

I decided to run for selectman because there are a few issues I feel need to have a voice. It has been many years since I last served the people in this town as a selectman or finance committee member.

First, our seniors. We need to develop a realistic plan to give them a break on the ever-increasing real estate tax. The current work-off program is not the best answer.

We also need to develop and build a senior housing complex and a new state-of-the-art senior center.

We have to hold all boards, commissions and committees to higher standards. Charlton is ripe with many self-serving "good old boys" running things. It is time to clean this up. New candidates need to be encouraged through a leadership academy that illustrates skill levels and time commitment.

We need to look at some of the "non-profit" businesses in town. Some actually run for profit, paying little if any property tax.

We also need to develop and live with a town budget. Having special town meetings to add funds to line items or burning through the town reserve fund is a wrong way to operate. I am in favor of zero-based budgeting and giving highest priority to police, fire, ambulance, schools and public works.

It is time to bring that town we all knew years ago..back.

My motto is:

Your Town..Your Voice.

Ron Charette