

Organization Town of Champion

Board Town Board

Date and Time Monday, October 3 2016 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 3, 2016. Present were Supervisor Ferguson, Councilmen Stewart, Buzzell, and Leary, Highway Superintendent Sech, and Attorney Farley. Councilman Watkins was excused.

Supervisor Ferguson called the meeting to order at 7:00pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing

Proof of notice having been furnished, the public hearing on Local Law #4 for 2016 – Dog Control Law was called to order at 7:01pm by Supervisor Ferguson. Gary Workman spoke in favor of the law. No one spoke in opposition. All persons desiring to be heard, having been heard, the public hearing was closed at 7:02pm.

Supervisor Ferguson opened the meeting for public comment. Diana Harris, Bach Road, questioned why traffic was diverted to Bach Road during an emergency highway closure due to an accident. Peter Crump, Jr., West Carthage Fire Chief, advised Mrs. Harris that he would address the issue immediately. Chief Crump reported that the Village has taken possession of a new pumper truck and members are receiving training on the pumper. The department has received six (6) applications for membership and has ordered six (6) sets of turn-out gear to replace equipment that has reached the end of its service period.

Monthly Reports

- Highway Superintendent – Mr. Sech reported on the department activities during the prior month including: completing road shoulders; equipment maintenance; NYS inspections; and assisting the Villages of Carthage and West Carthage. Mr. Sech reviewed equipment that he is recommending that the Board declare as excess including: 3-Frink underbodies (as is); a 1.5 yd sander (excellent condition); an angled plow (new); sewer pump enclosure (as is); 2-used brush mowers (as is), and a small motorboat. Supervisor Ferguson noted that the requested crosswalk between the Meadowbrook Assisted Living facility and the Carthage Middle School has been painted.
- Assessor – Mr. Vargulick advised the Board that the assessment challenge from McDonald’s is still pending. Supervisor Ferguson announced that Mr. Vargulick was the recipient of an award from the NYS Assessor’s Association and commended him for him on the fair and even handed way that he deals with the public.
- Attorney – Mr. Farley advised the Board that he reviewed the proposed local law and associated intermunicipal agreement and approved both as to form.
- Planning Board/Zoning – Mr. LaBarge reported that it has been a slow building season and discussed those properties still in need of significant clean up.
- Circuit Rider – Ms. Amyot reported that Phil Street, THC, will provide training for the Cooperative Zoning Board on Wednesday and recommended that the Board approve the training so that the members may receive training credit. Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Buzzell to approve the scheduled ZBA training as credit bearing. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Leary to approve the minutes of September 6, 2016 as presented. Ayes-3, Nays-0, Abstained (S. Buzzell)-1. Motion carried.

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

General #226-245.....	\$9,126.35
Highway #164-180.....	\$59,441.42
RACOG #10-11.....	\$1,454.88
Con WD#1 O&M #26-30.....	\$2,372.68
WD#2,4&5 O&M #54-60.....	\$3,962.70
SD#1 O&M #4.....	\$35,760.00
SD#2 O&M #37-39.....	\$354.93
SD#2 Capital #19-22.....	\$44,600.86

Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

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

Board members reviewed a list of recommended budget transfers. Motion by Supervisor Ferguson, seconded by Mr. Buzzell to approve the budget transfers as presented. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Correspondence

Supervisor Ferguson reported that he attended a meeting regarding the Fort Drum Land Use Study. An executive board will review all aspects of the study but will utilize specialty boards for a number of topics. Supervisor Ferguson invited Board members to let him know if there is a topic of particular interest to them.

Supervisor Ferguson discussed the Town's designation by the NYS Comptroller's office as a town susceptible to fiscal stress. He explained that a significant amount of grant dollars, that the Town has advanced, has not been deposited to the Town as of this date resulting in the designation.

Supervisor Ferguson discussed a new initiative to provide the public with accurate information on current issues affecting the Town. As part of the initiative, the Supervisor has dedicated a portion of the Town's homepage(www.racog.org/Champion) to a section called "Get the Facts". Presently, the information regards fire protection including a map of the fire protection districts and fire district; the most recent ISO rating for Fire Protection District #1(FPD1), and information regarding the definitions for fire protection district and fire district, the administration of each, and current local rates for each type of district.

Supervisor Ferguson referred to a recent letter that was sent out by a candidate to selected individuals that suggested that changes, since the cancellation of the contract with the Champion Fire Company eighteen (18) months ago, have resulted in higher fire insurance premiums. Supervisor Ferguson urged all town homeowners located in FPD1 share a copy of the ISO rating with their insurer to determine if their rates may be lowered.

Supervisor Ferguson also requested that the Board consider a resolution authorizing filings with the NYS Comptroller and the NYS Attorney General to request that the facilities and equipment of the Champion Fire Department, paid for in part by property tax dollars, be allowed to be used for its intended purpose. Resolution offered by Supervisor Ferguson, seconded by Mr. Stewart to authorize letters to the NYS Comptroller and the NYS Attorney General requesting that the facilities and equipment formerly operated as the Champion Fire Department be used for their intended purpose. Vote: Mr. Leary-aye, Mr. Stewart-aye, Mr. Buzzell-nay, and Supervisor Ferguson-aye. Resolution adopted.

New Business

- Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Leary to adopt Local Law #4 for 2016 - Dog Control Law. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Leary to authorize the Supervisor to execute the intermunicipal agreement relative to dog control services with Jefferson County. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- The Board considered a request from the Long Pond Snowmobile Club for support of their application for TEA-21 Recreational Trails Programs grant funds to purchase a trail groomer. Motion by Mr. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Stewart to support the application for grant funds being submitted by Long Pond Snowmobile Club. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- The Board considered a liquor license application filed by Primo's De Tico's Grill and Bar. Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Buzzell to declare no opposition to the license and to waive the 30-day notice. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Supervisor Ferguson presented the 2017 preliminary budget. The total appropriation is \$3,205,039 with \$1,176,615 to be raised by taxes at a rate of \$3.10/\$1,000 of assessed value. Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Leary to schedule a public hearing on the 2017 preliminary budget for 11/7/2016 at 7:00pm. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Leary to declare the equipment recommended by the Highway Superintendent as excess equipment and authorize the advertisement and sale by sealed bid with minimum bids.
- Supervisor Ferguson recognized Michael Akin who questioned the abandonment of a portion of Taylor Road between Hall Road and Austin Road. Attorney Farley explained that the road was abandoned on the recommendation of the Highway Superintendent due to the condition and significant cost to repair the bridge.
- Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Leary to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

Christina Vargulick
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Town Clerk