

**Organization Town of Champion**

**Board Town Board**

**Date and Time Monday, December 4 2006 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 monthly session on Monday, December 4, 2006 at the Town Municipal Office, 10 North Broad Street, West Carthage. Present were Supervisor Buckley and Councilmen Stewart, Watkins, and Peck. Councilman Buzzell, Highway Superintendent Sech and Attorney Farley did not attend the meeting.

Supervisor Buckley called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and opened the public forum. John Bartow, Jr., Executive Director of the Tug Hill Commission, presented information regarding the Sandy Creeks Ecosystem-based Management Demonstration Project. The demonstration area includes the most southern portion of the Town. The project shall focus on developing a plan that balances ecological and economic demands and targets feasible activities to enhance and protect the watershed including: Invasive species control; Forestry best management practices; Agricultural riparian corridor restoration; and Fishery habitat improvements. Mr. Bartow encouraged the Board to appoint a member to participate on the Advisory Board.

At Supervisor Buckley’s request, Mr. Bartow discussed an application to the NYS Quality Communities Program, on behalf of the region’s Councils of Governments, for \$59,000 to fund a region-wide community survey. The survey results would be used to develop a regional database to assist in community based planning decisions. Motion by Mr. Watkins, seconded by Mr. Peck to forward a letter supporting the application to the agency. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

**Monthly Reports**

- Councilmen – Mr. Stewart reported on the number of deer carcasses that have been discarded along some town roads. Mr. Peck informed members that the election of fire commissioners in the Great Bend Fire District will be held on Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> from 6-9:00pm at the Great Bend Fire Hall. Mr. Peck discussed his concerns with the financial management of the Fire District and its relationship with the Great Bend Fire Department.
- Highway – The Highway Superintendent’s report was distributed and reviewed. Members discussed problems associated with a culvert on Sayre Road. The recent heavy rain has caused destabilization of the soil fill.
- Historian – Mrs. Thornton reported that she has responded to requests for research and is working with the elementary school to develop a physical adventure that includes both physical and historical activities for fourth and fifth grades.
- Circuit Rider – Ms. Amyot reported that the RACOG Recreation committee will meet on December 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at the T/Wilna Municipal Building. Mr. Stewart expressed his frustration, as a member of the committee, that projects are not advancing. Supervisor Buckley suggested that the committee make recommendations based on the majority vote of those in attendance. Supervisor Buckley asked the Board to recommend a person to serve as the Town’s community representative on the Recreation committee. Ms. Amyot reminded the Board that NYMIR will conduct a workshop on December 6<sup>th</sup> in the T/Martinsburg to discuss liability issues related to the sanctioned operation of ATV’s on town roads.

Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Peck to approve the minutes of November 6, 2006 as presented. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Peck to pay the following bills as presented:

General #318-340.....	\$21,242.36
Highway #252-277.....	\$9,329.54
RACOG #42.....	\$79.02
Con WD#1 O&M #72-75.....	\$4,322.02
SD#1 O&M #5.....	\$2,913.48
SD#2 O&M #8.....	\$104.17

Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

The Supervisor’s monthly report was read and discussed. Motion by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Stewart to approve the report as presented. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

**New Business**

- The Board reviewed the 2008-09 NYS Municipal Snow & Ice Agreement extension. The contract amount is \$130,372.91. Motion by Mr. Watkins, seconded by Mr. Peck to authorize the Supervisor to execute the agreement as presented. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Watkins to authorize the Supervisor to sign all documents related to RUD loan/grant funding for Sewer District #2. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by Mr. Watkins, seconded by Mr. Stewart to appoint James Seaman to the Board of Assessment Review for a term ending 9/30/2011. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by Mr. Watkins, seconded by Mr. Stewart to appoint Christina Vargulick, Deputy Court Clerk for the purpose of collecting fines and issuing receipts at no additional salary. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Board members considered a proposal from U. S. Fish & Wildlife to acquire permanent easements over 6,400 acres and acquire title to 1,600 acres of land within Jefferson County for the purpose of wildlife habitat creation or protection. Members expressed concern about removing 8,000 acres from the tax roll and the additional burden such an action would place on Town residents in regard to County and school taxes. Members also questioned the impact that the habitats would have on surrounding land either immediately or over time.

Resolution offered by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Stewart:

Whereas, The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (the "Service") proposes to buy approximately 1,600 acres of land and obtain permanent easements over approximately 6,400 acres of land in a portion of Jefferson County as part of a plan to permanently protect habitat for migratory and breeding birds and other wildlife, and;

Whereas, The Service has completed an environmental assessment on its proposal in conformance with the National Environmental Policy Act and has identified three options for protecting said habitat, and;

Whereas, The Service recommends "Alternative 2" in its environmental assessment, which corresponds to its original proposal as outlined above.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Town of Champion Town Board opposes "Alternative 2" of the environmental assessment of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife's proposal to permanently restrict land use on 6,400 and buy 1,600 acres in Jefferson County for the purpose of wildlife habitat creation or protection, and;

Be It Further Resolved, that the Board further supports "Alternative 1" in the environmental assessment, which would maintain the status quo.

Supervisor Buckley.....aye  
 Councilman Watkins.....aye  
 Councilman Stewart.....aye  
 Councilman Buzzell.....absent  
 Councilman Peck.....aye

Resolution adopted.

- The Board considered a resolution designating the National Incident Management System (NIMS) as the basis for all incident management for the Town and all emergency response activities within the Town.

RESOLUTION offered by Councilman Stewart,  
 SECONDED by Councilman Watkins;

WHEREAS, The President, in Homeland Security Directive (HSPD)-5, directed the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to develop and administer a National Incident Management System (NIMS), which would provide a consistent nationwide approach for Federal, State, local and tribal governments to work together more effectively and efficiently to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from domestic incidents, regardless of cause, size or complexity, and;

WHEREAS, the collective input and guidance from all Federal, State, local, and tribal homeland security partners has been, and will continue to be, vital to the development, effective implementation and utilization of a comprehensive NIMS, and;

WHEREAS, it is necessary and desirable that all Federal, State, local, and tribal emergency agencies and personnel coordinate their efforts to effectively and efficiently provide the highest level of incident management, and;

WHEREAS, to facilitate the most efficient and effective incident management it is critical that Federal, State, local, and tribal organizations utilize standardized terminology, standardized organizational structures, inter-operable communications, consolidated action plans, unified command structures, uniform personnel qualifications standards, uniform standards for planning, training, and exercising, comprehensive resource management, and designated incident facilities during emergencies or disasters, and;

WHEREAS, the NIMS standardized procedures for managing personnel, communications, facilities and resources will improve the State's ability to utilize federal funding to enhance local and state agency readiness, maintain first responder safety, and streamline incident management processes, and;

WHEREAS, the Incident Command System components of NIMS are already an integral part of various incident management activities throughout the State, including current emergency management training programs, and;

WHEREAS, the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks (9-11 Commission) recommended adoption of a standardized Incident Command System.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Champion Town Board, by virtue of the authority vested in it through laws of the State of New York does hereby establish the National Incident Management System (NIMS) as the standard for emergency preparedness activities, including mitigation and planning, response and recovery efforts, undertaken by the Town and agencies within the Town, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Champion shall adhere to the County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

Supervisor Buckley.....Aye  
Councilman Watkins.....Aye  
Councilman Stewart.....Aye  
Councilman Buzzell.....Absent  
Councilman Peck.....Aye

Resolution adopted.

- The Board set, by consensus, Friday, December 22, 2006 at 10:00am as the date and time for their year-end meeting to conduct all necessary business.
- The Board set, by consensus, Monday, January 8, 2007 at 7:00pm as the date and time for the 2007 organizational meeting.
- The Board reviewed the final 2007 Town and County tax rate and noted the decrease in the rate from 2006.
- Motion by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Stewart to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Christina Vargulick  
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Town Clerk