

The Town of Champion Town Board met in regular monthly session on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at the Town Municipal Building, 10 North Broad Street, West Carthage.

New and re-elected officers, including Thomas Stewart, William McMahon, Brian Sech, and Matthew Sech were sworn in at 6:55pm.

Present were Supervisor Stewart, Councilmen McMahon, Russell, Sech, and Uhlinger, and Highway Superintendent Sech. Supervisor Stewart called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Monthly Reports

- Councilmen – W. McMahon suggested that the Town look into obtaining veteran’s banners for display. The Board will make inquiries. J. Uhlinger reported on a shortage of referees for sports.
- Highway Superintendent – M. Sech reported that the new Mack Truck has been aligned and equipment will be fitted at Viking. There are currently 200 trucks at Viking to be fitted. The issue with the International truck has been identified and the part ordered. Nine applications were received for the highway vacancy. M. Sech recommended Gary Sullivan for the position.
- Assessor – W. Vargulick discussed the trend approved by the Board to return the town’s equalization rate to 100%. Board members questioned the effect on property taxes. W. Vargulick responded that the Board controls spending and if there is not significant increase in spending then the increase in taxes would be minimal or no increase. The Board agreed by consensus to move forward with the valuation trend.
- Planning Board/Zoning Officer – P. LaBarge reported that he had received no permits for the month of December, 2023. A site plan for the construction of six 8-unit apartment buildings was approved by the Planning Board.
- Circuit Rider – M. Dietrich reported that the next RACOG meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2024 at 6:00pm in Copenhagen. He discussed the THC Local Government Conference, the Economic Summit, BOCES efforts to train water/wastewater operators, and the new associate circuit rider, Amber Swan.

Motion by B. Russell, seconded by W. McMahon to approve the minutes of December 4 and December 20, 2023 as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

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

General #1-15.....	\$46,616.31
Highway #1-5.....	\$37,195.24
Con WD#1 O&M #1.....	\$360.00
WD#2,4&5 O&M #1-4.....	\$18,419.00

W. McMahon questioned a payment to Bernier, Carr & Associates. C. Vargulick explained that it was for engineering done for the reconstruction of the Great Bend Stewart’s and that Stewart’s reimbursed the Town for the engineering work. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

The Supervisor’s monthly report was read and discussed. Motion by J. Uhlinger, seconded by W. McMahon to approve the report as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

New Business

- Resolution offered by J. Uhlinger, seconded by W. McMahon to approve the following organizational resolutions:

1. GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

Deputy clerk – Helen Novak
Deputy clerk – Christine Scott
Registrar – Christina Vargulick
Court Clerk – Helen Novak
Deputy Court Clerk – Christina Vargulick
Historian – Lynn Thornton
Clerk to Supervisor – Donna Martel
Deputy Highway Supt. – Mark Rice
Town Attorney - Timothy Farley
Zoning Enforcement Officer –
RACOG member- Thomas Stewart
Planning Board member – Frances Brooks

2. SET MEETING DATES AND TIME

- a) Town Board first Monday of each month at 7:00PM
- b) Planning Board second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 4:00PM, as necessary
- c) Zoning Board first Wednesday of each month at 7:00PM, as necessary

3. DESIGNATE BANKS-Community and Carthage Savings

4. AUTHORIZE OFFICIALS TO ATTEND NECESSARY SCHOOLS

5. MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT- In accordance with IRS reimbursement rates

6. DESIGNATE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER – Watertown Daily Times

7. REAUTHORIZE INVESTMENT/PROCUREMENT POLICIES

8. AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR OR DEPUTY SUPERVISOR TO SIGN CHECKS

9. DESIGNATE FIRM TO ADMINISTER DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING -

OnSite Testing Services, Inc.

10. CELLPHONES – Authorized for business use only

11. AUTHORIZE PRE-PAYMENT OF UTILITY, SECURITY, POSTAGE, FUEL BILLING AND ANY OTHER PAYMENTS DEEMED TO BE A SAVINGS

Ayes-5, Nays-0. Resolutions adopted.

- Resolution offered by B. Russell, seconded by W. McMahon to approve salaries:
Councilman: \$4,100 each, payable bi-weekly
Supervisor: \$22,000, payable bi-weekly
Clerk to Supervisor: \$21,550, payable bi-weekly
Town Clerk/Collector: \$48,960 payable bi-weekly
Justices: \$15,900 each, payable bi-weekly
Assessor: \$29,100, payable bi-weekly
Zoning Officer: \$9,975, payable bi-weekly
Town Attorney: \$8,000 payable bi-weekly
Court Clerk: \$23.32/hour, payable bi-weekly
Highway Superintendent: \$62,424 payable bi-weekly
Part Time/Seasonal MEO: \$19.75/hour, payable bi-weekly
Part Time/Seasonal Laborer: \$18.39/hour, payable bi-weekly
Deputy Town Clerk: \$20.40/hour
Consolidated WD#1 Clerk: \$6,000, payable bi-weekly
Water District #2/4/5 Clerk: \$5,000, payable bi-weekly
Sewer District #1 Clerk: \$3,700 payable bi-weekly
Sewer District #2 Clerk: \$5,000, payable bi-weekly
RACOG Clerk: \$500, payable bi-weekly
RACOG ZBA Clerk: \$1,000, payable bi-weekly
Planning Board Clerk: \$1,000, payable bi-weekly
Planning Board Chairman: \$1,400/yr, payable quarterly
Planning Board member: \$800/yr, payable quarterly
Board of Assessment Review: Chairman \$100.00; Member \$75.00 each
- Motion by B. Russell, seconded by J. Uhlinger to approve the hire of Gary Sullivan for the position of highway MEO. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

- Motion by B. Russell, seconded by J. Uhlinger to go into executive session to discuss personnel. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried. Executive session began at 7:32pm.
- Motion by W. McMahon, seconded by B. Russell to return to open session. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried. Open session resumed at 7:47pm.
- Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by B. Sech to appoint Peter LaBarge as zoning enforcement officer. Vote: W. McMahon-abstain, B. Russell-abstain, B. Sech-aye, J. Uhlinger-aye, and T. Stewart-aye. Motion carried.
- Motion by J. Uhlinger, seconded by T. Stewart to advertise for persons interested in the position of zoning enforcement officer. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by B. Russell, seconded by W. McMahon to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:49pm.

Christina Vargulick

Christina Vargulick
Town Clerk