

The Town of Champion Town Board met in regular monthly session on Monday, March 1, 2021 at the Town Municipal Office, 10 North Broad Street, West Carthage. Present were Supervisor Ferguson, Councilmen Stewart, Watkins, Waite, and Gump and Highway Superintendent Strife.

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

Supervisor Ferguson opened the public forum. John D. Peck, District 7 County Legislator, discussed an increase in vaccine allocations; reductions in virus transmission and hospitalizations; vaccine scheduling assistance available through the Office of the Aging for persons over 65 years old; resolution advocating for funds from the NYS agriculture board, and; pending full implementation of the County emergency radio communication project. He encouraged everyone to complete a broadband survey to identify unserved and underserved areas.

M. Gump reported that the Veterans Administration is operating a vaccination clinic on Saturdays for veterans. Supervisor Ferguson questioned if the radio system would be able to communicate with Lewis County. J. Peck stated that Lewis County had selected a different provider therefore the systems are incompatible.

Brian Peck discussed his National Guard experience and difficulties with incompatible communication systems.

**Monthly Report**

- Engineer – M. Altieri met with the Highway Superintendent to identify a location for a salt barn and to discuss size and design.
- Councilmen – M. Gump discussed a recent snowmobile/truck accident that occurred on NYS Route 126 and suggested a letter offering Town assistance to the West Carthage Fire Department and the Missing Links snowmobile club to relocate or amend the snowmobile highway crossing. Supervisor Ferguson reported that neither organization has requested assistance from the Town and questioned if action by the Town would assume some level of liability. Highway Superintendent Strife stated that he was a founding member of the club and would speak to the current club president about relocating the crossing.

T. Stewart reported that two chain hoists have been installed with new springs at Champion Station to allow the bay doors to be opened during a power outage. Equipment will be installed on the final door as soon as the parts are received.

- Highway Superintendent – J. Strife reported on snow/ice removal and moving snow banks back to facilitate drainage.
- Circuit Rider – A written report was distributed.

Motion by H. Watkins, seconded by T. Stewart to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2021 meeting as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by M. Gump to pay the following bills as presented:

General #46-75.....	\$212,501.80
Highway #20-35.....	\$24,894.03
Con WD#1 O&M #3.....	\$241.75
WD#2,4&5 O&M #12-18.....	\$4,221.00
SD#2 O&M #6-12.....	\$85,957.59

Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

The Supervisor's monthly report was read and discussed. Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by L. Waite to accept the report as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Supervisor Ferguson distributed information regarding scheduling vaccinations, summer youth employment through the Workplace, and a 2020 report from St. Pauly

who manages the used clothing collection bin at the transfer site. The bin collected 4,124 lbs. of clothing in 2020.

**New Business**

- Supervisor Ferguson presented the Health Emergency Plan with minor changes and reported that the plan was forwarded to the NYS Teamsters Council but no comments have been received. Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by H. Watkins to approve the Health Emergency Plan as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- The Board reviewed an agreement for professional services between the Town and Public Sector Consultants LLC to integrate both the Health Emergency Plan and the Workplace Violence Prevention Policy and reporting form into the town’s Employee Handbook along with any applicable Department of Labor updates. The agreement establishes the fee at \$175.00 per hour. Motion M. Gump, seconded by T. Stewart to authorize the Supervisor to execute the agreement with Public Sector Consultants LLC at a cost not to exceed \$175.00/hour. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Board members reviewed the prepared Workplace Violence Prevention Policy Statement and incident report form. The statement was developed in response to a PESH inspection. Motion by L. Waite, seconded by T. Stewart to approve the Workplace Violence Prevention Policy Statement and incident report form as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Supervisor Ferguson advised the Board that the Route 3 Sewer Board was planning on replacing the crumbling sewer pump enclosures in Great Bend. The Board reviewed the timeline and bidding documents. Motion by M. Gump, seconded by T. Stewart to approve the bidding process as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Resolution offered by T. Stewart, seconded by L. Waite,  
WHEREAS, the NY State Unified Court System’s ACTION PLAN FOR THE JUSTICE COURTS included initiatives to improve accountability and controls over Justice Court finances and records; and,  
WHEREAS, Section 2019-a of the Uniform Justice Court Act requires that justices annually provide their court records and dockets to their respective Town Board and that such records then be examined or audited and that fact be entered into the minutes of the board’s proceedings; and,  
WHEREAS, the Town of Champion Town Board did audit and examine said records and dockets provided by Town Justice Young for the fiscal year 1/1/2020 to 12/31/2020; and  
WHEREAS, the Town of Champion Town Board did audit and examine said records and dockets provided by former Town Justice Rivers for the fiscal year 1/1/2020 to 12/31/2020; and  
WHEREAS, the Town of Champion Town Board did approve said records and dockets of both justices as submitted;  
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Champion does hereby accept the books of Town Justices.

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

Resolution adopted.

- The Town Clerk’s 2020 financial report was audited by the Board.
- Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by H. Watkins to appoint Charles Richards to the vacant position on the Planning Board. Mr. Richards’ term will expire 12/31/2024. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

- On the recommendation of the clerk to the Supervisor, the Board discussed paying down an additional \$51,000 on the truck loan with USDA-RD. The pay down would reduce the term of the loan from 12 years to 7 years and save \$16,282.50 in interest charges. Motion by M. Gump, seconded by T. Stewart to transfer \$51,000 from the General fund to the Highway fund. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried. Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by L. Waite to authorize the Town Clerk to modify the May payment to include the \$51,000 in principal payment. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by Supervisor Ferguson to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:52pm.

*Christina Vargulick*

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Town Clerk