

**Organization Town of Champion**

**Board Town Board**

**Date and Time Monday, October 5 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 monthly session on Monday, October 5, 2015. Present were Deputy Supervisor Ferguson, Councilmen Stewart, Watkins, and Buzzell, Attorney Farley and Highway Superintendent Sech.

Deputy Supervisor Ferguson called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and opened the meeting for public comment. Diana Harris recalled remarks that Deputy Supervisor Ferguson had made regarding an upcoming vote by the V/West Carthage to dissolve the village court. She suggested that the Town Board was more willing to abide with a decision by village voters than voters in the town referring to the vote on the fire protection district dissolution and plan. Deputy Ferguson responded that the pertinent facts for the two votes were very dissimilar.

**Monthly Reports**

- Engineer – Kris Dimmick, BC&A, reported on the SD#2 project progress. Mainline pipe is installed on Cole Road and turning onto Farney Pit Road. A subcontractor is testing the pipe in preparation for connecting the gravity laterals. Discussions are underway with National Grid planners for the design and layout of the natural gas mainline.
- Highway Superintendent – Mr. Sech reported on activities during the previous month including: placing tally markers; winterizing the screens; mowing guide rails; harnessing sanders, plows, and wings; and equipment maintenance.

Mr. Sech discussed options to extend the warranty on the new Mack truck. He recommended a no deductible plan that would cover everything but the starter up to 250,000 miles for a onetime cost of \$2,850. Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Buzzell to authorize the Highway Superintendent to purchase the extended warranty for a cost not to exceed \$2,850.00. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Mr. Sech discussed funding in the Tentative 2016 budget for the purchase of a tractor and mower. He reported that he has inspected a used New Holland 110HP tractor with 422 hours with a full warranty on State bid at Walldroff Equipment. The tractor can be fitted with a Tier 3-3-point hitch Taggart mower and a 5’ side arm mower for a cost of \$85,500. The cost is a \$10,000 savings over the cost of the tractor new. Walldroff Equipment will hold the equipment and defer payment until next year. Motion by Mr. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Stewart to authorize the purchase of the New Holland tractor with mowing equipment from Walldroff Equipment at a cost not to exceed \$85,500 contingent on the adoption of the 2016 town budget. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

- Town Attorney – Mr. Farley presented Local Law #2 for 2015 – a local law to rescind Local Law #1 for 2014- a local law to override the 2% tax cap for action by the Board.
- Justice Court- Mr. Quinn commented that the NYS Magistrate Association objects to the dissolution of any court. He stated that impact of the dissolution on the town court is uncertain.
- Planning Board/ZEO – Mr. LaBarge reported that the Planning Board is dealing with minor subdivisions. He issued three permits for new homes.

Motion by Mr. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Stewart to approve the minutes for September 8, 2015 as presented. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

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

General #236-256.....	\$89,958.77
Highway #186-210.....	\$25,541.40
RACOG #21.....	\$1,582.00
Con WD#1 O&M #27-29.....	\$739.94
WD#2,4&5 O&M #57-61.....	\$4,097.23
SD#1 O&M #5.....	\$35,760.00
SD#2 O&M #35.....	\$133.12
SD#2 Capital #15.....	\$19,329.73

Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

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

Mr. Yuhas reviewed recommended modifications to the 2015 budget. Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Buzzell to approve the budget transfers as presented. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Board members audited the Supervisor's accounts as of August 31, 2015. Motion by Mr. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Stewart that the Supervisor's accounts, as of August 31, 2015, have been audited by the Board and certified by the signatures of the Board. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

### **New Business**

- Deputy Supervisor Ferguson presented the 2016 tentative budget. The total appropriation is \$3,386,911 with \$1,130,669 to be raised by taxes at a rate of \$3.00/\$1,000 of assessed value. Motion by Mr. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Stewart to schedule a public hearing on the 2016 budget for 11/2/15 at 7:00pm. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Deputy Supervisor Ferguson stated that the tax rate for Champion Fire Protection District No. 1 and Protection District No. 2 is tentatively set for \$.85/\$1,000 of assessed value, down \$.05 from the 2015 rate. Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Watkins to schedule a public hearing on the fire contracts for 11/2/15 at 7:00pm. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Deputy Supervisor Ferguson explained that in order for T/Champion taxpayers to receive a refund from the tax cap freeze that the Town must rescind Local Law #1 for 2014 - A Local Law to Override the Tax Cap. The Town adopted the override but stayed under the tax cap by almost \$20,000. Motion by Mr. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Stewart to schedule a public hearing on Local Law #2 for 2015 - A Local Law to Rescind Local Law #1 for 2014 for 11/2/15 at 7:00pm. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Buzzell to authorize Deputy Supervisor Ferguson to execute documents for the Sewer District No. 2 Improvement project. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Buzzell to add Britton Drive and Harper Road to the NYS Inventory of T/Champion roads. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Deputy Supervisor Ferguson reported that the Town received a petition on 9/24/2015 for a permissive referendum on the adopted fire protection district dissolution plan. The petition has been reviewed and certified as insufficient to initiate a referendum. Deputy Supervisor Ferguson stated that according to a report in the Carthage Republican Tribune that an Article 78 has or will be filed to determine the validity of the fire protection district plan for dissolution. Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Watkins to authorize Attorney Robert Slye to defend the Town if the action is filed. Vote: Mr. Stewart-aye, Mr. Watkins-aye, Mr. Buzzell-nay, and Deputy Supervisor Ferguson-aye. Motion carried.
- Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Buzzell to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:01pm.

Christina Vargulick  
Christina Vargulick  
Town Clerk