truck for 5 yrs and we are in our 2nd year. If we have to purchase a major piece of equipment we will have to spread it out going forward. This is a conservative year; we don't want to fall too far behind and we are sensitive to not impose a town tax. If we keep our capital projects to a minimum we will have a better flow after we pass the third year.

Our biggest source of revenue is the sales tax; which was flat this year. We will see if the general economy improves. We are 1 of 3 counties still in the state at 7% sales tax. If we moved to 8% it would put significant money in the town coffers. This is in discussion, but not a done deal at the County.

It would seem that when you're shopping, the 1% doesn't drive people to go across borders to shop elsewhere. We have enough in reserves and can make it through the next three years without imposing a tax.

Bert Wilson cited that he was just using the Highway Dept as an example he realizes the Board is looking at a bigger picture and more than just the highway department.

Supervisor Grattidge: There's a little more discretion in the amount you are going to spend on the roads. We are not laying anyone off. We are only considering a part time position for clerical at this point. We have been keeping a tight leash on all new hires for the last few years as we get through this period.

David Glasser of 6 Imperial Lane asked what the Board sees in the next 5 years as significant costs.

Supervisor Grattidge stated we have done projections in the past. The Hwy Budget is the area that has the most significant increases. We have 47 miles of roads to maintain and we need an 8 man crew for snow removal and plowing. We are not building a new park or adding any new services. In Charlton you may not have the additional services as other larger towns, but then we don't have a town tax. The highway budget is the one that over time will see most of the growth in costs moving forward.

RESOLUTION #156

Adjournment of Public Hearing

Motion by Councilman Gay

Seconded by Councilman Hodgkins

Motion was made to adjourn the Public Hearing.

Vote: All Ayes, No Nays, CARRIED.

The Public Hearing adjourned at: 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Kruppenbacher
Deputy Town Clerk