

Organization Town of Champion**Board Town Board****Date and Time Monday, April 7 2008 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, April 7, 2008 at the Town of Champion Municipal Building, 10 North Broad Street, West Carthage. Present were Supervisor Buckley, Councilmen Stewart, Watkins(7:06pm), Buzzell, and Peck(7:11pm), Attorney Farley, and Highway Superintendent Sech.

Supervisor Buckley called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and opened the meeting for public comment. Bruce Rounds, West Carthage, distributed a letter to the Board requesting action to increase the maximum exemption for veterans, combat veterans and disabled veterans as adopted by the Jefferson County Legislature. He stated that he believes the current exemption level has been devalued by the increases in assessed values. Supervisor Buckley responded that exempted values contribute to a significant increase in the tax rate paid by all property owners. The Board will consider the impact of the proposed exemption increase during its budget deliberations.

Monthly Reports

- Councilmen - Mr. Watkins reported that he had received information from Brookfield Power relative to their filings with FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission). Mr. Peck reported on the activities of the Farmland Protection Board.
- Highway - Mr. Sech submitted his monthly report. The highway department purchased 2200T of salt for the 2007-08 winter season as compared to 1700T in the 2006-07 season. Mr. Sech reported that an unauthorized dam has been erected on Mosher Road and that the roadway is being undermined. The Board directed the Highway Superintendent to meet with the Town Attorney and to forward a notice of violation to the property owner. A letter has been received from NYSDOT informing the Town that the State will make an adjustment for salt and fuel costs incurred by the Town. Supervisor Buckley reported that he has received numerous calls from residents of County Route 47 regarding displaced gravel from the road shoulders. Supervisor Buckley asked Mr. Sech to contact the County Highway Superintendent to request that the affected yards be restored. The Board requested that the Highway Superintendent coordinate a road inspection on Friday, May 9, 2008 at 1:00pm with the County Highway Department.
- Assessor - Mr. Vargulick responded to Board questions.
- Circuit Rider - Ms. Amyot shared issues of local interest.
- Engineer - Mr. Dimmick reported that the Board has taken significant steps to advance Water Districts No. 5 & 6. Pre-eligibility applications were submitted to USDA-RUS for both districts on March 25th. NYS DOH has been contacted in regards to letter of need for the districts. Dave Miller, USDA-RUS, has agreed to construction under a single piping contract. Discussions are proceeding between the Town and the Joint Village Utility Board for the purchase/sale of water. Design documents will be ready for review in May. Supervisor Buckley stated that he is cautiously optimistic that a bid may be awarded by late June.

Motion by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Stewart to approve the minutes of March 3, March 17 and March 24, 2008 as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

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

General #81-117.....	\$71,938.30
Highway #66-87.....	\$61,503.67
RACOG #7-12.....	\$654.02
Con WD#1 O&M #18-26.....	\$3,197.49
WD#4 O&M #8.....	\$2,500.42
SD#2 Capital #2-3.....	\$243,206.21
SD#2 O&M #9-10.....	\$131.63

Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

The Supervisor's 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.

Public Hearings

- Proof of notice having been furnished, the public hearing on modifying the boundaries of WD#5 was called to

order at 7:15pm by Supervisor Buckley. No one spoke for or against the proposed action. All persons desiring to be heard, having been heard, the hearing was closed at 7:16pm.

- Proof of notice having been furnished, the public hearing on an order to form WD#6 was called to order at 7:20pm by Supervisor Buckley. No one spoke for or against the proposed action. All persons desiring to be heard, having been heard, the hearing was closed at 7:21pm.

New Business

- The Board reviewed Part 1 of the full EAF in regards to the boundary modification for WD#5 and responded to Part 2. Members identified no potentially large impacts. Resolution offered by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Stewart that the proposed WD#5 boundary modification will not have a significant environmental impact and to prepare a negative declaration. Roll call vote: Mr. Stewart-aye, Mr. Watkins-aye, Mr. Buzzell-aye, Mr. Peck-aye, and Supervisor Buckley-aye. Resolution adopted.
- Resolution offered by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Buzell; WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Champion has previously formed Water District #5 in said Town pursuant to Order dated December 3, 2007,

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Champion has determined that it is in the public interest to modify the boundaries of Water District #5 such that a portion of the existing Water District #5 shall be removed from designation of Water District #5, and included in Water District #6, which Water District #6 is to be formed, and

WHEREAS, throughout this document all references to "Town of Champion Water District #5" shall be deemed a reference to Water District #5 as modified by this Order, and

WHEREAS, a map, plan and report relating to the modification of the boundaries of the Town of Champion Water District No. 5 prepared by BERNIER, CARR & ASSOCIATES, duly licensed engineers of the State of New York has been prepared, in a manner and in such detail as has been determined by this Town Board, has been duly filed with the Town Clerk, in accordance with the requirements of Article 12-A of the Town Law; and

WHEREAS, an Order was duly adopted by this Town Board on March 24, 2008, reciting the filing of said map, plan and report, the improvements proposed, the boundaries of the proposed modified district, the proposed method of financing, the fact that the map, plan and report describing the same were on file in the Town Clerk's Office for public inspection and stating all other matters required by law to be stated and specifying April 7, 2008 as the date at 7:15 p.m. on said day as the time and the Town of Champion Offices, 10 North Broad Street, West Carthage, New York, 13619, as the place where this Town Board would meet and consider said map, plan and report and to hear all persons interested in the subject thereof, concerning the same, and to take such action thereon as is required or authorized by law; and

WHEREAS, such Order was duly published and posted as required by law; and

WHEREAS, the estimated annual cost of the typical property owner within the district is \$646.00; and

WHEREAS, there shall be no separate hook up fees to the typical property owner which connects to the water system during the construction of the project; and

WHEREAS, said hook up fee shall be \$400 to a typical property owner which connects after the completion and acceptance of the project; and

WHEREAS, said hearing on said matter was duly held by said Town Board on April 7, 2008 at 7:15 p.m. on said day in the Town of Champion, Town Offices, 10 North Broad Street, West Carthage, New York, 13619

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED:

That the notice of hearing was published and posted as required by law and is otherwise sufficient;

That all property and property owners within the proposed formed district are benefited thereby;

That all property and property owners benefited are included within the limits of the proposed modification of the boundaries of the district;

That it is in the public interest to modify the boundaries of said district; and be it further

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED:

That the modification of the boundaries of the proposed district as set forth in said map, plan and report be approved; that the improvements therein mentioned be constructed by the Town; and such district shall be known and designated as "Town of Champion", Water District No. 5 and shall be bounded and described as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and made a part hereof; and be it further

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED:

The improvements proposed for said Water facilities shall consist of the construction of water lines, pumps, tanks and land acquisition and/or easements, all as more fully described in the map, plan and report hereinbefore described at a maximum estimated cost of not more than \$646,800.00, which cost shall be paid by the Town of Champion by a combination of a grant in the amount of \$500,000.00 and loan in the amount of \$146,800.00 and the full faith and credit of the Town of Champion shall be pledged for the repayment of the bond or bonds related to said indebtedness; and be it further

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED:

- That the Town Clerk be and hereby is authorized and directed to file a certified copy of this Order in the Jefferson County Clerk's Office and in the Office of the New York State Comptroller pursuant to the provisions of Section 195 of the Town Law and shall publish this Order pursuant to Article 12-A of the Town Law subject to a permissive referendum. Roll call vote: Mr. Stewart-aye, Mr. Watkins-aye, Mr. Buzzell-aye, Mr. Peck-aye, and Supervisor Buckley-aye. Resolution adopted.
- The Board reviewed Part 1 of the full EAF in regards to the order to form WD#6 and responded to Part 2. Members identified no potentially large impacts. Resolution offered by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Stewart that the proposed action will not have a significant environmental impact and to prepare a negative declaration. Roll call vote: Mr. Stewart-aye, Mr. Watkins-aye, Mr. Buzzell-aye, Mr. Peck-aye, and Supervisor Buckley-aye. Resolution adopted.

- Resolution offered by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Peck; WHEREAS, a map, plan and report relating to the formation of the Town of Champion Water District No. 6 prepared by BERNIER, CARR & ASSOCIATES, duly licensed engineers of the State of New York has been prepared, in a manner and in such detail as has been determined by this Town Board, has been duly filed with the Town Clerk, in accordance with the requirements of Article 12-A of the Town Law; and
WHEREAS, an Order was duly adopted by this Town Board on March 24, 2008, reciting the filing of said map, plan and report, the improvements proposed, the boundaries of the proposed modification of the boundaries of the district, the proposed method of financing, the fact that the map, plan and report describing the same were on file in the Town Clerk's Office for public inspection and stating all other matters required by law to be stated and specifying April 7, 2008 as the date at 7:20 p.m. on said day as the time and the Town of Champion Offices, 10 North Broad Street, West Carthage, New York, 13619, as the place where this Town Board would meet and consider said map, plan and report and to hear all persons interested in the subject thereof, concerning the same, and to take such action thereon as is required or authorized by law; and
WHEREAS, such Order was duly published and posted as required by law; and
WHEREAS, the estimated annual cost of the typical property owner within the district is \$625.00; and
WHEREAS, there shall be no separate hook up fees to the typical property owner which connects to the water system during the construction of the project; and
WHEREAS, said hook up fee shall be \$400 to a typical property owner which connects after the completion and acceptance of the project; and
WHEREAS, said hearing on said matter was duly held by said Town Board on April 7, 2008 at 7:20 p.m. on said day in the Town of Champion, Town Offices, 10 North Broad Street, West Carthage, New York, 13619
RESOLVED AND DETERMINED:
That the notice of hearing was published and posted as required by law and is otherwise sufficient;
That all property and property owners within the proposed formed district are benefited thereby;
That all property and property owners benefited are included within the limits of the proposed formed district;
That it is in the public interest to form said district; and be it further
RESOLVED AND DETERMINED:
That the formation of the proposed district as set forth in said map, plan and report be approved; that the improvements therein mentioned be constructed by the Town; and such district shall be known and designated as "Town of Champion", Water District No. 6 and shall be bounded and described as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and made a part hereof; and be it further
RESOLVED AND DETERMINED:
The improvements proposed for said Water facilities shall consist of the construction of water lines, pumps, tanks and land acquisition and/or easements, all as more fully described in the map, plan and report hereinbefore described at a maximum estimated cost of not more than \$866,900.00, which cost shall be paid by the Town of Champion by a combination of a grant in the amount of \$500,000.00 and loan of \$366,900.00 in full faith and credit of the Town of Champion shall be pledged for the repayment of the bond or bonds related to said indebtedness; and be it further
RESOLVED AND DETERMINED:
That the Town Clerk be and hereby is authorized and directed to file a certified copy of this Order in the Jefferson County Clerk's Office and in the Office of the New York State Comptroller pursuant to the provisions of Section 195 of the Town Law and shall publish this Order pursuant to Article 12-A of the Town Law subject to a permissive referendum. Roll call vote: Mr. Stewart-aye, Mr. Watkins-aye, Mr. Buzzell-aye, Mr. Peck-aye, and Supervisor Buckley-aye. Resolution adopted.
- Resolution offered by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Peck authorizing the construction of a water distribution system to be known as Town of Champion Water District #5 area and authorizing the issuance of a maximum of \$650,000 in serial bonds of said town to pay the cost thereof. Roll call vote: Mr. Stewart-aye, Mr. Watkins-aye, Mr. Buzzell-aye, Mr. Peck-aye, and Supervisor Buckley-aye. Resolution adopted subject to permissive referendum.
- Resolution offered by Mr. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Stewart authorizing the construction of a water distribution system to be known as Town of Champion Water District #6 area and authorizing the issuance of a maximum of \$870,000 in serial bonds of said town to pay the cost thereof. Roll call vote: Mr. Stewart-aye, Mr. Watkins-aye, Mr. Buzzell-aye, Mr. Peck-aye, and Supervisor Buckley-aye. Resolution adopted subject to permissive referendum.
- Supervisor Buckley recommended the following persons for appointment to the Board of Ethics: Samuel C. Emerson, Lynn A. Murray, and Henry S. Watkins. Motion by Mr. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Peck to appoint Samuel C. Emerson, Lynn A. Murray, and Henry S. Watkins to the Board of Ethics and to request that the members review the adopted Code in conjunction with model ethics codes and recommend amendments as deemed necessary. H. Watkins discussed concerns regarding the "officer member" making decisions relative to action they may be party to. Mr. Watkins proposes that guidelines be established that position the Board to issue directives rather than act a punitive body. Board members concurred. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by Mr. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Stewart to recognize those employees belonging to the NYS Retirement System, their retirement numbers and their number of days worked during a bi-weekly pay period. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Resolution offered by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Peck that the Town of Champion opposes any effort to eliminate citizens local and convenient access to the Tax Collector; and
That the Town of Champion finds that the local presence of the Tax Collector provides a meaningful and necessary presence within our community and ensures the continued safety of our taxpayers' dollars; and
That the Town Board of the Town of Champion is overwhelmingly opposed to any amendment to the Real Property Tax Law, General Municipal Law, Town Law, and Education Law that would remove the statutory impediments for the consolidation of local government tax collection functions including eliminating elected tax collectors in towns and making these offices appointed; and

That the Town Board of the Town of Champion is opposed to the governor's proposal to dispense with the requirement that town tax collecting officers be town residents; and

That the Town Board of the Town of Champion is opposed to any measures that would create bigger, more costly government which is less convenient, and lacking in the personal service that is currently provided by local tax collectors. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Resolution adopted.

- The Board discussed procedures to address unmetered sewer services. The matter will be referred to the NYS Route 3 Sewer Board for a determination.
- Supervisor Buckley announced the dates for "Clean-up Days" as May 16 & 17 and May 23 & 24..
- Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Peck to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:29pm.

Christina Vargulick
Christina Vargulick
Town Clerk