

**Organization Town of Champion****Board Town Board****Date and Time Monday, April 5 2010 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 5, 2010 at the Town Municipal Building, 10 North Broad Street, West Carthage. Present were Councilmen Stewart, Watkins, Buzzell, and Peck, Highway Superintendent Sech, and Attorney Farley. Supervisor Buckley was excused.

Deputy Supervisor Stewart called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and opened the meeting for public comment. Daniel Leary, County Route 47, questioned the ability of the Champion Volunteer Fire Company (CVFC) to perform interior fire fighting. Mr. Peck responded that there are members who have provided proof of their interior certification. Mr. Stewart discussed the Jefferson County mutual aid program. Mr. Leary stated that he wants reassurance that his family can be safely rescued in the event of a fire emergency at his home. Mr. Peck answered that the Town has prepared a contract for the CVFC that details the fire company's responsibilities to provide adequate personnel and equipment to protect the citizens and property within its determined boundaries.

**Monthly Reports**

- Councilmen – Mr. Peck reported that he had attended the Local Government Conference and received information regarding fixed ratio zoning as it pertains to the development of agricultural lands. Mr. Watkins also attended the conference and noted remarks made by the keynote speaker, Robert Freeman, regarding the administration of FOIL by governments.
- Highway Superintendent – Mr. Sech reported on department activities including roadside cleanup, cold patching, the replacement of signs, road posting, and the schedule for road sweeping. Five hundred thirty two tons (532T) of sand have been stockpiled. The silo pad has been cleaned and prepared for salt storage. As of April 1, the department has reduced the number of personnel by one full-time and one part-time position. Mr. Sech recommended that the Board approve the purchase of a JD360 riding lawn mower and mowing deck on State bid at a cost of \$4,405. Mr. Stewart also recommended that the Highway Superintendent consider the purchase of a ramped trailer. Motion by Mr. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Peck to authorize the Highway Superintendent to purchase a JD360 riding lawn mower and mowing deck on State bid at a cost of \$4,405. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried. Mr. Sech recommended that the Board declare the following as excess equipment: 1996- ? ton Ford pickup truck valued at \$1,500 and a JD riding mower valued at \$1,000. Motion by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Buzzell to declare the 1996- ? ton Ford pickup truck valued at \$1,500 and a JD riding mower valued at \$1,000 as excess equipment. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried. Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Peck to sell the excess equipment, as is, to interested persons. Mr. Buzzell questioned the value and the method of sale. Roll call vote: Mr. Stewart-aye, Mr. Watkins-nay, Mr. Buzzell-nay, and Mr. Peck-aye. Motion denied. Mr. Buzzell stated that he had not inspected or valued the equipment. Mr. Buzzell supported advertising a higher asking price and negotiating the sales price. Motion by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Stewart to authorize the Highway Superintendent to sell the equipment, as valued, at his discretion. Roll call vote: Mr. Stewart-aye, Mr. Watkins-nay, Mr. Buzzell-nay, and Mr. Peck-aye. Motion denied. Motion by Mr. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Peck to publish an advertisement to sell the excess equipment, at the values recommended by the Highway Superintendent, to the first interested buyer(s). Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried. The Board considered dates for the annual road tour, suggesting either May 7<sup>th</sup> or May 21<sup>st</sup> as potential dates.
- Parks – Mr. Eddy reported that flowers have been ordered for the park. Mr. Eddy also noted and thanked Lynn Thornton for writing a 64 page history of the Irish Festival which celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.
- Historian – Mrs. Thornton reported on programs that she has presented to various aged groups. Mrs. Thornton also shared a copy of the "Informer" published by the Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society. The January 2010 issue features a number of one room school houses that were located in the Town.
- Circuit Rider – Ms. Amyot provided updates on meetings and the JIMI project.

Motion by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Stewart to approve the minutes of March 1 and March 9, 2010 as presented. Ayes-4, Nay-0. Motion carried.

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

General #67-94.....	\$14,534.56
Highway #55-74.....	\$25,401.67
RACOG #12-15.....	\$1,206.57
Con WD#1 O&M #23-30.....	\$3,219.25
WD#5 O&M #6.....	\$256.34
SD#2 O&M #9-10.....	\$135.80

Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

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

## **New Business**

- Members were advised that NYMIR has agreed to add the Wilna-Champion Transportation Association (WCTA) bus to the Towns of Champion and Wilna insurance contingent on the Town holding the title to the bus at an annual cost to the WCTA of \$1,010. Motion by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Stewart to authorize the Supervisor to add the WCTA bus to the Town's insurance policy. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Resolution offered by Councilman Peck, seconded by Councilman Buzzell;  
RESOLVED, that Terry L. Buckley, as Town Supervisor of the Town of Champion, is hereby authorized to execute the Sewer Service Agreement between the Development Authority of the North Country and the NYS Route 3 Corridor Sewer Board for the operation and maintenance of Town of Champion Sewer District No. 1.

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

Resolution adopted.

- The Board reviewed and discussed the proposed contract with the Champion Volunteer Fire Company (CVFC). Mr. Peck discussed the meeting with the Fire Company officers to clarify both the fire fighting and administrative responsibilities of the CVFC. Attorney Farley advised the members that the Town has substantial responsibilities for the activities undertaken by the fire department. Mr. Farley discussed current case law as it pertained to the towns. Members discussed specific sections of the contract. Mr. Watkins questioned Section 3 specifically, the Town providing up to 200 gallons of fuel. Mr. Watkins voiced his concern that the additional consideration gave the CVFC an inequitable increase in funding compared to the contracts the Town has with the Villages of West Carthage and Copenhagen. Mr. Farley stated that the section formalizes what has been an existing informal arrangement. Motion by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Buzzell to authorize the Supervisor to sign the contract between the Town of Champion and the Champion Volunteer Fire Company. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- In response to a letter received from the Carthage Free Library, seeking support for their application for funding of the expansion and renovation of the library to the USDA Rural Development program, the following resolution was put forward:

Resolution offered by Councilman Watkins, seconded by Councilman Stewart;

WHEREAS, the Carthage Free Library has served the community with traditional library services since 1910, and;

WHEREAS, the Carthage Free Library provides programs and services that are well respected and not duplicated anywhere in our community, and;

WHEREAS, current economic conditions have placed greater demand on Library resources than ever before, making them critical to the well being of our community, and;

WHEREAS, the proposed Library Expansion and Renovation will all allow the Library to provide needed services to the community, and;

WHEREAS, the proposed Library Expansion and Renovation will have no adverse impact on the community, and in fact will have a positive impact on the community.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Champion Town Board hereby supports the Carthage Free Library in their effort to expand and renovate the Library and endorse their requests for New York State and Federal funding of the project.

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

Resolution adopted.

- Attorney Farley reported in the case of Town of Champion vs. Larry J. Lacy, Jr., that Justice Quinn has ordered the defendant to make an application for a zoning permit to erect a free standing sign and for wall signs in accordance with the Town zoning law and to remove the existing signage pending action on the permit application by the Zoning Enforcement Officer.
- Mr. Stewart noted correspondence that was distributed to the Board.
- Motion by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Buzzell to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:38pm.

Christina Vargulick  
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Town Clerk