

Organization Town of Champion**Board Town Board****Date and Time Tuesday, September 4 2012 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 Tuesday, September 4, 2012 at the Town Municipal Building, 10 North Broad Street, West Carthage. Present were Supervisor Buckley, Councilmen Stewart, Watkins (7:08), Buzzell (7:13), and Ferguson, Attorney Farley, and Highway Superintendent Sech.

Supervisor Buckley called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and opened the meeting for public comment. Louis Waite questioned the number of gallons in a unit of water. The Clerk responded that that a unit is 10,000 gallons. Supervisor Buckley asked Mr. Waite, Champion Fire Department Chief, about the state audit and recommendations. The department treasurer responded that the audit is available online. The treasurer questioned when funds withheld for the 2011 audit would be released. Mr. Waite queried the Board regarding the formation of a fire district. Supervisor Buckley responded that the department needs to establish a record of sound fiscal and organizational operation before the Board would reconsider the formation of a fire district.

Public Hearing

Proof of notice having been furnished, the public hearing on proposed Local Law #7 for 2012 – A Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law 3-c was called to order by Supervisor Buckley at 7:18pm. No one spoke for or against the proposed local law. All persons desiring to be heard, having been heard, the public hearing was closed at 7:22pm.

Monthly Reports

- Engineer – Kris Dimmick, of Bernier, Carr & Associates, distributed information for discussion regarding improvements to and/or the extension of Sewer District #2. EFC grants are available for predevelopment funding. An application on behalf of the Town of Champion for \$30,000 would allow the Board to evaluate the capital cost, financial opportunities and projected user costs; prepare a preliminary engineering report and complete SEQR and SERP; and conduct preliminary mapping, topography and archeological surveys. Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Watkins to authorize the Supervisor to apply for grant funds to complete the feasibility study and SEQR/SERP. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried. Mr. Dimmick recommended that the Board submit an application to be listed on the EFC intended use long term plan. Motion by Mr. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Stewart to authorize the Supervisor to submit an application to be listed on the EFC intended use long term plan. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Highway Superintendent – Mr. Sech reported on the following: paving and shoulders are complete on the Bach, Whitaker and Sayre Roads. Complete restoration is pending; roadside mowing has been completed including the DANC line; gravel roads shall be re-graded; equipment maintenance; sale of gravel to Jefferson County; and assistance to the Villages of West Carthage and Carthage.
- Assessor – Mr. Vargulick discussed agricultural exemption recovery, the DC Associates certiorari, and an anticipated decision from a recent SCAR hearing.
- Justice – Mr. Quinn reported on court activity. The Board reviewed an application for a JCAP grant in an amount not to exceed \$30,000, for the purpose of replacing the existing steel exterior finish and flashing, installing insulation, and replacing one exterior door to improve building security. Motion by Mr. Ferguson, seconded by Mr. Stewart to authorize the Supervisor to execute the application for the JCAP grant in an amount not to exceed \$30,000 for the purpose of replacing the existing steel exterior finish and flashing, install insulation, and replace one exterior door to improve building security. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Planning Board – Mr. LaBarge reported that the Board is considering applications for subdivisions and site plans. In addition, the Board is continuing to prepare recommendations to amend the Town zoning law in regards to hydro-fracturing activities. Mr. LaBarge recommended that the Town Board extend the moratorium on hydro-fracturing for an additional six (6) months. Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Ferguson to schedule a public hearing on Local Law #8 for 2012 – A Local Law creating a 180 day Moratorium on Natural Gas and/or Petroleum Extraction Activities for October 1, 2012 at 7:15pm. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Zoning Officer – Mr. LaBarge reported that he had issued a number of zoning permits.
- Parks/Historian – Mrs. Thornton commented on the increased use of the Village Green Park and continuing work on the Hiram Hubbard House.
- Circuit Rider – Ms. Amyot discussed upcoming training sessions and other activities.

Motion by Mr. Watkins, seconded by Mr. Stewart to approve the minutes of August 6, 2012 as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

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

General #223-248.....	\$18,521.29
Highway #149-170.....	\$142,075.54
RACOG #19-20.....	\$90.92
Con WD#1 O&M #58-63.....	\$3,070.50
WD#5 O&M #19.....	\$515.54
WD#5 Capital #17-21.....	\$124,472.08
SD#2 O&M #23-24.....	\$3,518.74

Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Board members reviewed and discussed the Supervisor's monthly report. Motion by Mr. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Watkins to accept the report as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

New Business

- Motion by Mr. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Watkins to adopt Local Law #7 for 2012 – A Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law 3-c. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Supervisor Buckley informed the Board that he had successfully negotiated a reduction in the cost of O&M for Consolidated WD No. 2, 4 & 5 and therefore, he recommended amending the rate increase adopted in August for WD#2. Motion by Mr. Ferguson, seconded by Mr. Stewart to amend the quarterly rate in WD#2 to \$110. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Ferguson to authorize the Town Clerk to relevel unpaid water, sewer and other charges as necessary. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- The Board reviewed letters from Joanna Habermann and Jennifer Earl requesting an extension of WD#2 to include parcels no. 93.00-2-14.35 and 93.00-2-14.36 respectively. Attorney Farley recommended that the Board require the property owners to execute a development agreement to cover engineering and other costs associated with the extension of the district. Motion by Mr. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Stewart to authorize the Town engineer to prepare a map, plan and report pending the execution of the development agreements. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- The Board reviewed Operation and Maintenance Agreements for the following districts: Water Districts No. 1 & 3; Consolidated Water Districts No. 2, 4 & 5, and Sewer District No. 2. Mr. Watkins pointed out a language error in Article X; Section 1004 of each agreement and an unsupported reference to Section 101; Item 11 in the SD#2 agreement. Motion by Mr. Watkins, seconded by Mr. Buzzell to authorize the Supervisor to execute the agreements with the corrected language and reference. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by Mr. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Watkins to schedule an additional bulk trash cleanup and tire collection weekend on October 12th and 13th with a limit of ten (10) tires per person per day. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Buzzell to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing negotiations between the Town and Stephen Converse. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried. Executive session began at 8:55pm.
- Motion by Mr. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Stewart to return to open session. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried. Open session resumed at 9:15pm.
- Motion by Mr. Ferguson, seconded by Mr. Stewart to approve an agreement between the Town of Champion and Stephen Converse to provide for a settlement of the road agreement executed on January 29, 2008. Mr. Converse shall deed parcel no. 85.12-2-36 to the Town and provide \$10,000 in labor to repair and remodel the T/Champion WD#2 water plant as agreed to and within an agreed time frame. The Town of Champion agrees to release Mr. Converse from his obligation to complete Lewis Loop Extension. The Town Highway Department shall pave the road upon execution of the agreement and transfer of the property. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Ferguson to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:20pm.

Christina Vargulick
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Town Clerk