

The Town of Champion Town Board met in regular monthly session on Monday, February 5, 2024 at the Town Municipal Building, 10 North Broad Street, West Carthage. 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. The meeting was opened for public comment. Terry Emerson encouraged the Town to share services with other municipalities to save money. Jonathan Schell thanked the highway department for its excellent service.

Monthly Reports

- Engineer – M. Altieri discussed the proposed plan to address both the surface water detected at well #2 and the disinfection by-products with filtration system improvements and mixing water from the Joint Water System through an actuated valve system that would be managed remotely through the existing SCADA system.
Supervisor Stewart noted that the recently installed air handlers at Champion Station need to be protected from accumulating ice. M. Altieri will contact the contractor.
- Councilmen – W. McMahon stated that he met with the town water operator. He noted that the Great Bend Fire Department will celebrate their 100th anniversary this year. A meeting is scheduled between Rob Sligar, Carthage Area Chamber treasurer, and Supervisor Stewart and Councilman McMahon to discuss the Chamber's needs. B. Russell reported that Great Bend would like to have more Christmas decorations hung in the hamlet. J. Uhlinger reported on school funding.
- Highway Superintendent – M. Sech reported that the International is back in service. He advised that he would like to purchase a tablet so that he may document highway issues and their subsequent repair.
- Assessor – W. Vargulick has submitted developed trending data to the State for review.
- Circuit Rider – M. Dietrich reported that the next RACOG meeting is scheduled for May 30. The date of the Economic Summit has been changed to March 28 at the Elks Club.

Motion by B. Sech, seconded by B. Russell to approve the minutes of January 2, 2024 as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by B. Sech, seconded by W. McMahon to pay the following bills as presented:

General #16-48.....	\$481,372.94
Highway #6-25.....	53,028.99
RACOG #1-3.....	2,704.40
Con WD#1 O&M #2-4.....	10,180.00
WD#2,4&5 O&M #5-15.....	15,190.03
SD#1 O&M #1.....	63,689.00
SD#2 O&M #1-3.....	1,361.19

Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

The Supervisor's monthly report was read and discussed. D. Martel reported that the AUD has been submitted. Motion by B. Russell, seconded by W. McMahon to approve the report as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

New Business

- Supervisor Stewart introduced a resolution to increase the highway employee wage rate. Motion by B. Sech, seconded by B. Russell to table the action at this time. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

- Resolution offered by B. Russell, seconded by J. Uhlinger

Whereas, the Town of Champion Town Board reserves the right to increase the probationary wage rate for a new hire based on experience in accordance with the negotiated highway contract, and;

Whereas, Gary Sullivan has demonstrated that he has the appropriate experience.

Now Be It Resolved, that the Town of Champion shall increase the probationary wage rate for Gary Sullivan to that of MEO as per the contract effective January 8, 2024. This action shall not affect any other contract articles.

Ayes-5, Nays-0. Resolution adopted.

- Supervisor Stewart stated that he has received a letter of resignation from Peter LaBarge as Zoning Enforcement Officer and Planning Board chair/member. Supervisor Stewart commended Mr. LaBarge for his many years of service and professionalism. Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by B. Russell to accept the resignation effective January 31, 2024. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by B. Sech, seconded by B. Russell to go into executive session to discuss wages. W. McMahon asked if it was permissible for the public to reenter the meeting after the close of executive session. The public will be recalled after the session. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried. Executive session began at 7:42pm.
- Motion by B. Sech, seconded by B. Russell to return to open session. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried. Open session resumed at 7:53pm. The public was re-admitted.
- Whereas, the Town of Champion Town Board seeks to act in good faith with its highway employees;

Now Be It Resolved, that wages will be paid at the following schedule:

Effective	01/01/2024	01/01/2025	01/01/2026
MEO	\$24.00	\$24.48	\$24.97

All other rates and conditions in Article 21 and all other Articles will remain as previously negotiated between the Union and the Town of Champion.

By order of the Town Board of the Town of Champion by the following vote thereon:

Resolution offered by: B. Sech; seconded by: B. Russell. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

- Motion by W. McMahon, seconded by J. Uhlinger to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm

Christina Vargulick

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Town Clerk