

The Town of Champion Town Board met in regular monthly session on Monday, November 6, 2023 at the Town Municipal Building, 10 North Broad Street, West Carthage. Present were Supervisor Peck, Councilmen Stewart, McMahon, Russell and Uhlinger, and Highway Superintendent Strife.

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

Supervisor Peck opened the meeting for public comment. No one from the public addressed the Board.

Monthly Reports

- Engineer – M. Altieri reported that the new heating system at the town highway garage is operational. There have been a few issues related to the electric system that the contractor is dealing with. M. Altieri discussed the heating system at Champion Station stating that the system is unreliable and should be replaced as soon as possible. J.E. Sheehan has quoted a new propane heating system at a cost of \$49,900 well below the estimated cost of \$75,000. Heating efficiency would be improved by approximately twenty percent. T. Stewart proposed that two propane tanks be installed to allow for a future emergency generator. B. Russell confirmed that the fire bay and meeting areas would be zoned separately. W. McMahon questioned the proposed system's useful life. M. Altieri stated that there would be a 10-year warranty and a useful life of 20 years. M. Altieri advised that there would be a four-week lead time for the equipment.
M. Altieri reported that the recent water issues in the C/Watertown did not affect the Great Bend area due to redundancies in the system.
- Councilmen – B. Russell reported that he had received inquiries regarding the online budget information and blasting at Champion Materials Inc..
- Highway Superintendent – J. Strife reported on electrical problems with the International truck that the company has not been able to identify to date. The 1996 Mack has been returned to plow service to fill the gap. Delivery of the new Mack truck has been delayed due to a labor strike but the new loader has been delivered and put into service. J. Strife discussed concerns regarding employee retention.
- Assessor – W. Vargulick was available for questions.
- Planning Board/ZEO – The zoning enforcement officer's report was distributed. The Planning Board has a vacancy due to a resignation. J. Uhlinger distributed a letter of interest from Tanner Richards. Motion by B. Peck, seconded by B. Russell to advertise for letters of interest to fill the vacancy. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Circuit Rider – M. Dietrich updated the Board regarding ongoing initiatives including electronic speed monitors.

The Board reviewed the minutes for October 2, 2023. W. McMahon noted that his remarks should have stated "NYS Route 3" rather than "Jackson II Road". Motion by J. Uhlinger, seconded by W. McMahon to approve the minutes as corrected. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

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

General #264-297.....	\$165,572.38
Highway #155-170.....	\$26,190.74
RACOG #27.....	\$12.70
Con WD#1 O&M #29-32.....	\$13,636.24
WD#2,4&5 O&M #78-93.....	\$47,378.75
SD#2 O&M #33-36.....	\$9,773.33

Ayes-5, 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-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

New Business

- Motion by W. McMahon, seconded by T. Stewart to approve the budget transfers as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- The Board reviewed changes to the preliminary budget based on modifications to County charges and taxable value. The tax rate remains at \$3.39/\$1,000 assessed value.
Resolution offered by T. Stewart, seconded by W. McMahon:
WHEREAS, the Town Board has met at the time and place specified in the notice of public hearing on the preliminary budget and heard all persons desiring to be heard thereon;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board does hereby adopt the preliminary budget as the annual budget of the Town of Champion for the fiscal year beginning on the first day of January 2024 and that such budget as so adopted be entered in the minutes of the Town Board; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk of the Town shall prepare and certify, in duplicate, copies of the said annual budget as adopted pursuant to Section 202A and B2 of the Town Law and shall present a copy thereof to the Supervisor of the Town to be presented by him to the County Legislature.
Ayes-5, Nays-0. Resolution adopted.
- Motion by J. Uhlinger, seconded by T. Stewart to authorize the Town Clerk to re-levy unpaid water and sewer charges. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- The Board discussed the condition of the Champion Station heating system and determined that an emergency situation does exist. Motion by B. Russell, seconded by W. McMahon to accept the quote from J. E. Sheehan in the amount of \$49,900 for the replacement of the propane heating system. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by B. Russell to accept the proposal from Christman Fuel Service Inc. for 2-1000G above ground propane storage tanks at a cost not to exceed \$5,000 per tank including installation with an initial fill of propane at \$1.39/gallon price fixed until September 30, 2024. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by B. Peck, seconded by J. Uhlinger to go into executive session to discuss personnel. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried. Executive session began at 7:48pm.
- Motion by B. Russell, seconded by W. McMahon to return to open session. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried. Open session resumed at 8:47pm.
- Motion by B. Russell, seconded by T. Stewart to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:47pm.

Christina Vargulick

Christina Vargulick

Town Clerk