

**Organization Town of Champion**

**Board Town Board**

**Date and Time Monday, May 4 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 regular session on Monday, May 4, 2015 at the Town Municipal Building, 10 North Broad Street, West Carthage. Present were Supervisor Buckley, Councilmen Ferguson, Stewart, Watkins and Buzzell, Attorney Farley, and Highway Superintendent Sech.

Supervisor Buckley called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Supervisor Buckley opened the public forum portion of the meeting and advised the assembled that individual remarks should be limited to five (5) minutes in duration to allow more persons to address the Board. In addition, he advised the assembled that any written comments submitted would be made part of the official record. The following persons spoke in opposition to the Board’s decision to terminate the contract between the Town and the Champion Volunteer Fire Department for its failure to adhere to the material terms of their agreement: Jennifer Waite, Jonathan Schell, Gordon Wiltsie, Louis Waite, James Stout, and Frank Koster. Attorney Farley endeavored to clarify portions of the contract questioned by department members.

**Monthly Reports**

- Engineering – Supervisor Buckley reported that short term financing with EFC has been approved and the first draw has been received. The advertisement for bids for the construction of the SD#2 improvements has been published and the bid opening is scheduled for May 7, 2015 at 3:00pm.
- Councilmen – Mr. Buzzell shared copies of a map highlighting local urbanized areas as identified by the 2010 census data. The map was presented at the initial meeting of the Watertown/Jefferson County Transportation Council and will be used to suggest areas to consider for improved public transportation. Mr. Ferguson reported that he attended the Copenhagen Fire Department’s annual banquet. The speaker discussed contemporary issues faced by firefighters and the training available to them. Mr. Ferguson also reported on his attendance at the SMART Management for Small Communities conference. The conference provided an opportunity for all parties to discuss their unique and their common concerns. Mr. Stewart and Mr. Watkins advised members of the date and agenda for the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Black River Watershed conference. Mr. Watkins presented a written report on a meeting of the Black River and Beaver River Advisory Board.
- Highway Superintendent – Mr. Sech reported the following pending and completed activities for the highway department: cold patching; roadside pickup; rebuilding the pumps on the broom; grading gravel roads; narrowing the entrance on the Taylor Road bridge; equipment maintenance; removal of plows and sanders; park maintenance and inspection of the heating oil tank. Mr. Sech reported that the Town shall receive a total of \$110,431 from CHIPS this year for road construction.
- Planning Board/ZEO – Mr. LaBarge reported that OWN Energy has been referred to the ZBA due to the project’s insufficient setbacks.
- Parks/Historian – Mrs. Thornton reported that the 4 River Valleys Historical Society will hold their annual meeting on June 18, 2015. Prior to the meeting, the authors of “Stone Houses of Jefferson County” will hold a book signing at Hiram Hubbard House.
- Circuit Rider – Mrs. Amyot reiterated the date for the Black River Watershed conference and bus tour.

Motion by Mr. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Ferguson to approve the minutes for April 6 and April 27, 2015 as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

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

General #100-130.....	\$19,672.40
Highway #67-84.....	\$24,727.94
RACOG #9.....	\$74.90
Con WD#1 O&M #14-16.....	\$7,998.70
WD#2,4&5 O&M #26-30.....	\$3,922.50
SD#2 O&M #13-15.....	\$478.64
SD#2 Capital #3-4.....	\$642.00

Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

The Supervisor’s monthly report was read and discussed. Mr. Yuhas reported that the quarterly sales tax was up slightly from the same period last year. Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Watkins to accept the report as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

**New Business**

- Supervisor Buckley presented an amended fire contract between the Town and the Village of West Carthage. The contract gives the responsibility for fire protection in the area formerly covered by the Champion Fire Department to the Village of West Carthage Fire Department for an additional stipend of \$26,066.66 for the remainder of the year. J. Waite and J. Schell reiterated their opposition to the action. Motion by Mr. Buzzell to reinstate the contract with the Champion Fire Department. The motion received no second. Motion by Mr. Ferguson, seconded by Mr. Stewart to approve the amended fire contract between the Town and the Village of West Carthage. Roll call vote: Councilman Ferguson-aye, Councilman Stewart-aye, Supervisor Buckley-aye, Councilman Watkins-aye and Councilman Buzzell-aye. Motion carried.
- Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Ferguson to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

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Christina Vargulick  
Town Clerk