

The Town of Champion Town Board met in regular monthly session on February 7, 2022 at the Town Municipal Building, 10 North Broad Street, West Carthage. Present were Supervisor Peck, Councilmen Stewart, Russell and Uhlinger. 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 comment from the public. Matt Morris and Elias Diamantis, both representing Convault Energy, introduced themselves to the Board and remarked that they welcome opportunities to work with communities.

### **Monthly Reports**

- Councilmen – B. Russell thanked the highway department for their maintenance of the town roads.  
J. Uhlinger reported on two meetings that he attended. He reported that the Jefferson County Planning Board met to discuss and make recommendations to the RACOG Cooperative ZBA and the Town Planning Board regarding requests for variances and a site plan, respectively. He also attended a meeting of the County Health Committee. He and V/West Carthage Mayor Burto expressed their concerns regarding the decision by the Department of Social Services to house indigent persons at the Pleasant Night Inn. Mayor Burto stated that the decision has put an undue strain on the police and other emergency resources and caused numerous complaints from residents and business owners. J. Uhlinger did not feel that the expressed concerns were heard and that the responses from Legislator Peck were inadequate.  
J. Uhlinger continued with a list of topics he would like to see discussed including: online meetings, updating the town website, a town Facebook account, drug and alcohol testing for all town employees, term limits for elected officers, addressing the issues at Pleasant Night Inn, lowering town taxes, development of NYS Route 26 corridor, updating the town zoning law, the Copenhagen Fire Department and lowering the Great Bend district lighting tax.  
Supervisor Peck addressed J. Uhlinger's remarks. He stated that Stewart's is an excellent corporate partner. Supervisor Peck has had discussions with Mayor Burto regarding Pleasant Night Inn and discussions with Mickey Dietrich about online meetings and Facebook. In regards to the Copenhagen Fire Department (Champion Fire Protection District #2), the town contracts with the Village of Copenhagen, not the fire department for services. In a discussion with Joe Plummer, County Emergency Management Director, no issues with the department's responses were identified indicating no breach of contract.
- Highway Superintendent – J. Strife reported that many hours and materials have been used to maintain the town roads and hydrants. Superintendent Strife distributed a state bid for a 2024 Mack Granite truck, extended warranty, and Viking plowing equipment at a total cost of \$255,885.80. The chassis pricing may need to be revised at the time of ordering. Superintendent Strife asked the Board to approve a letter of intent to purchase the truck and equipment so that the Town may be placed on the truck production list. Delivery would not be expected before November 2023.
- Assessor – W. Vargulick recommended amending the Town's law for the sliding scale income eligibility range for partial real property tax exemptions for certain individuals sixty-five years of age or over. The law has not been amended in twelve (12) years. He reported that the town's equalization rate will remain at one hundred percent (100%) for the 2022 roll.

Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by B. Russell to approve the minutes of January 3, 2022 as presented. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by J. Uhlinger to pay the following bills as presented:

General #18-58.....	\$464,672.92
Highway #5-21.....	\$31,904.60
RACOG #2.....	\$84.40
Con WD#1 O&M #4-5.....	\$7,952.18
WD#2,4&5 O&M #5-15.....	\$11,892.51
SD#1 O&M #2.....	\$64,889.50
SD#2 O&M #2-6.....	\$1,992.08

Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Supervisor Peck reported that the town office has distributed masks and test kits. A supply of the masks and test kits was shared with the Village and the senior housing within the Village. A portion of the ceiling and walls outside the board/court room were repaired due to water damage.

The Supervisor's monthly report was read and discussed. D. Martel explained that the decommissioning payment received for the NYS 26 solar facility was deposited in a separate savings account. Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by B. Russell to accept the report as presented. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

**New Business**

- The Board considered the Highway Superintendent's recommendation for a letter of intent to purchase a 2024 Mack Granite truck, extended warranty and plowing equipment from Viking at a cost of \$255,885.80 on state bid. B. Russell questioned the other quotes received. J. Strife stated that he had quotes from International and Western Star. He added that purchasing the recommended equipment allows for some standardization of parts and that the level of service from Mack is exceptional. J. Uhlinger questioned the extended warranty. J. Strife stated that the warranty is 5 years/250,000 miles. J. Strife clarified that the truck price may change at the time of ordering but that the equipment price included in the total is firm. The equipment price is \$109,894.80. Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by B. Russell to authorize the Supervisor to execute a letter of intent to purchase the 2024 Mack Granite truck, extended warranty and plow equipment. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- D. Martel, financial director, recommended establishing a capital reserve fund to set aside the funds to purchase the truck and equipment. J. Uhlinger questioned the Highway Superintendent's 5-year equipment plan and asked about renting a loader. J. Strife reported that companies do not rent loaders anymore and that the John Deere loader is thirty-one (31) years old and in need of replacement. Supervisor Peck stated that current inflationary pressures make fiscal planning an imperative to maintain stable operations. T. Stewart stated that replacement equipment is a necessary purchase. Supervisor Peck will refer the matter to the town attorney to develop a resolution for the establishment of a capital reserve fund for the purchase of highway equipment with a maximum reserve of \$300,000.
- The Board reviewed Local Law #1 for 2022 – A Local Law Increasing the Sliding Scale Income Eligibility Range for Partial Real Property Tax Exemptions for Certain Individuals Sixty-Five Years of Age and Older and amending Local Law #1 for 1986, Local Law #6 for 2005 and Local Law #1 for 2010. Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by B. Russell to schedule a public hearing on the law for March 7, 2022 at 7:00pm. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by J. Uhlinger to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:51pm.

*Christina Vargulick*  
Christina Vargulick  
Town Clerk