

The Town of Champion Town Board met in regular session on Monday, June 6, 2022 at the Town Municipal Building, 10 North Broad Street, West Carthage. Present were Supervisor Peck, Councilmen Stewart, Gump, and Russell. Councilman Uhlinger 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. T. Williams, Copenhagen Fire Department, stated that a meeting is scheduled between the Village of Copenhagen Board and the members of the Fire Department Board.

Monthly Reports

- Councilman – M. Gump questioned the schedule for grieving assessments. W. Vargulick, Town Assessor, explained that grievance day is set in Real Property Tax Law as the fourth (4th) Tuesday in May throughout the state with the exception of towns that share an assessor that set an alternate date by local law. Persons do not have to appear in person to grieve but must complete and submit a complaint prior to the date for grievance. Change of assessment notices are mailed out in early May.
- Highway – J. Strife reported that the department has done work in the parks, road side mowing, and is working to improve the ditches on Bach Road to eliminate wash outs on the gravel road. Paving work on Jackson II Road will be scheduled in June. Supervisor Peck has made the County aware of a wash out on County Route 47. It is anticipated that the county highway department will begin work on the road in approximately three (3) weeks.
- Assessor – W. Vargulick reported that one person attended grievance day.
- Planning Board/ZEO – the zoning officer submitted his issued permits report.
- Parks – Supervisor Peck reported that Brian Sech is coordinating the 4th of July parade in Champion. The parade begins at 11:00am.
- Circuit Rider – M. Dietrich reported that the next RACOG meeting is scheduled for June 21, 2022.

Motion by M. Gump, seconded by B. Russell to approve the minutes of May 2, 2022 as presented. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

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

General #131-157.....	\$35,375.74
Highway #66-82.....	\$37,678.96
Con WD#1 O&M #10-12.....	\$879.00
WD#2,4&5 O&M #35-44.....	\$5,326.15
SD#2 O&M #18-20.....	\$1,532.66

Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

The Supervisor’s monthly report was read and discussed. Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by B. Russell to accept the report as presented. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Supervisor Peck read a letter from the Village Ecumenical Ministries (VEM) thanking the Town for its continuing support.

New Business

- Board members reviewed the bid results for the WD#2,4&5 emergency generator replacement project. The Board requested more specifics on the equipment. Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by B. Russell to table any action pending more information regarding the generator specifications. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Resolution offered by Councilman Russell; seconded by Councilman Gump:

Whereas, the Village of West Carthage Board of Trustees has recognized that the Pleasant Night Inn, located at 30 North Broad Street, meets the requirements of the Sex Offender Registration Act (SORA) and no law prohibits the location as a residency of registered sex offenders, and;

Whereas, the Village Board of Trustees has expressed their concern regarding the proximity of the Pleasant Night Inn to the Village baseball field (342') and playground equipment (783'), and;

Whereas, the Village Board of Trustees is aware that both the Jefferson County and Lewis County Departments of Social Services (DSS) are utilizing the Pleasant Night Inn for short term emergency housing placements of both Level 2 and Level 3 registered sex offenders, and;

Whereas, the State of New York defines Level 3 sex offenders as "high risk of repeat offense and that a threat to public safety exists".

Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Town of Champion Town Board supports the Village of West Carthage Board of Trustees requests for the following actions by the Jefferson County and Lewis County Legislatures:

- 1) That the respective legislatures suspend their rules to allow for the immediate introduction of a resolution.
- 2) A resolution be introduced that sets a new policy for DSS that:
 - a. Requires a background check for a proposed placement to determine if the individual is listed in the sex offender database.
 - b. Prohibit Pleasant Night Inn as a placement for anyone requesting assistance that is found to be on the sex offender list due to the proximity to facilities primarily used by children (baseball field and playground).
 - c. If for any reason an individual is placed there without knowledge of their sex registry status, that they be immediately relocated..

Supervisor Peck aye
Councilman Stewart aye
Councilman Gump aye
Councilman Russell aye
Councilman Uhlinger absent

- Resolution offered by Councilman Gump; seconded by Councilman Russell:

Whereas, the Village of West Carthage Board of Trustees has recognized that the Pleasant Night Inn, located at 30 North Broad Street, meets the requirements of the Sex Offender Registration Act (SORA) and no law prohibits the location as a residency of registered sex offenders, and;

Whereas, the Village Board of Trustees has expressed their concern regarding the proximity of the Pleasant Night Inn to the Village baseball field (342') and playground equipment (783'), and;

Whereas, the Village Board of Trustees is aware that New York State Department of Correction, Division of Parole is utilizing the Pleasant Night Inn for short term emergency housing placements of both Level 2 and Level 3 registered sex offenders, and;

Whereas, the State of New York defines Level 3 sex offenders as "high risk of repeat offense and that a threat to public safety exists".

Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Town of Champion Town Board supports the Village of West Carthage Board of Trustees requests for the following actions by the New York State Department of Corrections:

- 1) A review of existing policies and procedures for placement of persons under the supervision of Division of Parole
- 2) Policy changes be implemented that prohibit the placement of any registered sex offender parolee requesting assistance at any housing facility within 1000 feet of a municipal park or recreation area.

Supervisor Peck aye
Councilman Stewart aye
Councilman Gump aye
Councilman Russell aye
Councilman Uhlinger absent

- Board members discussed renewing the emergency shared service agreement with the NYS Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) for emergency needs. Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by B. Russell to authorize the Supervisor to execute the shared services agreement between the Town and the NYSDOT. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by B. Russell to reschedule the next meeting to July 5, 2022 to avoid a conflict with the July 4th holiday. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by B. Peck, seconded by T. Stewart to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.

Christina Vargulick
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Town Clerk