

The Town of Champion Town Board met in regular monthly session on Monday, March 4, 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. Supervisor Stewart opened the public forum. No one addressed the Board.

**Monthly Reports**

- Councilmen – B. Russell asked if the replacement of the furnace in Champion Station was paid from a fire protection account. C. Vargulick replied that the work was paid from the building account supplemented by the expenditure of ARPA funds. Board members discussed the need to protect the air handlers that extend beyond the roofline and to replace ceiling insulation in a portion of the truck bay to limit the loss of heat. J. Uhlinger discussed congressional redistricting and CHIP funds. T. Stewart thanked the highway department for the installation of lighting in the back parking lot.
- Highway Superintendent – M. Sech discussed a request from Claude Phelps, T/Rutland Highway Superintendent, to support changing the local names of some T/Champion roads to match how they are named in Rutland. M. Sech requested authorization to request quotes for plowing equipment for the 26-27 Mack truck that the Board issued a letter of intent for. The Board agreed, by consensus, to authorize the Highway Superintendent to seek quotes.
- Assessor – W. Vargulick reported that the revaluation is close to completion.
- Circuit Rider – M. Dietrich provided updates on upcoming events.

Motion by B. Russell, seconded by W. McMahon to approve the minutes of February 5, 2024 as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

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

General #49-82.....	\$68,868.94
Highway #26-39.....	\$39,695.85
RACOG #4-8.....	\$700.00
Con WD#1 O&M #5-7.....	\$4,977.25
WD#2,4&5 O&M #16-22.....	\$8,141.42
SD#2 O&M #4-9.....	\$64,273.42

Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

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

Supervisor Stewart reviewed correspondence received during the month. The Board discussed a request from the Carthage Central School SADD chapter to sponsor their 2024 prom lock-in on Saturday, May 4. Motion by J. Uhlinger, seconded by B. Russell to donate \$50.00 to the event. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Supervisor Stewart reported that the Town has received a \$50,000 EFC engineering planning grant for the SD#1 infiltration and inflow reduction project.

Board members reviewed a report on the activities of the WJCTC submitted by Jonathan Schell.

**New Business**

- Motion by B. Russell, seconded by J. Uhlinger to contract with Public Sector HR to prepare an updated policy that meets the new NYS Sexual Harassment Policy

requirements and all other necessary compliance updates. Ayes-5, Nays-0.  
Motion carried.

- W. McMahon reported on a meeting attended by himself and Supervisor Stewart with the Carthage Chamber of Commerce to discuss the Chamber's budget request and define the use of funds from the Town. The figure discussed was \$5,500 that would be utilized to support the following events: \$2-\$3,000 for two(2) firework shows; \$1,000 to coordinate an event in the park in conjunction with the Champion Old Home Day; \$1,500 for veteran banners (\$370@); and \$1,000 for mutual support of other events the Chamber hosts. W. McMahon suggested that a committee be formed to coordinate and fund raise in support of the veteran banner program. B. Russell volunteered to head up the committee. J. Uhlinger questioned the amount of the request and discussed other town priorities. Motion by J. Uhlinger, seconded by B. Sech to contract with Carthage Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$5,500 and to amend the draft contract to list item #3 in Section 8 of the contract and to remove "coordinate and" from Section 3. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried. B. Russell volunteered to serve as the Town's representative on the Chamber of Commerce board.
- Board members agreed, by consensus, to hold two clean-up days weekends, one in the spring and one in the autumn. Dates to be announced.
- Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by J. Uhlinger to go into executive session to discuss filling vacant Planning Board and Zoning Enforcement Officer positions. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried. Executive session began at 8:02pm.
- Motion by J. Uhlinger, seconded by B. Russell to return to open session. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried. Open session resumed at 8:26pm.
- Board members discussed dates to schedule interviews with persons interested in serving as Zoning Enforcement Officer including March 13 or 18 at 6:00pm. Candidates will be invited to interview.
- Motion by J. Uhlinger, seconded by B. Russell to advertise the planning board vacancy in the Watertown Daily Times and online version for a period of seven days and post the information on the town website. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by J. Uhlinger to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

*Christina Vargulick*

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Town Clerk