

**Organization Town of Champion****Board Town Board****Date and Time Monday, March 23 2015 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 special session on Monday, March 23, 2015 at the Town Municipal Building, 10 North Broad Street, West Carthage. Present were Supervisor Buckley, Councilmen Ferguson, Stewart, Watkins, and Buzzell, Highway Superintendent Sech, and Attorney Farley.

Supervisor Buckley called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**New Business**

- Supervisor Buckley presented information regarding the newly formed Watertown Jefferson County Area Transportation Council. The Council is responsible for developing and maintaining both a regional transportation plan and a transportation improvement program for the area's federal aid eligible highway and public transit facilities. Motion by Supervisor Buckley, seconded by Mr. Watkins to appointment Mr. Buzzell as the Town's representative on the Watertown Jefferson County Area Transportation Council. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Supervisor Buckley apprised the Board of an informal discussion held by members of RACOG regarding hiring a regional planner. John McHugh serves the CIDC and the V/Carthage in the areas of economic development and planning but plans to retire in June, 2015. The projected salary for the position is \$100,000 and would be shared by the CIDC (60%) and the participating communities with the Town's share of \$15,000. Mr. Buzzell opposed the proposal based on the cost to the Town. Mr. Watkins and Mr. Stewart stated that the role is an important one but that it applies predominately to the Villages. Stating that no funds have been budgeted for the position, they were not in favor of committing at this time. Mr. Ferguson questioned if RACOG funds could be used for the first year. Supervisor Buckley stated that if the Board is not prepared to commit to a long term position that the Town should not be involved at this time. Motion by Mr. Watkins, seconded by Mr. Stewart to table the discussion until the Board's April meeting.
- The Board reviewed correspondence from NYS Homeland Security and Emergency Services regarding the Intrastate Mutual Aid Program (IMAP), a resource sharing mechanism created to allow local governments to share resources during a declared local state of emergency. The statute allows municipalities to share resources without prior memorandums of understanding during emergencies and provides reimbursement and specifics regarding liability and workers' compensation. Mr. Buzzell strongly opposed participating in the opt-out program because it is operated under the auspices of Homeland Security. Highway Superintendent Sech stated that the program is similar to the County program and neither obligates resources or personnel. The Board took no action to opt-out of the program.
- Supervisor Buckley reported to the Board that the Champion Fire Department has not met the material requirements of their contract therefore increasing the Town's liability for damage and/or injury. Mr. Ferguson reviewed issues with the roster, training and physical examination reports citing the inclusion of "members" that have not been approved by the Town Board but are participating in training activities. James Stout, incoming president of the CVFD, interrupted and stated that if the Town has questions that it should have forwarded a letter to the department so that it would have thirty (30) days to submit the materials. Attorney Farley advised Mr. Stout that a letter regarding deficiencies would fall under Section 6b - Grounds for Termination. Mr. Ferguson continued his review of the materials previously submitted to the Board and compared them to the metrics of the contract. He stated that the failure to comply with the contract puts the Town and its taxpayers at great risk. J. Waite verbally assured the Board that insurance and physicals are current but offered no documentation. Attorney Farley explained that all of the material items must be annually updated on or before January 1<sup>st</sup>. L. Waite complained that training classes are unavailable therefore requiring more in house training. J. Stout questioned training applicants prior to action on those applications by the Town Board. Mr. Ferguson advised that unapproved members may not participate in training due to the liability incurred by the Town. L. Waite stated that correspondence should be sent to the attention of the department president. Mr. Ferguson questioned whether the Town can continue to allow fire department members to respond to calls pending the department's compliance with the contract requirements. Supervisor Buckley reviewed Schedule C of the contract and stated that the Town Board cannot disregard the contract nor abrogate its responsibility regarding its enforcement. Fire department members stated their intention to provide the required material items by morning. Motion by Mr. Ferguson, seconded by Mr. Stewart to terminate the contract between the Town of Champion and the Champion Fire Department for a failure to adhere to the material terms of the contract effective in thirty (30) days. Roll call: Mr. Ferguson-aye, Mr. Stewart-aye, Mr. Watkins-aye, Mr. Buzzell-abstained, and Supervisor Buckley-aye. Motion carried.
- The Board questioned the Champion Fire Department's 501(c)3 status. L. Waite and M. Harris admitted that the tax exempt status has been revoked for failure to file the annual 990 form for a number of years. Mr. Harris is attempting to contact the IRS to determine which forms must be filed at this time and for which

years.

- L. Waite inquired about the fire protection district dissolution plan. Supervisor Buckley reported that work on the plan is progressing. J. Stout requested that the Board consider setting the effective date before the end of the year to allow for a Board of Commissioners to be appointed and familiarized with the scope of their duties assuming that there is a planned fire district.
- Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Ferguson to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:38pm.

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