

The Town of Champion Town Board met in regular monthly session on Monday, March 7, 2022 at the Town Municipal Building, 10 North Broad Street, West Carthage. Present were Supervisor Peck, Councilmen Stewart, Gump, Russell, and Uhlinger and Highway Superintendent Strife.

Supervisor Peck called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Proof of notice having been furnished, the public hearing on 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 over and amending Local Law #1 for 1986, Local Law #6 of the year 2005, and Local Law #1 of the year 2010 was called to order by Supervisor Peck at 7:01pm. No one spoke in favor or against the proposed local law. All persons desiring to be heard, having been heard, the hearing was closed at 7:02pm.

Supervisor Peck opened the meeting for public comment. Lonnie Coons, Carthage, introduced himself as a potential Republican candidate for the U.S. Congress. He stated that he will be in the West Carthage area collecting signatures on his petition to be included on the primary ballot.

### **Monthly Reports**

- Councilmen – M. Gump proposed an appointed committee to review and update the adopted 2018 Town Comprehensive Plan and the Town Zoning Law. J. Uhlinger asked for more information regarding the housing of indigent persons at the Pleasant Night Inn including the number of residents, the maximum allowed and whether the placements are limited to Jefferson County residents. Supervisor Peck stated that he had contacted Mayor Burto to offer support and to question the level of Town involvement that the Village wanted. Mayor Burto responded that he was not seeking the Town’s involvement since the issues are a Village matter. Supervisor Peck reported that he has also discussed the issue with a number of County Legislators. Solutions that have been discussed are the potential for a private mental health treatment facility located on State Street, Watertown, improved access to services, and mini-houses on the former Mercy Hospital site. T. Stewart questioned why the former Children’s Home of Jefferson County has not been utilized for housing.
- Highway Superintendent – J. Strife reported no outstanding issues. He cautioned that road construction may be limited by the increasing costs for oil products.
- Assessor – W. Vargulick recommended that the Board approve the increased scale for the senior exemption.
- Circuit Rider – M. Dietrich reviewed his monthly report. J. Uhlinger asked M. Dietrich to consider changes to the town website to improve navigation. J. Uhlinger supports a town Facebook page and Twitter account. M. Dietrich responded that the town may have to develop and adopt social media policies. Supervisor Peck stated that the town must maintain compliance with NYS laws and cyber security issues. M. Gump stated that the current website is sufficient but using social media would improve the distribution of information.

Motion by J. Uhlinger, seconded by T. Stewart to approve the minutes of February 7, 2022 as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by M. Gump to approve the following bills as presented:

General #59-87.....	\$21,841.08
Highway #22-34.....	\$34,149.67
RACOG #3-7.....	\$700.00
Con WD#1 #6.....	\$319.55

WD#2,4&5 #16-23.....\$6,415.31  
SD#2 #7-11.....\$62,166.82

Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

The Supervisor's report was read and discussed. D. Martel noted that a savings account has been opened to invest the decommissioning funds paid by Energy Partners CM. Motion by B. Russell, seconded by M. Gump to accept the report as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Supervisor Peck reported that American Legion Post 789 would be holding a Vietnam War recognition ceremony at St. James Church, Carthage, on March 30, 2022 at 10:30am. He also reported that free Covid-19 test kits are available at the town office for any person.

### **New Business**

- Resolution offered by M. Gump, seconded by B. Russell to adopt 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 over and amending Local Law #1 for 1986, Local Law #6 of the year 2005, and Local Law #1 of the year 2010. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Resolution adopted.
- Resolution offered by M. Gump, seconded by T. Stewart to establish a capital reserve fund by the Town Board of the Town of Champion for the purposes of acquiring a 2024 Mack plow truck, extended warranty, and associated plow equipment. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Resolution adopted subject to permissive referendum.
- Motion by B. Russell, seconded by T. Stewart to authorize the highway superintendent to post roads as necessary. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried. M. Gump questioned posting child at play signs and was advised that those signs are no longer legal.
- Motion by M. Gump, seconded by J. Uhlinger to set the town clean-up days as follows: May 6 & 7, May 13 & 14, and September 23 & 24. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by B. Russell to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:52pm.

*Christina Vargulick*  
Christina Vargulick  
Town Clerk