

Organization Town of Champion

Board Town Board

Date and Time Monday, December 4 2017 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, December 4, 2017 at the Town Municipal Building, 10 North Broad Street, West Carthage. Present were Supervisor Ferguson, Councilmen Stewart, Watkins, Buzzell and Waite, and Highway Superintendent Sech.

Supervisor Ferguson called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Supervisor Ferguson opened the meeting for public comment. Diana Harris asked about the process for after hours notification to residents. Supervisor Ferguson stated that information would be presented later in the meeting.

Monthly Reports

- Engineer – Mr. Dimmick updated the Board on the status of the oil/water separator and fuel dispensing projects. The bids will be advertised later this month with bid openings scheduled for January 18, 2018. Mr. Dimmick also addressed an ongoing odor issue at an individual property in SD#2.
- Councilmen – Mr. Stewart reported that he attended the retirement celebration for Kathleen Amyot. Mr. Buzzell inquired about the water usage report for WD#2,4&5.
- Highway Superintendent – Superintendent Sech reported on the following department activities: roads – patching, plowing and sanding; the delivery of the 2018 Mack truck; hanging Christmas light fixtures; securing Village Green Park and providing assistance to the Hiram Hubbard House. Mr. Sech is retiring at the end of the year and thanked the Board for the support it has shown him. The Board expressed their appreciation to Mr. Sech for his leadership of the highway department for the past 16 years. Highway Superintendent Sech recommended that the Board open contract negotiations with the Teamsters Union to consider the addition of language regarding a night crew and job security for highway employees who are willing to run for Highway Superintendent. Mr. Sech stated that the experience that a highway employee, in good standing, brings to the leadership position is invaluable but that the employee should not have to risk unemployment and loss of benefits as a result of losing an election. Board members agreed that a discussion of the issues was a good idea. Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Watkins to authorize the Supervisor to open contract negotiations with the Teamsters Union.
- Assessor – Mr. Vargulick reported that there have been changes to the property tax exemptions for solar and wind power that may require Board action to opt out.
- Justice Court – Justice Quinn reported that the Village of West Carthage court was closed November 30, 2017. All Village cases will now be heard in the Town Court. The time for court has been changed to 3:00pm to accommodate an expected increase in the volume of cases. Mr. Stewart questioned the disposition of fines collected for the adjudication of cases involving Village ordinances. Justice Quinn reported that those monies would be paid to the Village through the Office of the State Comptroller.
- Planning Board/ZEO – Mr. LaBarge reported that he had received no applications for zoning permits and that the Planning Board had not met due to a lack of business.
- Parks/Historian – Mrs. Thornton thanked the Highway department for their assistance in both the park and Hiram Hubbard House. Supervisor Ferguson acknowledged a recent newspaper article about local historians that included Mrs. Thornton. He thanked her for the work she does.
- Circuit Rider – Mr. Dietrich reported on the recent RACOG meeting that included a webinar presentation from NY Alert. The free program allows municipalities to issue notifications to residents who register for the service for a large variety of potential emergency situations.

Motion by Mr. Watkins, seconded by Mr. Stewart to amend and approve the minutes of November 6, 2017 with the addition of “comprehensive” in the fifth paragraph. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

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

General #300-317.....	\$12,736.84
Highway #200-215.....	\$242,545.57
RACOG #10-13.....	\$13,318.72
Con WD#1 O&M #25-28.....	\$3,192.92
WD#2,4&5 O&M #77-78.....	\$3,700.60
SD#1 O&M #6.....	\$2,052.75
SD#2 O&M #55-56.....	\$961.91
SD#2 Capital #7-8.....	\$75,479.23.

Supervisor Ferguson advised the Board that the town general fund would be reimbursed in full for the monies up fronted for the construction of the natural gas line by the SD#2 capital project. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

The Supervisor's monthly report was read and discussed. Mr. Yugas reported that mortgage tax revenues exceeded the budget by approximately \$10,000. Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Buzzell to approve the Supervisor's report as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Supervisor Ferguson reported that he will attend the Fort Drum JLUS executive board meeting on December 18th. The Supervisor advised members that the next Comprehensive Plan Committee meeting is scheduled for December 12th to consider the comments from the public hearing.

New Business

- Motion by Mr. Waite, seconded by Mr. Stewart to schedule the year end meeting for December 29, 2017 at 10:00am to pay bills and conduct any other necessary business. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Waite to schedule a public hearing for December 29, 2017 at 10:00am to hear comment regarding the cable franchise agreement between Time Warner Cable Northeast LLC and the Town of Champion. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- RESOLUTION offered by Councilman Stewart; seconded by Councilman Buzzell;
RESOLVED, that the Town of Champion hereby accepts the 2018 Mack truck and plowing equipment project as complete, and;
FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Champion hereby recommends and authorizes Final Payment.

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

Resolution adopted.

- Motion by Mr. Watkins, seconded by Mr. Buzzell to schedule the 2018 organizational meeting for January 2, 2018 at 7:00pm. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by Mr. Waite, seconded Mr. Stewart to schedule a public hearing for December 29, 2017 at 10:00am to hear comment regarding the reclassification of Boni Road Spur as a local maintained roadway. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Waite to go into executive session to discuss personnel. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried. Executive session began at 7:59pm.
- Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Waite to return to open session. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried. Open session resumed at 8:14pm.
- Motion by Mr. Waite, seconded by Mr. Stewart to hire Matthew Sech as a full time MEO effective January 1, 2018 at a rate of \$20.24/hour. The contractual probationary period shall be in effect for twenty six (26) weeks. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Mr. Waite questioned the use of the transfer site by highway employees, questioning if it was a contractual benefit. The Supervisor responded that it is not.
- Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Buzzell to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:17pm.

Christina Vargulick
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