

The Town of Champion Town Board met in regular monthly session on Monday, May 7, 2018 at the Town Municipal Building, 10 North Broad Street, West Carthage. Present were Supervisor Ferguson, Councilmen Stewart, Watkins, Waite and Buzzell (7:02), and Highway Superintendent Strife.

Supervisor Ferguson called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Supervisor Ferguson opened the meeting for public comment. Jennifer Waite made a number of statements in the matter of Jennifer Waite, et al., Appellants, v. Town of Champion, Respondent and asked for a response from the Board. Supervisor Ferguson advised J. Waite that the Board will not discuss ongoing litigation. J. Waite noted that the exemption on the property owned by the Champion Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. has been removed. J. Waite was given information regarding grievance day.

**Monthly Reports**

- Councilmen – Mr. Watkins thanked Supervisor Ferguson for nominating Lynn Thornton for Carthage Citizen of the Year. Mrs. Thornton was honored at a dinner held on May 2, 2018. Mr. Waite questioned the 2015 assertion by the Town that the Champion Fire Department was not adequately trained. Supervisor Ferguson stated that the department had the opportunity to refute the Town’s position in Supreme Court but did not offer into evidence any proof of training. Mr. Buzzell reiterated his support for the department and questioned renewing fire contracts at this time with the Villages of West Carthage and Copenhagen. Supervisor Ferguson stated that settling the contracts at this time will assist with 2019 budget development. Motion by Mr. Waite, seconded by Mr. Buzzell to contract for fire protection with the Champion Fire Department effective January 1, 2019. No action was taken.
- Highway Superintendent – Mr. Strife reported that the highway department continues to clean up after the recent wind storms. Mr. Strife recommended expending highway funds to reprofile and pave 1.42 miles of Cutler Road and “hot” top 1.0 mile of Middle Road Extension at a cost not to exceed the \$158,923.03 received in CHIPS road aid.
- Planning Board/ZEO – Mr. LaBarge reported that the Planning Board is reviewing a site plan for property owned by Lundy Development (86.05-1-31) to locate a storage yard for recreational vehicles. He issued four (4) zoning permits.
- Circuit Rider – Mr. Dietrich announced that the community resource map will be presented at the May 15<sup>th</sup> RACOG meeting. The June meeting will include a presentation from a potential developer of the railroad lines between Lowville/Croghan and Lowville/Carthage. NY Alerts has submitted the boundaries for the RACOG communities to its vendor.

Motion by Mr. Watkins, seconded by Mr. Stewart to approve the minutes for April 2, 2018 as presented. Ayes-4, Nays-0. S. Buzzell abstained. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Watkins to approve payment of the following bills as presented:

General #106-133.....	\$24,787.70
Highway #54-71.....	\$38,805.87
RACOG #11.....	\$145.73
Con WD #1 O&M #7-9.....	\$8,492.11
WD#2,4&5 O&M #22-30.....	\$4,942.10
SD#2 Capital #3.....	\$2,750.00
SD#2 O&M #17-22.....	\$40,804.90

Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

The Supervisor's monthly report was read and discussed. Revenues included county payments for bed tax, highway work, and sales tax distribution. Motion by Mr. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Stewart to accept the report as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Supervisor Ferguson advised the Board that the highway fuel facility project contractor will mobilize on May 9, 2018. The project is expected to take one month to complete. Supervisor Ferguson informed the Board that the Town and Justice audits will be conducted during the week of June 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **New Business**

- The Board reviewed the agreement to spend Town highway funds. Mr. Waite questioned why there was not a group road tour. Mr. Strife reported that, due to the number of serious wind storms, the County was not available to assist.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 284 of the highway law, the Town of Champion Town Board adopted the following resolution at a meeting held on May 7, 2018 for which the Board was given adequate notice as required by law and at which a quorum was present and voting.

Resolution offered by Councilman Stewart; seconded by Councilman Buzzell:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the monies levied and collected for the repair and improvement of highways, shall be expended as follows:

GENERAL REPAIRS: The sum of \$6,291.00 may be expended for general repairs upon 43.7 center lane miles of town highways, including sluices, culverts and bridges having a span of less than five feet and boardwalks or the renewals thereof.

IMPROVEMENTS: The following sums shall be set aside to be expended for the improvement of town highways:

a) On Cutler Road commencing at the intersection of Line School Road and leading to VanBrocklin Road for a distance of 1.42 miles there shall be expended not over the sum of \$92,404.27. Type: Rap 90% - 1s 10%; Width of travel surface: 20'; Thickness: 3.0".

b) On Middle Road Extension commencing at the intersection of Switzer Road and leading to County Route 163 for a distance of 1.0 mile there shall be expended not over the sum of \$66,518.76. Type: 12.5 MM F2 Top; Width of travel surface: 20'; Thickness: 1.5'.

Ayes-5, Nays-0. Resolution adopted.

- Supervisor Ferguson presented the proposed fire contract renewals with the Villages of West Carthage and Copenhagen to provide fire protection. Mr. Waite charged the Town with expending \$35,000 in legal fees to defend against lawsuits filed in connection with the termination of the Champion Fire Department contract and the suit filed by Jennifer Waite, et.al.. Supervisor Ferguson stated that the amount of expenditure was not correct and questioned how much the Champion Fire Department had expended. Mr. Waite answered that it was much more than that. Mr. Buzzell talked at length about the activities of the department including chicken barbecues and the auction and the money raised by those activities. He also discussed public use of the building for birthdays, anniversaries, and reunions.  
Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Watkins to schedule public hearings on the fire contracts with the Village of West Carthage and the Village of Copenhagen on June 4, 2018 at 7:00pm. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

- The Board reviewed the electric supply pricing proposal. The Town's current provider is Constellation New Energy at a cost of \$0.05899. The

most competitive supply quotes were also from Constellation New Energy ranging from \$0.04562 to \$0.04716 for terms ranging from 12 months to 36 months. Motion by Mr. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Stewart to renew the Town's contract with Constellation New Energy for a term of 36 months. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

- Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Watkins to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:52pm.

*Christina Vargulick*

Christina Vargulick

Town Clerk