

Organization Town of Champion

Board Town Board

Date and Time Monday, May 23 2016 at 10:00 AM

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, May 23, 2016 at the Town Municipal Building, 10 North Broad Street, West Carthage. Present were Supervisor Ferguson, Councilmen Watkins, Stewart, Buzzell, and Leary and Highway Superintendent Sech.

Supervisor Ferguson called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

New Business

- Board members reviewed Local Law #2 for 2016- A Local Law reducing the exemption in the Town of Champion as provided under Section 485b of the Real Property Tax Law. Motion by Mr. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Stewart to schedule a public hearing on the proposed law for June 6, 2016 at 7:00pm. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Board members considered the recommendation by the Highway Superintendent for the expenditure of Consolidated Highway Improvement Program (CHIP) funds for improvements to portions of Martin Street, Harper Drive, Jackson Road and Lamb Road at a cost of \$84,838.05. The balance of CHIP funds remaining is \$11,925.00. Mr. Buzzell questioned the status of Putman Hill Road. Highway Superintendent Sech responded that the road would remain gravel this year so that the base may settle. The Board discussed additional anticipated funding from the CHIPs program but deferred appropriating additional highway monies until the Town receives formal notice. Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Leary to approve the highway expenditures as recommended. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

• Resolution offered by Councilman Leary; seconded by Councilman Stewart:

WHEREAS, Jeffrey L. Sullivan is the owner of the Sullivan Farm, consisting of approximately 232 acres in tax parcel 85.07-1-2.2 and 85.07-1-20.2 in the Town of Champion, Jefferson County (the "Property"); and WHEREAS, Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust is a New York not-for-profit corporation to accept, purchase, and hold conservation easements under section 170(h) of the Code and Treasury Regulation Section 1.170A-14(c); and

WHEREAS, the Property is located within Jefferson County's Agricultural District 1 created pursuant to Article 25-AA of the New York State Agriculture and Markets. It is the purpose of this article to provide a locally-initiated mechanism for the protection and enhancement of New York State's agricultural land as a viable segment of the local and state economies of the local and state economies and as an economic and environmental resource of major importance; and

WHEREAS, the Property is located within Jefferson County, which adopted an Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan in April 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Property consists primarily of productive agricultural land. The Property, which is 232 acres, contains 220 acres in active crops and livestock production, 128 acres of prime soils and 39 acres of soils of statewide importance as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service; and

WHEREAS, Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust determined that accepting this easement on the Property will enhance the long-term agricultural values of the Property and forward its mission of protecting the wild lands, working forests and farms of the Tug Hill region and surrounding areas, and to promote appreciation of the region's natural and cultural heritage, for present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, Sullivan Farm and Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust agree the purpose of the agricultural easement will be to perpetually conserve viable agricultural land by preventing the conversion for non farm uses. In achieving such prevention, the Property shall be forever reserved for continued agricultural use; a

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Champion Town Board adopts a resolution to endorse the submission of an application for a Farmland Implementation Program Grant for the Sullivan Farm by Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust. If funded, this grant will provide funding from the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets to purchase the development rights (Agricultural conservation easement) on the Sullivan Farm.

By order of the Town Board of the Town of Champion by the following vote thereon:

Supervisor Ferguson.....aye
Councilman Stewart.....aye
Councilman Watkins.....aye
Councilman Buzzell.....aye
Councilman Leary.....aye

Resolution adopted.

- Supervisor Ferguson discussed a resolution regarding support for minimum road maintenance legislation that was adopted by RACOG. Supervisor Ferguson recommended that the Town also support the adoption of the legislation.

Resolution offered by Councilman Stewart seconded by Councilman Buzzell:
WHEREAS, It is estimated that upgrading all of the State's 90,000 miles of county and town roads to meet the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) minimum standards would cost well over ten billion dollars; and
WHEREAS, There is only about \$85 million annually available to all municipalities for all purposes in the NY State Transportation Improvement Fund, and a State imposed tax cap is designed to limit locally financed expenditures on roads and public improvements; and
WHEREAS, There are many rural and remote areas of the State which can be adequately and safely served with minimal road maintenance; and
WHEREAS, Local governments are best able to make determinations about local road maintenance needs and priorities, be it
RESOLVED, That the Town of Champion supports the adoption of state legislation allowing town and county legislative bodies to designate minimum maintenance roads and provide appropriate maintenance to such designated roads as provided for in bills S02265/A01837.

Supervisor Ferguson.....aye
Councilman Stewart.....aye
Councilman Watkins.....aye
Councilman Buzzell.....aye
Councilman Leary.....aye

Resolution adopted.

- Supervisor Ferguson informed the Board that RACOG had voted to accept the Village of Deferiet as a voting member of the River Area Council of Governments. Motion by Mr. Leary, seconded by Mr. Watkins to authorize the Supervisor to execute the amended RACOG IMA to include the V/Deferiet as a member. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by Mr. Watkins, seconded by Mr. Leary to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 10:23am.

Christina Vargulick
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Town Clerk