

Organization Town of Champion

Board Town Board

Date and Time Monday, March 5 2007 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, March 5, 2007 at 7:00pm at the Town Municipal Building, 10 North Broad Street, West Carthage. Present were Supervisor Buckley, Councilmen Stewart, Watkins, Buzzell, and Peck, Highway Superintendent Sech, and Attorney Farley.

Supervisor Buckley called the meeting to order and opened the public forum. No one from the public spoke.

Monthly Reports

- Councilmen - Mr. Peck questioned the value placed on Pump Station #5 by the NYS Route 3 Sewer/Development Board and if the station meant the specifications for Sewer District #2. Supervisor Buckley responded that the station meets the needs for Sewer District #2. Mr. Watkins questioned the "parts fund" agreed to by the Sewer Board. Supervisor Buckley answered that the value of the pump station would be placed in an account for parts required for the Route 3 Sewer Corridor project. Mr. Peck shared a newspaper article that discussed the NYS Comptroller's intention to enforce stricter fiscal control over fire districts. Mr. Watkins reported that he and Mr. Peck were unable to attend the meeting of the Sandy Creek Eco-based Management System project due to a meeting conflict. Mr. Stewart reported on the RACOG recreation committee meeting. Supervisor Buckley deferred discussion on the matter of the recreation program for the new business portion of the meeting.
- Highway Superintendent - The Superintendent's written report was read and reviewed. The single axle truck is being fitted with a plow and should be put into service shortly. The Town has received a 10T hoist, with an electric lift, to facilitate equipment repair. The highway department has assisted both the Village of West Carthage and the Village of Carthage with snow removal. Mr. Peck questioned the maintenance of sidewalks in Great Bend. Mr. Sech responded that the sidewalks were constructed by the State and that the Town has no responsibility for their maintenance.
- Assessor - Mr. Vargulick responded to an inquiry regarding trending for the 2007 tax roll and a recent newspaper editorial.
- Zoning Officer - Mr. Koster reported that he had received and approved two zoning permits.
- Planning Board - Mr. LaBarge reported that the Board is meeting regularly to deal with a number of subdivision applications.
- Parks/Historian - Mrs. Thornton reported that the Town has received confirmation that it is the recipient of a grant, in the amount of \$2,845, through the North Country Library System to hold three summer concerts on the Village Green. Mrs. Thornton also reported that the Parks Committee is meeting on a regular basis to complete submittals to the Office of Parks and Recreation in regards to an approved grant. Due to the fact that funds will be primarily directed toward the construction of a restroom facility, the committee is submitting additional applications through other organizations to expedite park development. A grant for the purpose of constructing a pavilion/band stand shall be submitted to the Pratt-Northam Foundation. Additionally, funds in the amount of \$4,000 for playground equipment have been solicited from the my Hometown Helper.com program.

Motion by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Watkins to approve the minutes for the 5th, 20th, and 21st of February 2007 as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Buzzell to pay the following bill as presented:

General #63-87.....	\$20,621.99
Highway #41-63.....	\$59,190.68
RACOG #3-5.....	\$1,029.00
Con WD#1 O&M #14-19.....	\$2,557.69
SD#2 O&M #6-9.....	\$3,162.71

Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

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

New Business

- Judge Quinn reported on the proposed action plan for the justice court system including, but not limited to,

technological improvements, expanded training and education programs, digital recording procedures, defense counsel for indigents, improvements to access for the disabled, fiscal audit reforms, and facility security. No timeframe for compliance has been established. Judge Quinn responded to recent articles suggesting that the court system should utilize attorney judges stating that the movement is being promoted primarily in metropolitan areas. Supervisor Buckley recommended that facility security be addressed as soon as possible and directed Judge Quinn to have the court evaluated and submit the recommendations to the Board for consideration.

- The Board reviewed the required notice of intent to renew a liquor license received from Gary's Pub. Mr. Deskins was present and responded to Board questions regarding residents' complaints about noise and disturbances in the parking lot. Mr. Deskins reported that he has taken actions to mitigate the problems. Motion by Mr. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Stewart to authorize a letter of "no objection" to the liquor license renewal. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Members reviewed the annual copier maintenance agreement with Advanced Business Systems. Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Buzzell to authorize the Clerk to renew the maintenance agreement with Advanced Business Systems at a cost of \$450.00. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- The Board reviewed and discussed a proposal from the Development Authority of the North Country (DANC), in response to a request from the Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency (JCIDA) to issue industrial revenue bonds for the development of a biomass cogeneration facility by Vision Power Systems to be located at Climax Manufacturing in West Carthage. The Board questioned possible environmental impacts and the transport of wood chips to the facility on Village streets. Supervisor Buckley informed members that DANC will hold a public hearing and that the Town has no role in planning and zoning within the Village. Members recalled an assessment challenge by the former owner/operator of the facility and the expense borne by Town taxpayers to respond to the challenge and the loss of tax revenue. Mr. Watkins stated that he supports the viability of the affected industry but taxpayers should not be burdened as they were previously. Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Buzzell to adopt the following resolution:

**Granting Approval of a Project for the
Production of Steam and Electricity to be Funded
through the Development Authority of the North Country**

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency (JCIDA) has received an application from Vision/CMC LLC for the acquisition and installation of a renewable energy (wood chip) boiler to produce steam and electricity to be used at the Climax Manufacturing facility at 30 Champion Street, West Carthage, New York (the "Project Facility"); and

WHEREAS, the JCIDA has requested that the Development Authority of the North Country (DANC) undertake the financing of this project within its statutorily granted powers to finance the cost of a project as defined in Article 18-A of the General Municipal Law, which DANC has conditionally agreed to do; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 2704(12) of the Public Authorities Law, the financing of such a project by DANC requires that the approval for the project be granted by resolution of the governing body of each municipally in which such project is located; and

WHEREAS, such approval is required of the Jefferson County Legislature, the Village of West Carthage and the Town of Champion;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Champion hereby approves the acquisition and installation of the Project Facility by Vision/CMC LLC at Climax Manufacturing in the Village of West Carthage, Town of Champion and County of Jefferson for the purposes of Public Authorities Law Section 2704 (12) and Article 18-A of the General Municipal Law; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Roll Call vote: Mr. Stewart.....aye
Mr. Watkins.....aye
Mr. Buzzell.....aye
Mr. Peck.....aye
Supervisor Buckley....aye

Resolution adopted.

- On a recommendation by the Town's insurer, the Board reviewed the 1986 Prior Notice Law and a draft of amended language for the local legislation which reflects current case law. Motion by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Stewart to schedule a public hearing, on Local Law #1 for 2007-Amendment to the Prior Notice Law, on April 2, 2007 at 7:15pm. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- The Board resumed the discussion regarding a recommendation from the RACOG Recreation Committee to approach the Carthage Central School District in regards to expanding the scope of the local recreation program. The school district received authorization from voters for a construction project including a new pool facility and weight room with a perimeter track. Supervisor Buckley suggested that topics including financial support for the construction and/or the financial support of a year round program, that would include use of school recreation facilities, be considered. The Board approved, by consensus, discussions with the school as suggested.
- Motion by Mr. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Stewart to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing a particular personnel matter. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried. Executive session began at 8:48pm.
- Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Buzzell to resume the open session. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried. Open session resumed at 9:17pm.
- Motion by Mr. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Stewart to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:19pm.

Christina Vargulick
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Town Clerk