

The Town of Champion Town Board met in regular monthly session on Monday, July 2, 2018 at the Town Municipal Building, 10 North Broad Street, West Carthage. Present were Supervisor Ferguson, Councilmen Stewart, Watkins, Buzzell, and Waite 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. Scott Burto, Mayor of West Carthage, spoke to correct allegations made against the responsiveness of the V/West Carthage fire department by Councilman Buzzell at the June town board meeting. Mayor Burto compared verified response times for the V/West Carthage Fire Department and the former Champion Fire Department from 2015. West Carthage FD responded approximately three minutes prior to Champion in all cases except for one call out when Champion FD did not respond at all. Mayor Burto stated that the West Carthage FD's focus is on protecting citizens and their property and residents should feel safe. He also invited volunteers from the former Champion FD to join the West Carthage FD. Supervisor Ferguson thanked the West Carthage Fire Department for its excellent service and noted the department's responses to not only fire calls but also down trees, washed out culverts and other emergencies.

Diana Harris, Bach Road, stated that she does not feel safe.

Monthly Reports

- Engineer – Mike Alteri, BC&A, reported on the highway fuel facility project. The equipment and software are operational and functioning as per specifications. Retainage shall be held pending additional operating time. The oil/water separator is installed and working.
- Councilmen – Councilmen Watkins and Stewart reported on their attendance at the Black River Watershed Conference including information regarding increased monitoring of the river. Mr. Stewart reported that the V/West Carthage and the West Carthage FD performed hydrant testing near the school including exercising the emergency valve between the Village and Town water systems. All components were fully operational and functioned without issue.

Mr. Waite questioned when the water system, serving the hamlet of Champion, is flushed. He asserted that a tank of water drawn near the fire hall contained sediment and suggested that the water account charged to Champion FD be adjusted. Supervisor Ferguson stated that the request should be submitted in writing.

- Highway Superintendent – Superintendent Strife reported Cutler Road and Middle Road have been repaved and recommended expending the remaining CHIPS funds to repair 0.01m on the curve of Jackson II Road. Resolution offered by Councilman Stewart; seconded by Councilman Waite: BE IT RESOLVED, that the monies levied and collected for the repair and improvement of highways, shall be expended as follows:
IMPROVEMENTS: The following sums shall be set aside to be expended for the improvement of town highways:
(a) On Jackson II Road commencing at Intersection NYS Route 3 and leading 1.3m towards NYS Route 26 for a distance of 0.01 miles there shall be expended not over the sum of **\$10,000.00** Type: 12.5mm; Width of travel surface: 20'; Thickness: 2.0"
Ayes-5, Nays-0. Resolution adopted.
- Justice Court – Justice Quinn reported that the court has been busy.
- Circuit Rider – Mickey Dietrich reported that NY Alerts is moving forward with its plan to include the RACOG communities and mapping of the Black River is complete from Lowville to Carthage. Mr. Dietrich discussed plans by a private developer to employ pedal cars on the rail lines. Mr. Stewart questioned the condition of the line spanning the river noting a bow in the natural gas line connected to the bridge and owned by National Grid. Mr. Dietrich stated that the

weight of the pedal cars makes them safe to operate on the rail line. Mr. Buzzell asked if the river hazards would be marked. Mr. Dietrich stated no due to the anticipated movement of many of the natural hazards – floating wood and sandbars.

Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Buzzell to approve the minutes of June 4, 2018 as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Buzzell to pay the following bills as presented:

General #167-186.....	\$210,923.21
Highway #93-107.....	\$39,247.22
RACOG #13-17.....	\$700.00
Con WD#1 O&M #14-15.....	\$461.10
WD#2,4&5 O&M #35-41.....	\$4,039.59
SD#2 O&M #29-31.....	\$1,353.52

Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

The Supervisor's monthly report was read and discussed. Motion by Mr. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Watkins to accept the report as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Supervisor Ferguson reviewed correspondence and activities including the following:

- Plans for a phased replacement of the gate valve bolts in WD#2 due to corrosion. There are seventy seven (77) gates valves and hydrants.
- Preparation of a development agreement between the Town and Team OBS LLC for road construction, water line installation and home construction in the development known as Patriot Estates.
- A letter from the Jefferson County Administrator requesting a commitment from affected towns for continued participation in the County dog control program. Efforts have been made to reduce costs. The County will negotiate with the City of Watertown to establish a more equitable division of the costs considering the large number of dogs in the City. Motion by Mr. Watkins, seconded by Mr. Waite to authorize the Supervisor to commit to participation in the County dog control program in 2019. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Signed fire contracts have been received from the Villages of Copenhagen and West Carthage for the contract period 2019-2023.
- The New York State Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the Town of Champion in the matter of Jennifer Waite, etal v. the Town of Champion. The Appellate Division order was affirmed, with costs.

New Business

- Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Watkins to appoint Christine Scott, deputy town clerk at the established rate of \$18.25/hour. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Highway Superintendent Strife recommended exchanging an angled plow, that was previously declared surplus, advertised for sale and received no bids, to the Town of Rutland for the use of the their roller for road construction. Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Buzzell to authorize the Supervisor to execute an inter-municipal agreement with the Town of Rutland for the exchange of the angled plow for use of the roller. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by Mr. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Stewart to authorize modifications to the 2018 budget as recommended. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried. (See attachment).

- Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Buzzell to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:09pm

Christina Vargulick

Christina Vargulick

Town Clerk