

The Town of Champion Town Board met in regular monthly session on Monday, August 2, 2021 at the Town Municipal Building, 10 North Broad Street, West Carthage. Present were Supervisor Ferguson, Councilmen Watkins, Waite, and Gump and Highway Superintendent Strife. Councilman Stewart was excused.

Supervisor Ferguson called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The public forum was opened. No one from the public addressed the Board.

### Monthly Reports

- Engineer – M. Altieri and M. Lehman presented a proposal to update and improve the water systems that serve the Villages of Carthage and West Carthage and to expand the service area and redundant water supplies for the Town water districts. The three alternatives ranged in cost from \$16,336,000 to \$24,276,000. The speakers suggested that the project could apply for multiple sources of funding. L. Waite questioned the increase in fees for the town water users. M. Gump stated that increases in cost may deter new users. H. Watkins inquired about pressure differences. The proposal has not been presented to the respective Village boards yet. The Board did not commit to the proposal but agreed, by consensus, to pursue more information.
- Councilmen – M. Gump reported that Champion Station needs radios compatible with the County radio system.
- Highway Superintendent – J. Strife reported the following activities: assisted the Villages with paving, repaired flood damage on gravel roads, replaced the windows at Champion Station, and improved drainage in the Champion Station parking lot.
- Planning/ZEO – P. LaBarge reported that the Planning Board approved a minor subdivision on County Route 143. He issued numerous zoning permits.
- Circuit Rider – M. Dietrich presented his monthly report.

Motion by H. Watkins, seconded by L. Waite to approve the minutes of July 5, 2021 as presented. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by L. Waite, seconded by M. Gump to pay the following bills as presented:

General #205-232.....	\$18,455.88
Highway #101-111.....	\$22,520.27
RACOG #13.....	\$16.44
Con WD#1 O&M #13-14.....	\$9,276.14
WD#2,4&5 O&M #51-57.....	\$34,244.69
SD#2 O&M #28-30.....	\$1,200.54

Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

The Supervisor's monthly report was read and discussed. Funds from the American Rescue Plan (ARPA) were received in the amount of \$121,248.20. Motion by M. Gump, seconded by H. Watkins to accept the report as presented. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Supervisor Ferguson reviewed the budget calendar. Board members agreed, by consensus, to schedule a budget workshop on September 28, 2021 at 7:00pm.

Supervisor Ferguson distributed copies of the court's final accounting for the former Champion Volunteer Fire Company. Supervisor Ferguson suggested that any remaining funds may be distributed on a pro-rata assessment basis to West Carthage and Copenhagen. L. Waite advocated for a 50/50 division. Supervisor Ferguson stated that disbursement instructions will come from the Office of the Attorney General.

Supervisor Ferguson reported that the Public Service Commission has approved the Community Aggregation Plan for the Town.

**New Business**

- Board members considered the outlined priorities for the expenditure of the ARPA funds. Supervisor Ferguson recommended the replacement of the backup generators at Champion Heights reservoir and Farney Pit pump station, as identified in the asset management report, and installing a backup generator at the highway barn. Motion by M. Gump, seconded by H. Watkins to replace the backup generators at Champion Heights reservoir and Farney Pit pump station, as identified in the asset management report, and install a backup generator at the highway barn. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by L. Waite, seconded by M. Gump to reschedule the September town board meeting for Tuesday, September 7, 2021. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by L. Waite, seconded by H. Watkins to schedule a public hearing on Local Law #3 for 2021 – a Local Law to Opt Out of Allowing Cannabis Retail Dispensaries and on-site Consumption Sites as Authorized under the Cannabis Law Article 4. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by M. Gump, seconded by H. Watkins to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:24pm.

*Christina Vargulick*

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Town Clerk