

Organization Town of Champion

Board Town Board

Date and Time Monday, May 7 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 session on Monday, May 7, 2007 at 7:00pm at the Town of Champion Municipal Building, 10 North Broad Street, West Carthage. Present were: Supervisor Buckley, Councilmen Stewart, Watkins (7:10), Buzzell, and Peck (7:06), Highway Superintendent Sech, and Attorney Farley.

Supervisor Buckley called the meeting to order and opened the meeting for public comment. Cpt. Mike Groom, Fort Drum, reported that he would be leading a unit that will provide community service assistance to the Sunnyside Cemetery in Great Bend. A second unit will be working in the T/Champion 1800 Village Green Park in the Hamlet of Champion assisting with the spring clean-up. Board members thanked both units for their help and assistance.

Terry Emerson, representing Sunnyside Cemetery, requested two loads of gravel to level the driveways within the cemetery. Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Peck to provide the gravel as requested. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Lori Elliot expressed her dissatisfaction with the annual assessment change. Supervisor Buckley advised her to make an appointment with the assessor to discuss the issue and/or file a complaint with the Board of Assessment Review.

Sarenia Murphy, Lewis Loop, addressed the Board in regard to tax rates. Supervisor Buckley explained changes to the rate in recent years that reflect the affect of assessments and the equalization rate.

Monthly Report

- Councilmen - Mr. Peck questioned the number of offers he has received from Lunco Corporation to purchase the Town Municipal Office Building. Mr. Watkins reported that he has had several inquiries regarding annual reassessment. Supervisor Buckley discussed the advantages to all taxpayers if the Town maintains a 100% equalization rate.
- Highway Superintendent - Mr. Sech reviewed his written monthly report and reminded members that the annual road tour is scheduled for May 15th.
- Zoning Officer - Mr. Koster reported that he had received nine (9) applications in April to construct houses, garages and additions.
- Planning Board - Mr. LaBarge reported that the Board had processed several applications for subdivisions. Mr. Peck questioned the status of Patriot Estates. Supervisor Buckley reported that final approval has been delayed pending an archeological report.
- Parks - Mr. Eddy reported that Frozen Cactus will not be available to perform on June 23rd. Mr. Eddy hopes to replace them with another performance group.
- Historian - Mrs. Wiley reported on the APHNYS conference she recently attended.
- Circuit Rider - Ms. Amyot reminded members of upcoming committee meetings.

Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Peck to approve the minutes of April 2, 2007 as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

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

General #116-143.....	\$21,309.68
Highway #89-117.....	\$40,655.30
RACOG #13-15.....	\$2,079.02
Con WD#1 O&M #26-32.....	\$6,284.13
WD#4 O&M #7.....	\$2,608.00
SD#2 O&M #11.....	\$104.17

Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

The Supervisor’s monthly report was read and reviewed. Supervisor Buckley noted that the General fund/Parttown account will be reimbursed by the SD#2 capital fund. Motion by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Stewart to approve the report as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

New Business

- Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Buzzell to authorize the Supervisor to execute the loan agreement in the amount of \$125,000 with USDA-RUS for the construction of T/Champion Sewer District #2. Ayes-5, Nays-

0. Motion carried.
- A resolution was offered by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Buzzell to amend the bond resolution for T/Champion Sewer District #2 and to authorize the issuance of a maximum of \$235,000 in serial bonds. Supervisor Buckley clarified the maximum borrowing for the benefit of the members. Roll call vote: Mr. Stewart-aye, Mr. Watkins-aye, Mr. Buzzell-aye, Mr. Peck-aye, and Supervisor Buckley-aye. Resolution adopted.
 - The following resolution was offered by Councilman Watkins, seconded by Councilman Peck and adopted unanimously:

WHEREAS, there has been recently been negative press coverage by the *New York Times* and some local newspapers within Jefferson County suggesting that the Town court system is flawed and more specifically, alleging that the three (300) hundred year tradition of non-lawyer judges presiding over and within the local municipalities should be eliminated; and

WHEREAS, there has always been a Town Court within the Town of Champion, conveniently located and accessible to our citizens; and

WHEREAS, there are two (2) town Judgeships established within Town of Champion; and

WHEREAS, there are presently two (2) non-attorney Town Justices and no (0) attorney Town Justices within the Town of Champion; and

WHEREAS, with their civil and criminal jurisdiction, the Town Justices in the Town of Champion handled many hundreds of cases in the past year; and

WHEREAS, the Town Court of Champion in 2006 collected \$94,356.00 in statutory fines, fees and surcharges on behalf of the State of New York, the County of Jefferson and the Town of Champion, to help fund essential public services; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of Champion recognizes and appreciates the professionalism, diligence, intelligence and integrity of both the attorney and non-attorney or lay justices within our town who bring a specialized experience to the bench particularly with issues unique to our community who elected them; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of the Town Board of Champion support the continuation of the three (300) hundred year tradition of both lawyer and non-lawyer or lay justices presiding in Town Courts, and it is further;

RESOLVED, that the members of the Town Board of Champion hereby opposes any requirement that Town Justices be attorneys, and it is further;

RESOLVED, that the members of the Town Board of Champion oppose any efforts to eliminate local and convenient access to justice by our citizens; and find that the local presence of the Town Court of Champion provides a meaningful and necessary presence within our community for judicial resolution of conflicts, continued public safety of our citizens and protection of constitutional guarantees for all of our citizens.

Terry L. Buckley, Supervisor: Aye
Thomas E. Stewart, Councilman: Aye
Henry S. Watkins, Councilman: Aye
Stanley Buzzell, Councilman: Aye
John D. Peck, Councilman: Aye

- As requested last month, Highway Superintendent Sech recommended the purchase of a 2007-7600 SFA 6x4 International dump truck fitted with a Viking Cives hitch plow and wing on NYS Contract #PC62176 for the amount of \$178,231. Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Peck to purchase the International truck and Viking plow on state bid for the amount specified. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Highway Superintendent Sech recommended the purchase of a 2008 Ford Super Duty XL F-350 on state bid from Van Bortel Ford, Inc. for a cost not to exceed \$24,875. Motion by Mr. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Stewart to authorize the purchase of the Ford pickup truck on state bid for the amount specified. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Supervisor Buckley deferred the discussion regarding modifications to Local Law #1 of 1999 - Regulating All Terrain Vehicles on Town Roads pending the receipt of information from the Association of Towns. The Supervisor reported that he has received a number of complaints from residents and a request for the Town's insurance carrier to review current local statutes due to recent court rulings.
- Members reviewed pending and proposed NYS legislation concerning the classification of certain town highways. The members discussed the financial burden on the town, and its residents, to make improvements to low volume or qualified abandoned roads. Attorney Farley recommended amending the zoning and subdivision regulations to prohibit building on any roads classified "recreational roads". Supervisor Buckley recommended annual re-classification of seasonal roads. Motion by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Stewart to reaffirm that the following roads are classified as seasonal roads: sections of the Hall Road (from the turn-around east to the Taylor Road); sections of the Taylor Road (from Austin Road intersection south to the Whitaker Road, south to the Lamb Road); Eddy Road (from turn-around at 20181 Eddy Road, north to turn-around at 20817 Eddy Road); sections of the Lee Road (from the turn-around east to the Doran Road); sections of the Bach Road (from the turn-around at North Lake Road

- extension intersection southeast to County Route 163). Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- The Board discussed a recommendation from the transfer site manager to have townwide "Clean-up Days" and to provide bins for the collection of unwanted household goods at no charge to T/Champion residents. Motion by Mr. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Peck to hold "Clean-up Days" on May 18/19 and May 25/26 at the transfer site and to prohibit the following items: batteries, tires, trash and paint. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
 - Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Peck to authorize the Supervisor to coordinate a tire collection with the T/Rutland at a date to be announced. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
 - Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Peck to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing on-going litigation and personnel. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried. Executive session began at 9:02pm.
 - Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Buzzell to return to open session. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Open session resumed at 9:35pm.
 - Motion by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Stewart to confirm the appointment of Mark Scoville as MEO at \$13.74/hour as per the negotiated contract. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
 - Motion by Mr. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Peck to confirm the appointment of Samuel Q. Eddy as highway foreman at \$14.64/hour as per the negotiated contract. Roll call vote: Mr. Stewart-nay, Mr. Watkins-aye, Mr. Buzzell-aye, Mr. Peck-aye, and Supervisor Buckley-aye. Motion carried.
 - Motion by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Stewart to offer for sale the Scania dump truck and 1994 pickup truck, as is, with a starting price of \$20,000 and \$3,000 respectively, at the Highway Superintendent's discretion; and further, if the items are not sold privately, that they may be offered for sale at the County equipment auction. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
 - Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Watkins to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:52pm.

Christina Vargulick
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Town Clerk