

Organization Town of Champion

Board Town Board

Date and Time Monday, April 27 2015 at 1:00 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, April 27, 2015 at the Town Municipal Building, 10 North Broad Street, West Carthage, NY. Present were Supervisor Buckley, Councilmen Ferguson, Stewart and Buzzell and Attorney Farley. Mr. Watkins was absent from the meeting.

Supervisor Buckley called the meeting to order at 1:00pm and advised the Board that the Champion Volunteer Fire Department (CVFD) is in breach of the 2015 contract due to a failure to adhere to the material terms of the agreement, including reporting, training, and accounting practices. Motion by Mr. Ferguson, seconded by Mr. Stewart to terminate the 2015 contract, effective immediately, for the Champion Volunteer Fire Department's failure to adhere to the material terms of the agreement.

Members discussed confusion with submitted rosters. The incident roster includes 20+ names but the roster submitted with the names of members deemed qualified included only eight (8) members. An incident report dated March 18, 2015 included the name of a member not listed as qualified who responded. J. Waite confirmed that the member was unqualified when he responded.

Mr. Buzzell asked what the consequences would be if the contract is terminated. He calculated the potential liability to the Town regarding non-qualified responders to the well meaning intentions and equipment acquired by the department. He questioned the nature of the missing material items. Supervisor Buckley and Councilman Ferguson outlined the nature of the material items including, but not limited to, non-qualified to non-qualified responders; late physicals and physical examinations not based on duty requirements; lack of training qualifications, training records and financial reporting.

J. Waite questioned whether the Town had received copies of recent physicals. Supervisor Buckley responded "no". Attorney Farley reviewed the material requirements as stated in the contract for the benefit of Councilman Buzzell. He shared information from the letter of termination dated March 24, 2015 and the response from the CVFD legal counsel. Mr. Buzzell recommended giving the department an additional five days to respond. Mr. Ferguson stated that the Town has waited four months for the department to comply with its contractual requirements. The Board has reminded the department at every monthly Board meeting. The department has continued to defer its compliance. Mr. Buzzell admitted that the CVFD is in breach of contract but cited again the existing building and equipment. Councilmen Ferguson and Buzzell discussed the response time and capabilities of the department. Mr. Buzzell asserted that the West Carthage Fire Department will always be there to respond or back up calls to CVFD. Mr. Buzzell stated that people look forward to the annual auction and chicken barbeques. Supervisor Buckley advised Mr. Buzzell that those issues are not relevant to the Town's concerns for fire protection.

Roll call vote: Councilman Ferguson-aye, Councilman Stewart-aye, Supervisor Buckley-aye, and Councilman Buzzell-nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Ferguson, seconded by Mr. Stewart to amend the fire contract with the Village of West Carthage to include the protection area previously covered by the Champion Volunteer Fire Department. Roll call vote: Councilman Ferguson-aye, Councilman Stewart-aye, Supervisor Buckley-aye, and Councilman Buzzell-aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Ferguson to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 1:24pm.

Christina Vargulick
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Town Clerk