

The Town of Champion Town Board met in regular monthly session on Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at the Town Municipal Building, 10 North Broad Street, West Carthage. Present were Supervisor Ferguson, Councilmen Stewart, Watkins and Waite, and Highway Superintendent Strife. Councilman Gump was absent.

Supervisor Ferguson called the meeting order at 7:03pm. The following resolution was offered by T. Stewart, seconded by L. Waite:

#### In Recognition of Faithful Service

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Champion believes that a Councilman should be recognized for faithful service to the public and;

WHEREAS, Henry S. Watkins has served as Councilman for forty-four years and;

WHEREAS, Henry S. Watkins has served the Town faithfully and well during his lengthy tenure with the Town of Champion;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Champion does hereby express its appreciation to Henry S. Watkins for his many years of dedicated service to the Town government and to the citizens of the Town of Champion and hereby establishes the Henry S. Watkins Board Room.

Ayes-3, Nays-0, Abstaining-1 (Mr. Watkins). Resolution adopted.

James Nabywaniec, representing Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush, read a resolution also recognizing Councilman Watkins' extraordinary service. Supervisor Ferguson made a few remarks and then unveiled a photograph of the Councilman, a plaque recognizing his forty-four (44) years of service and a sign hanging over the entrance to the Board room naming it the "Henry S. Watkins Board Room".

Proof of notice having been furnished, the 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 Cannabis Law Article 4 was called to order at 7:04pm. Jonathan Schell spoke against the proposed law. No one spoke in favor. All persons desiring to be heard having been heard, the hearing was closed at 7:06pm.

#### **Monthly Reports**

- Councilmen – Mr. Stewart stated that he has noticed a crack in the fireplace at Champion Village Park. Ken Good will be contacted to inspect the fireplace.
- Highway Superintendent – Mr. Strife requested that the following equipment be declared excess and made available for sale through Auctions International: 2008 Ford pickup truck, 10' utility trailer, and a 1998 backhoe attachment. Motion by L. Waite, seconded by T. Stewart to declare the equipment excessed and to authorize its sale. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Mr. Strife requested adding a night crew running from December 1 to March 31 as needed. Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by L. Waite to authorize the Highway Superintendent to hire M. Micek and W. Gilmore for the night crew to run from December 1 through March 31 as needed. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Mr. Strife informed the Board that Sam Eddy has submitted his letter of retirement effective September 20, 2021 and that he anticipates the retirement of an additional employee in October. Mr. Strife requests filling the vacancies at the MEO rate with a probation period of twenty-six (26) weeks to attract qualified candidates. Zachary Jones, who has previously been employed by the highway department, has agreed to fill the first vacancy starting October 1, 2021. L. Waite recommended advertising the anticipated vacancy. Motion by L. Waite, seconded by T. Stewart to hire Zachary Jones at the MEO rate effective October 1, 2021. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried. Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by L. Waite to advertise the anticipated vacancy on the town website and to authorize

the Highway Superintendent to hire at his discretion at the current MEO rate. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Board members discussed holding the fall clean up weekend in light of the recent surge in Covid-19. Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by L. Waite to cancel the fall clean up weekend. Ayes-4, Nays-0.

- P. LaBarge reported that the Planning Board is reviewing an application for a minor subdivision in Great Bend. He issued eight (8) zoning permits in August.

Motion by H. Watkins, seconded by L. Waite to approve the minutes for August 2, 2021 as presented. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

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

General #233-268.....	\$42,180.73
Highway #112-130.....	\$26,500.88
Con WD#1 O&M #15-17.....	\$1,149.33
WD#2,4&5 O&M #58-62.....	\$4,140.84
SD#2 O&M #31-35.....	\$11,352.85

Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

The Supervisor's report was read and discussed. Supervisor Ferguson noted that the Town received an additional \$495.03 in ARPA funds. Motion by H. Watkins, seconded by T. Stewart to accept the report as presented. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Board members reviewed recommended budget transfers and a budget amendment. Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by B. Ferguson to approve the budget transfers and budget amendment as recommended (see attached). Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Supervisor Ferguson distributed the 2018/2019 Agreed Upon Procedures reports. He encouraged residents to take advantage of the sign-ups for community solar credits and provided a handout.

### **New Business**

- Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by L. Waite to adopt Local Law #3 for 2021 – A local law to opt out of allowing cannabis retail dispensaries and on-site consumption sites as authorized under Cannabis Law Article 4. Supervisor Ferguson stated that the activity is not compatible with the Town's adopted Comprehensive Plan. H. Watkins agreed and added that allowing the activities would create enforcement complications. T. Stewart and L. Waite both agreed. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- The Board reviewed the engineering agreement from BC&A for services related to the emergency generator replacement project and expressed concern regarding the cost of the engineering service. T. Stewart strongly advised that controls for the new generator in WD#2 be located in such a place that the chlorine used for water purification does not corrode them. The Board clarified that the sewer pump station generator will operate on natural gas and that the generators located on Lewis Loop and at the Town highway barn will operate on propane. Motion by L. Waite, seconded by T. Stewart to authorize the Supervisor to execute the engineering agreement and to advise the engineer regarding the Board's concerns over the location of the controls in WD#2. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- The Board discussed the equitable distribution of the funds directed to Fire Protection Districts #1 and #2 by the court order issued July 14, 2021. The total funds to be distributed are \$79,323.70. L. Waite supported dividing the funds 50/50 citing items already received by the West Carthage FD. T. Stewart and H. Watkins supported a 60/40 split to V/West Carthage and the V/Copenhagen

respectively to support Champion Station 2. Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by B. Ferguson to divide the funds 55/45 to V/West Carthage and V/Copenhagen respectively. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

- Sam Eddy requested an opportunity to make a few remarks. Mr. Eddy, a forty-two-year long employee, thanked and complimented the Board, Supervisor, Highway Superintendent and Town Clerk on the professionalism they exhibit and the positive effect their actions have on the Town and its residents. Supervisor Ferguson thanked Mr. Eddy for his many years of service to the Town.
- Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by B. Ferguson to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:17pm.

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Christina Vargulick  
Town Clerk