

Organization Town of Champion

Board Town Board

Date and Time Monday, March 1 2004 at 7:00 PM

Place Town of Champion Offices Board Room (rear of building) 10 N Broad St, West Carthage NY

Contact [Chris Vargulick](#) Town Clerk Phone (315) 493-3240 Fax(315) 493-2900

Minutes

The Town of Champion Town Board met in regular session Monday, March 1, 2004 at the Town of Champion Municipal Building. Present were Supervisor Buckley, Councilmen Stewart, Watkins, Buzzell, and Peck, Attorney Farley, and Highway Superintendent Sech.

Supervisor Buckley called the meeting to order at 7PM and opened the meeting for public comment. Walter Becker, representing the Carthage Area Chamber of Commerce, discussed a matching funds grant application proposed by the Chamber to continue improvements to the Farmers Market facilities. The Chamber requested that the Town Board consider a \$12,000 in-kind service commitment. Mr. Becker outlined specific improvements that were being considered as part of the scope of work including: signage, advertising, sidewalks, rest room facilities, electric services, tarps, permanent paved surfaces, potable water, a flagpole, and landscaping. The total estimated cost of the improvements is \$99,000. Supervisor Buckley and Councilman Watkins questioned how the commitments of labor and equipment would be quantified and expressed concerns relative to meeting a \$12,000 commitment. Mr. Stewart expressed his concerns about the limited time for discussion based on the programs application deadline. The Board tabled the discussion until later in the meeting.

Monthly Reports

- Councilmen-Mr. Peck reported on workshops that he attended during the recent Association of Towns conference. He commented on discussions concerning inter-municipal agreements and questioned whether the Town had a formal agreement with the Village of West Carthage for the construction of the planned industrial park roadway. Supervisor Buckley responded that the Village would purchase all materials but that Town labor and equipment would be utilized in the interest of the public good. Mr. Peck also reported on the activities of the RACOG Retail Development committee. The committee has amended its meeting schedule to every other month and will discuss a wider distribution of the brochure at that time. Mr. Peck stated that Frank Koster has indicated that he is no longer able to serve on the committee. Board members were asked to propose persons interested in filling the post at the April meeting. Mr. Stewart reported on his attendance at a forum discussing inter-municipal agreement sponsored by the Public Management and Finance Program.
- Highway-Superintendent Sech reviewed his monthly report with the Board and commented on the success of the informal cooperative agreements between towns, villages and the county highway departments. Mr. Sech reported that he has been experimenting with the application of clear salt on roads covered under the NYS Snow and Ice agreement. Initial results have been encouraging. Mr. Sech also reported that he is seeking additional quotes for roadside mowing equipment.
- Town Attorney-Mr. Farley reported that the closing on the Peter Rogers property will proceed pending receipt of documents from the seller’s attorney.
- Zoning Officer-Mr. Phelps reported that he had issued no permits for the month of February.
- Planning Board-Mr. LaBarge distributed copies of the latest draft of the RACOG sub-division language. He responded to questions from the Board concerning modifications to the language.
- Historian-Mrs. Wiley reported on efforts at the County level to construct and place commemorative benches at each of the original eight towns in the County to celebrate the Jefferson County Bi-Centennial in 2005.
- Circuit Rider-Mrs. Amyot reminded the Board that the Planning Board will resume facilitated discussions relative to the NYS Route 3 planning and design concepts at their March 9th meeting. The next Black River forum is also scheduled for that evening.

Motion by Mr. Watkins, seconded by Mr. Peck to approve the minutes for February 2, 2004 as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Buzzell to approve the payment of the following bills as presented:

General #50-77.....	\$9,720.56
Highway #42-59.....	\$26,377.79
RACOG #8-10.....	\$382.97
Consolidated WD #1,2,& 3.....	\$2,528.18
WD#4 #3.....	\$197.25

Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

The Supervisor’s monthly report was presented and discussed. Motion by Mr. Watkins, seconded by Mr. Peck to approve the report as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

New Business

- The Board discussed the alleged structural deficiencies at the vacant motel, formerly known as River Run Motel, located on NYS Route 3, Great Bend. Motion by Mr. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Stewart to request a field inspection report from Jefferson County Building Code office. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by Mr. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Peck to authorize the Highway Superintendent to post town roads as he deems necessary. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Supervisor Buckley reported that he had received a request from David Zehr concerning the private road known as Montana Drive. Mr. Zehr is asking for Town assistance to make improvements to the roadway. Attorney Farley advised the Board that the donation of Town property to private individuals is expressly prohibited by State law. The Board agreed by consensus to deny Mr. Zehr's request, on advice of Counsel, and to forward a letter to Mr. Zehr stating the same.
- Supervisor Buckley reported that he had received notice from the Jefferson County Tax Enforcement office, relative to parcel number 76.14-1-20 located in and owned by the Town of Champion, that the parcel shall be turned over to the County for non-payment of the property tax. The Board agreed by consensus, that in so much as the parcel is landlocked, that the tax enforcement office be informed that the Town has no interest in retaining rights to the property.
- The Board continued discussions on the request from the Carthage Area Chamber of Commerce. Members reviewed the 2003 agreement. Motion by Mr. Watkins, seconded by Mr. Stewart to authorize a contractual agreement with the Chamber of Commerce stating, that in so much as the Town of Champion regards the improvement to the Farmers Market to be in the public good, the Town will commit \$500 towards paving of the Farmers Market facility. In addition, the Town will commit time, equipment and labor, to the extent possible, to assist with the paving in cooperation with the other concerned communities. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Peck to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:10PM.

Christina Vargulick
Town Clerk