

The Town of Champion Town Board met in regular monthly session on Monday, January 3, 2022 following the swearing in of newly elected officers. Present were Supervisor Peck, Councilmen Stewart, Russell, and Uhlinger and Highway Superintendent Strife. Councilman Gump was absent.

Supervisor Peck called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Supervisor Peck opened the meeting for public comment. John E. Peck congratulated his son, Supervisor Peck.

Monthly Reports

- Engineer – M. Altieri reported that the town has completed all submittals for the funding and anticipate permission to draw down the funds for the new salt barn. No response in regards to additional funding has been received from PESH. He suggested that the town may want to consider an application for CFA gap funding. The design of the salt barn is ongoing. M. Altieri explained that the town has committed ARPA funds to replace the emergency generator in Champion Heights due to the equipment’s age and the unavailability of parts. The emergency generator on Britton Drive will be converted to natural gas based on scheduling with National Grid. He explained that the emergency generators provide power to pump water for the use of residents and fire protection in the event that the electric grid is down.
- Councilmen – Supervisor Peck welcomed the new councilmen and stated that during challenging times good leadership is vital.
- Highway Superintendent – J. Strife reported that the department has been busy with snow and ice events. The turbo in the International truck has been repaired. Due to scheduling, he stated his intent to recommend the purchase of a Mack truck this year. Delivery is anticipated by the end of 2023. J. Uhlinger question if a Mack or International truck was preferred. Superintendent Strife responded that he has had issues with the International’s electric system and would recommend a Mack truck on state bid.
- Assessor – W. Vargulick discussed proposed changes by the State in regards to solar valuation based on megawatts.
- Circuit Rider – M. Dietrich reviewed his monthly report.

Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by B. Russell to approve the minutes of December 29, 2021 as presented. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by B. Russell to pay the following bills as presented:

General #1-17.....	\$35,204.41
Highway #1-4.....	\$57,192.23
RACOG #1.....	\$157.00
Con WD#1 O&M #1-3.....	\$1,163.10
WD#2,4&5 O&M #1-4.....	\$17,864.10
SD#1 O&M #1.....	\$123.00
SD#2 O&M #1.....	\$624.00

C. Vargulick explained that the bills are categorized under their appropriate fund and account. D. Martel stated that .1 is personnel, .2 is capital expenditures or equipment, and .4 is for ordinary expenses. J. Uhlinger asked for clarification for two vouchers.

Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

The Supervisor’s monthly report was read and discussed. Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by J. Uhlinger to approve the report as presented. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried. The Board was provided the revenue and appropriations report.

Supervisor Peck reported that he has received notice from the County that the Town will be provided a quantity of KN95 masks to distribute to residents. The masks

have not been received yet. Supervisor Peck recommended, in cooperation with Mayor Burto, distributing masks to the senior housing and providing two masks per person to residents of the Town, inside and outside the Village, as the supply allows. The distribution site will be the town office.

New Business

• Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by B. Russell to approve the following appointments:

1. GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

Deputy clerk – Helen Novak
Deputy clerk – Christine Scott
Court Clerk – Helen Novak
Deputy Court Clerk – Christina Vargulick
Historian – Lynn Thornton
Clerk to Supervisor – Donna Martel
Town Attorney – Timothy Farley
Zoning Enforcement Officer – Peter LaBarge
Deputy Supervisor – Thomas Stewart
RACOG member- Thomas Stewart
Planning Board member – James Surace (12/2026)
RACOG Cooperative ZBA – Michelle Stephens (12/2024)

J. Uhlinger questioned the appointments stating that he was unfamiliar with some of the recommended names. D. Martel explained that the recommendations and associated reimbursement (if any) were part of the budget process.

Ayes- B. Peck, T. Stewart, B. Russell, Nays-0, Abstain – J. Uhlinger. Motion carried.

Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by J. Uhlinger to approve the following salaries (see attached). Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by B. Russell to set the following meeting dates and times:

- a) Town Board first Monday of each month at 7:00PM
- b) Planning Board second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 4:00PM, as necessary
- c) Zoning Board first Wednesday of each month at 7:00PM, as necessary

J. Uhlinger questioned the time of Planning Board meetings. C. Vargulick, Planning Board secretary, reported that the Planning Board had received favorable comments when they changed their meeting time to 4:00pm a few years ago.

Ayes- B. Peck, T. Stewart, B. Russell, Nays-0, Abstain – J. Uhlinger. Motion carried.

Motion by J. Uhlinger, seconded by T. Stewart to designate the following banks as depositories: Community, Pathfinder and JP Morgan Chase. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by J. Uhlinger to authorize officials to attend necessary schools. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by J. Uhlinger, seconded by T. Stewart to reimburse mileage in accordance with IRS reimbursement rates. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by J. Uhlinger to designate the Watertown Daily Times as the official newspaper. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by J. Uhlinger to reauthorize the investment and procurement policies. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by B. Russell, seconded by J. Uhlinger to authorize Supervisor or Deputy Supervisor to sign checks. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried

Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by B. Russell to designate OnSite Testing Services to administer drug and alcohol testing. J. Uhlinger requested a copy of the town drug/alcohol policy. He was advised that it is contained in the Employee Handbook that he received. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by B. Russell to authorize the town cellphone for business use only. J. Uhlinger questioned who has a town cellphone and was informed that only the Highway Superintendent has one. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by B. Russell, seconded by J. Uhlinger to authorize pre-payment of utility, security, postage, fuel and any other payments deemed to be a savings. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by B. Russell to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:41pm.

Christina Vargulick
Town Clerk