

The Town of Champion Town Board met in regular monthly session on Monday, December 6, 2021. 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. No one addressed the Board.

**Monthly Reports**

- Engineer – M. Altieri reported on the status of the grant for the proposed salt barn. PESH has not been forthcoming regarding funding for construction of the salt barn. The design will be completed this winter. Engineering work concerning the emergency generator project on Lewis Loop and Farney Pit Road is continuing.
- Councilmen – Councilman Watkins discussed his lengthy tenure on the Board (1977-2021) and his involvement in projects/issues over the years including constructing the existing town barn, zoning, and fire protection. He expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve. County Legislator Peck presented a citation from the County Board of Legislators to Councilman Watkins. Councilman Stewart thanked Councilman Watkins for his service.
- Highway Superintendent – J. Strife reported that all trucks are prepped for winter and machinery parts have become very difficult to get. J. Strife advised that security cameras have been installed at the town barn on a recommendation from PESH.
- Planning Board/ZEO – P. LaBarge reported that the Planning Board is reviewing a site plan for Stewart’s in Great Bend for a store expansion and relocation of the fueling facility. He issued three zoning permits in the prior month.
- Circuit Rider – M. Dietrich informed the Board that the THC Local Government Conference will be held at Turning Stone Resort in April 2022 and reviewed his monthly report.
- County Legislator – J. Peck reported on the following pending County resolutions: increasing the limit for the senior tax exemption; re-development of the abandoned Deferiet paper mill; endorsing the economic development plan and the public transportation plan for rural areas of the County.

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

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

General #317-351.....	\$33,325.48
Highway #159-178.....	\$113,245.43
RACOG #18-21.....	\$575.00
Con WD#1 O&M #24-28.....	\$14,041.05
WD#2,4&5 O&M #80-86.....	\$5,570.90
SD#1 O&M #6.....	\$1,738.25
SD#2 O&M #42-45.....	\$8,770.12

Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

The Supervisor’s monthly report was read and discussed. Motion by L. Waite, seconded by H. Watkins to accept the report as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Supervisor Ferguson reported that he has been notified that the Town will receive a \$5,000 grant for completing a community solar campaign. As detailed in the grant application, the funds are committed to improvements to exterior lighting around the municipal building.

Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by H. Watkins to authorize the Supervisor to forward a letter of support the Jefferson County SPCA in support of their application for funding to accomplish major improvements at their facility. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

### **New Business**

- Supervisor Ferguson presented a 5-year contract between the Town and Jefferson County for dog control services. The annual cost of the contract has decreased due to more efficient management of the program. M. Gump asked for clarification of the monies paid to the County. Supervisor Ferguson responded that the town pays fifty-three percent of the licensing fee to the County in addition to paying the budgeted County chargeback for dog control. Motion by L. Waite, seconded by T. Stewart to authorize the Supervisor to execute the contract for dog control services with Jefferson County. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by H. Watkins to re-appoint Kathryn Smith to the Board of Assessment Review for a term ending 12/31/2026. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Supervisor Ferguson recommended December 29, 2021 at 10:00am to conduct the year end meeting based on the availability of D. Martel. Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by H. Watkins to schedule the year end meeting for December 29, 2021. Ayes-4, Nays-1 (M. Gump). Motion carried.
- Supervisor Ferguson commented on his time as supervisor as his term expires on December 31, 2021. He highlighted his goals including public safety, a positive budget, and improvements to town facilities without indebting the town. He underscored the contribution of those he worked with mentioning the fair market assessments made by the assessor during the revaluation; the highway employees and superintendent's work to maintain equipment and control costs while protecting the residents; the excellent financial planning accomplished by the financial director; the planning board chairman's efforts to make sure the zoning laws are followed and adhering to the comprehensive plan to protect the quality of life for residents; the town engineer's assistance in facilitating capital projects; and the Town Board working for what is best for residents. He ended by thanking all.
- Motion by L. Waite, seconded by B. Ferguson to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:42pm.

*Christina Vargulick*

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Town Clerk