

The Town of Champion Town Board met in regular monthly session on Monday, December 4, 2023 at 7:00pm at the Town Municipal Building, 10 North Broad Street, West Carthage. Present were Supervisor Peck, Councilmen Stewart, McMahon, Russell, and Uhlinger and Deputy Highway Superintendent Sech.

Supervisor Peck called the meeting to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence to honor Highway Superintendent Joseph C. Strife who passed away November 24, 2023.

Supervisor Peck opened the meeting for public comment. Diana Harris suggested that the sign at Champion Station 2 have a statement to honor Joe Strife and offered her support to the highway department.

Bruce Ferguson, former Town Supervisor, acknowledged and thanked Councilman Thomas E. Stewart for his service to the Town as a councilman for the past 28 years, serving with professionalism and honesty. He noted that Councilman Stewart was always available to assist with projects from start to finish.

John D. Peck, County Legislator, presented a certificate of recognition from the County Board of Legislators recognizing Councilman Stewart's years of service as not only a councilman but also as a village trustee and volunteer fireman.

Brian Peck presented a certificate of recognition from Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush also acknowledging Councilman Stewart's commitment to public service. Supervisor Peck also presented Councilman Stewart with a framed picture of the Councilman aboard the highway department's new loader. Councilman Stewart thanked everyone in attendance.

### **Monthly Reports**

- Engineer – Supervisor Peck reported that the new heating system in Champion Station 2 is operational. He also reported that NYSDOH has notified the Town that Well #2 is under the direct influence of surface water and is not adequately treated. Users have been notified and a plan to correct the issue is being developed.
- Councilmen – T. Stewart thanked the colleagues he has worked with and recommended that the Highway Garage be renamed the Joseph C. Strife Town Highway Garage and in addition, that the Town Municipal Building be named for Terry L. Buckley. Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by J. Uhlinger to rename both buildings as recommended. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried. Supervisor Peck shared thoughts about working with Joe Strife and thanked Deputy Superintendent Sech and his crew for stepping up and maintaining the high standards of the department.
- Highway Superintendent – M. Sech thanked his crew for doing all that needed to be done. He reported that the International has now been at Stadium International for three months. The initial repair request was for Stadium to replace the ECM. That has not been done while Stadium has replaced a number of other parts in an attempt to locate the problem. Supervisor Peck recommended a face-to-face meeting to strongly voice the department's concerns. The department replaced a sander motor and constructed a cement pad for propane tanks at Champion Station 2.
- Assessor – There were no questions for the assessor.
- Planning Board/ZEO – The Zoning Officer's written report was distributed.

Motion by B. Russell, seconded by W. McMahon to approve the minutes of November 6, 2023 as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

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

|                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| General #298-322..... | \$79,240.46  |
| Highway #171-179..... | \$216,717.95 |

|                           |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| RACOG #28-32.....         | \$700.00    |
| Con WD#1 O&M #33-36.....  | \$14,463.30 |
| WD#2,4&5 O&M #94-101..... | \$21,527.01 |
| SD#! O&M #6.....          | \$1,581.00  |
| SD#2 O&M #37-39.....      | \$1,658.80  |

Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

The Supervisor's monthly report was read and discussed. Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by B. Russell to approve the report as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Supervisor Peck acknowledged condolences and offers of assistance that the Town has received.

The Board reviewed recommended budget transfers and budget amendments. Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by B. Russell to approve the recommended budget transfers and amendment as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

**New Business**

- Board members reviewed quotes from Hyde-Stone Mechanical Contractors and Ontario HVAC to provide heating system maintenance contracts. B. Russell questioned the availability of Ontario HVAC. W. McMahon questioned why Ontario HVAC had only provided on call hourly rates when Hyde-Stone provided an annual cost. The Board tabled the item pending additional information.
- Motion by W. McMahon, seconded by J. Uhlinger to authorize the town clerk to advertise for fuel bids. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- The Board agreed by consensus to meet on December 20, 2023 at 6:00pm to pay year end bills and conduct any other necessary business.
- Motion by Supervisor Peck, seconded by T. Stewart to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters and litigation. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried. Executive session began at 7:32pm.
- Motion by Supervisor Peck, seconded by T. Stewart to return to open session. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Open session resumed at 8:18pm.
- Motion by B. Russell, seconded by J. Uhlinger to retain Att. James Burrows to defend the Town in a lawsuit titled NY26 Rentals and Mark Pomerville vs. River Area Council of Governments Cooperative Zoning Board of Appeals. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by B. Russell, seconded by Supervisor Peck to advertise for a temporary highway position with the potential of converting to full time. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by B. Russell, seconded by J. Uhlinger to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:21pm.

*Christina Vargulick*  
 Christina Vargulick  
 Town Clerk