

**TOWN OF CHARLOTTE
COUNTY OF CHAUTAUQUA
STATE OF NEW YORK**



The Town Board, Town of Charlotte held a regular Board Meeting on Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sinclairville Volunteer Fire Department, Allen Chase, Supervisor presiding. Board members present were: Harold North, Mark Abbey, Mark Jaquith and Frank Lauricella. Other's present were: Mark LeBaron; Highway Superintendent, Jeffrey Crossley; Town Justice, Joe McKenna; Sinclairville Volunteer Fire Department Chief, Toby Hammond; Town Code Enforcement, Larry Barmore; President of Valley Historical Society & Vice President of Sinclairville Free Library, and Susan L. Peacock; Town Clerk. No one was present on the teleconference call.

The meeting was called to order.

Prayer was offered by Mark Abbey followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Each board member had been given a copy of the minutes of the January 11th, 2023, board meeting. A motion was made by Mark Abbey seconded by Frank Lauricella and with none opposed it carried to accept the minutes as presented.

A motion was made by Mark Jaquith, seconded by Harold North and with none opposed it carried to draw warrants on the proper funds in payment of Highway Claims No. 13 to No. 36 in the amount of \$45,097.25 which have been duly audited and to draw warrants on the proper funds in payment of General Fund Claims No. 34 to No. 61 in the amount of \$12,317.96 which have been duly audited.

A motion was made by Harold North, seconded by Mark Jaquith and with none opposed it carried to accept the January 2023 Financial Report prepared for the Town of Charlotte by Bahgat Laurito & Bahgat.

A motion was made by Mark Jaquith, seconded by Harold North and with none opposed it carried to approve the Town's Justice Audit performed by the Audit Committee consisting of Mark Abbey & Harold North. Frank Lauricella was also present and completed the Audit as well for training purposes.

A motion was made by Harold North seconded by Mark Jaquith and with none opposed it carried to allow the Town to open an EZ PASS account with NYS Thruway for the Town Truck(s). This will be tied to the Town's credit card and will be paid through vouchers each month it is used. A report of who used the EZ PASS and purpose will be documented, and a report will be submitted with the voucher for easy access.

A motion was made by Mark Abbey, seconded by Frank Lauricella and with none opposed it carried to allow the Town Supervisor Allen Chase to pay GHD invoice #337-0005993 dated 1/31/2023 in the amount of \$637.50. The Town of Cherry Creek will be invoiced for ½ of the bill as per our agreement.

A motion was made by Mark Jaquith, seconded by Harold North and with none opposed it carried to set a Public Meeting for Wednesday, March 8th, 2023 at the Sinclairville Volunteer Fire Department, 30 Main St., Sinclairville at 7pm to introduce Local Law #1 -2023 titled "Volunteer Firefighter's Residential Assessment Exemption".

Discussion was heard on the following:

1. **HIGHWAY REPORT:**

1. Plowing and sanding roads
2. General repairs on plow trucks
3. Hauling ice control sand and 1A stone for chip seal
4. Servicing bucket truck, sweeper, tractor, roller and Town pickup truck

2. **CLERK REPORT:** January scheduled hours were 34.5 with 58.75 hours actually worked leaving the total amount of 24.25 hours over the scheduled hours. The new printer has come in and is working fantastic! The old printer was given to the Highway Superintendent, Mark LeBaron since it takes the same toner as the one he currently has, as a spare for the Highway department. The following report was presented:

Account#	Account Description	Fee Description	Qty	Local Share
	Building fees	Additions & Alterations	1	20.00
		Sub-Total:		\$20.00
A-1255	Certified Copies	Certified Copies	1	10.00
		Sub-Total:		\$10.00
A2544	Dog Licensing	Female, Spayed	5	35.00
		Female, Unspayed	1	12.00
		Male, Neutered	4	20.00
		Male, Unneutered	3	60.00
	Senior Citizen Discount	Senior Citizen Discount	4	-12.00
		Sub-Total:		\$115.00
		Total Local Shares Remitted:		\$145.00
Amount paid to: NYS Ag. & Markets for spay/neuter program				29.00
Total State, County & Local Revenues:		\$174.00	Total Non-Local Revenues:	\$29.00

The following report was received from the Sinclairville Fire Department:

1/1/22 thru 12/31/22	Arkwright	Cassadaga	Charlotte	Cherry Creek	Ellery	Ellicott	Ellington	Gerry	Jamestown	Poland	Sheridan	Sinclairville	Stockton	Villanova
95 EMS ALS	0	0	29	1	2	0	2	35	0	0	0	25	1	0
87 EMS BLS Priority	0	0	18	0	8	0	1	30	0	0	0	29	1	0
61 EMS BLS Standard	0	3	8	0	7	0	1	25	0	0	0	15	2	0
25 MVA PI ALS	0	0	6	0	2	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	3	0
12 MVA PI BLS Priority	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	6	0	0	0	1	0	0
23 MISC RESPONSE	0	0	4	0	5	0	0	7	0	0	0	6	1	0
35 STRUCTURE FIRE	0	1	6	1	5	0	1	9	1	1	1	5	3	1
338	0	4	74	2	31	0	5	126	1	1	1	81	11	1

12/1/22 thru 12/31/22	Arkwright	Cassadaga	Charlotte	Cherry Creek	Ellery	Ellicott	Ellington	Gerry	Jamestown	Poland	Sheridan	Sinclairville	Stockton	Villanova
10 EMS ALS			4					2				4		
4 EMS BLS Priority			3									1		
3 EMS BLS Standard			1				1					1		
0 MVA PI ALS														
2 MVA PI BLS Priority			1					1						
3 MISC RESPONSE			1		1							1		
0 STRUCTURE FIRE														
22	0	0	10	0	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	7	0	0

3. **TAX COLLECTOR REPORT:** For January, 2023, taxes were collected on 548 parcels totaling \$578,482.30.

4. **JUSTICE REPORT:** Justice Jeffrey Crossley reported that 17 new charges brought in for January and 51 charges closed. The rebate check for the recalled laminator has been received and given to Town Supervisor Allen Chase. Training will continue in March. The following report was presented:

DISPENSING JUSTICE FOR ALL

2023

NEW CHARGES

DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	BALANCE
12/31/2023	CLOSED CHARGES		

JAN

17

51

FEB

MAR

APR

MAY

JUNE

JUL

AUG

SEPT

OCT

NOV

DEC

TOTAL OPENED CHARGES

TOTAL CLOSED	
	CHARGES

17

51

TOTAL CHARGES TO DATE FOR 2022

68

PETTY CASH FUND IS

\$250.00

TRAINING COMPLETED		
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5. **ASSESSOR'S REPORT:**

Assessors Report

February 2023

The State of Ny has passed a new exemption for volunteer firefighters. The new law gives municipalities, school districts, and fire districts the local option to exempt up to 10% of the firefighter's residential assessment. The Town has to make a decision on 4 options in the resolution. They are as follows:

- 1) Exempt amount: The Town can exempt up to 10% of the assessment.
- 2) Service Requirement: A minimum service requirement of 2 to 5 years has to be determined.
- 3) Lifetime Exemption: A lifetime exemption can be offered to members with 20 years of service as long as they maintain their primary residence in the County.
- 4) Surviving Spouse: A surviving spouse may retain the exemption of an eligible volunteer.

It's my understanding the County will be voting on the full 10%, a 2 Year service requirement, and yes on lifetime exemption and surviving spouse.

This exemption is 466a of the Real Property Tax Law.

As March 1, 2023 is our taxable status date the exemption applications will need to be in to the Assessor's office by that date to be activated for the 2023 assessment roll.

I can only give an estimate on the financial impact to the Town. The average residential assessment is \$89,500. With a Town tax rate of \$5.58/1000 and an assumption of 10 firefighters taking advantage of the exemption, the tax revenue loss to the Town would be \$500. This assumes the full 10% exemption.

I'm continuing to process Aged and Ag land applications. Those who are turning 65 this year and are on the Basic Star program can apply with me for the Enhanced Star program. Those turning 65 and not on the Basic Star program can apply with the State for the STAR Credit program. March 1st is fast approaching and all applications need to be in by then.

I will be sending out 2nd notices and then, following up with phone calls to those who do not respond.

Thank you.

6. **BUILDING/CODE OFFICER REPORT:** Town Code Enforcement Officer Toby Hammond reported he has still not received the paperwork for the years 2018 – 2022 from former Town Code Enforcement Officer Alan Gustafson despite contacting him several times. Mr. Hammond will also respond to a complaint letter received from a Town Resident.
7. Larry Barmore thanked the Town Board for their support for the Cassadaga Historical Society as well as the Sinclairville Free Library.
8. A Thank you note was received by the Charlotte Center Cemetery Association for the constant support from the Town Board.

A motion to adjourn was made by Frank Lauricella, seconded by Harold North and with none opposed it carried.

The next regular Town Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 8th, 2023, at the Sinclairville Volunteer Fire Department, 30 Main St. Lower, Sinclairville, NY. Anyone interested is welcome to attend either in person or a teleconference call taking place during the Board meeting. Anyone who wishes to listen to the Town Board meeting can access the teleconference call by simply dialing: (978) 990-5164. Use access code: 389923 to join the meeting. Anyone calling in will be able to address the Town Supervisor and the Board once the meeting is opened to the Floor.

Respectfully submitted.

Susan Peacock

Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Registrar