

The Town of Champion Town Board met by video conference with a Zoom meeting on Monday, April 6, 2020 to comply with Governor Cuomo’s executive order regarding public meetings during the Covid-19 pandemic. Information regarding public participation was posted on the Town’s website. The meeting was recorded. Present were Supervisor Ferguson and Councilmen Stewart, Watkins(7:12), Waite and Gump.

Supervisor Ferguson called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and opened the meeting for public comment. No one from the public addressed the Board.

Monthly Reports

- Councilmen – M. Gump reported that Otis Industries donated sanitizing products that he shared with local fire departments. Supervisor Ferguson requested that any remaining product be shared with the highway department. T. Stewart cautioned all members to adhere to social distancing and stay healthy.
- Highway – Supervisor Ferguson reported that Superintendent Strife is limiting the crew to a two (2) person maximum and is adhering to social distancing at all times. The crews are working on pothole repair, hauling sand and road sweeping in addition to repairs on the loader. Temporary employee, Zach Jones, has been laid off pending the lifting of workplace restrictions. Dexter Worden, at his request, has been relieved by Steve Mix under an agreement with the T/Rutland. Mr. Mix will be paid \$20/hour and the cost will be shared between the Towns.
- Justice – The court has been closed as per a directive from the Fifth Judicial Court.
- Planning Board/ZEO – Planning Board meetings have been cancelled until further notice. The Zoning Officer is issuing zoning permits. Jefferson County Building Code is managing and enforcing new construction as per state executive orders.
- Circuit Rider – M. Dietrich reported that meetings and trainings have been canceled. He is hosting Zoom meetings as requested. Supervisor Ferguson thanked him for his assistance.

Motion by H. Watkins, seconded by T. Stewart to approve the minutes for March 2, 2020 as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by H. Watkins to pay the following bills as presented:

General #73-104.....	\$18,093.27
Highway #42-55.....	\$34,096.64
RACOG #4-9.....	\$1,275.00
Con WD#1 O&M #6-8.....	\$484.75
WD#2,4&5 O&M #18-23.....	\$4,687.03
SD#2 O&M #15-20.....	\$48,769.79

Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

The Supervisor’s monthly report was read and discussed. H. Watkins questioned the receipt and disbursement in the trust and agency account. Motion by H. Watkins, seconded by T. Stewart to accept the report as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Supervisor Ferguson referred to information regarding municipal employees in New York and Covid-19 that was distributed to board members. M. Gump questioned why three (3) part time employees, who are not working, are not being paid. Supervisor Ferguson stated that they may apply for unemployment insurance if they are eligible.

New Business

- Supervisor Ferguson reported that the dates originally scheduled for the spring clean up days are not feasible due to social distancing and recommended postponing the spring clean up and holding two weekends in the fall. M. Gump stated that residents expect three clean up weekends. Motion by L. Waite, seconded by H. Watkins to schedule two (2) fall clean up weekends. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Supervisor Ferguson reported that the Town submitted a grant application on the recommendation of Assemblyman Blankenbush to widen the road shoulders on Cole Road and repave the section from NYS Route 26 to Constitution Drive. The Town was awarded a \$50,000 grant. Project costs may include the reimbursement of salaries and wages to employees for carrying out the project. Board members questioned whether the Town will receive CHIPs funding. Supervisor Ferguson advised that the funding was included in the adopted state budget but these funds are subject to the Balanced Budget Amendment, and the State Division of Budget must first certify that the state can distribute/spend the money without adversely impacting state funding for capital projects deemed essential to public health and safety or essential government services. Supervisor Ferguson remarked that the Town 2020 budget has potential losses of \$260,000 in sales tax and \$100,000 in state aid. Motion by L. Waite, seconded by T. Stewart to authorize the Supervisor to complete and execute all documents related the Master Municipal MM Capital Project Agreement (OSC Contract No.:D026075) Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Peter LaBarge, ZEO, stated that there is confusion among contractors regarding whether construction projects can proceed. Mr. LaBarge will contact County Building Code to request more communication with contractors.

M. Gump stated that he thought the public call in feature of virtual meetings should continue.

Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by L. Waite to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:57pm.

Christina Vargulick

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Town Clerk