

Organization Town of Champion**Board Town Board****Date and Time Monday, October 25 2010 at 7:00 PM****Place Town of Champion Offices Board Room (rear of building) 10 N Broad St, West Carthage NY****Contact [Chris Vargulick](#) Town Clerk Phone (315) 493-3240 Fax(315) 493-2900****Minutes**

The Town of Champion Town Board held a special meeting at the Town Municipal Building, 10 North Broad Street, West Carthage, for which the Town Board and public were given adequate notice as required by law. Present were Supervisor Buckley, Councilmen Stewart, Watkins, Buzzell, and Peck, Attorney Farley and Joseph Plummer, Jefferson County Office of Emergency Management Director.

Supervisor Buckley called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and reviewed issues concerning the fire protection provided by the Champion Volunteer Fire Department (CVFD) including responses to dispatch calls, number of persons responding, training, and proficient use of equipment.

Mr. Plummer discussed the cost of operating a fire department and advised that expenses are outpacing revenues. Supervisor Buckley stated that funding will not correct the deficiencies that are of issue. J. Plummer suggested that the Board could consider consolidating departments. Attorney Farley advised members that since the other departments that provide fire protection are Villages and a fire district, that consolidation is not applicable. J. Plummer informed the Board that all of the liability for the CVFD rests with the Town.

The Board reviewed a report titled "Champion Fire 2010 Detailed Reports" provided by Jefferson County Office of Emergency Management in response to a FOIL request. The report contained information concerning the CVFD in regards to the number of dispatch calls, responses, and time enroute, at scene and cleared.

Board members discussed contracting with a more active and fully trained fire department to provide residents and property owners with fire protection. J. Plummer noted that former CVFD members, who were interested in continuing their service, would be able to apply for membership with neighboring departments. Board members discussed the impact of not offering the CVFD a contract. Attorney Farley advised that failure to receive a contract would initiate the dissolution of the department. Dissolution of fire companies falls under the jurisdiction of the NYS Attorney General. The assets of the fire company would be distributed by the Attorney General's office for their designated purpose - fire protection. The fire house and equipment could be assigned to a neighboring department, by the Attorney General, as a satellite fire station.

Board members agreed by consensus to the following:

- No contract will be offered to the Champion Volunteer Fire Department.
- Discussions will be scheduled with an adjacent fire company (ies) to determine coverage areas and contract amendments.
- A letter will be forwarded to the Jefferson County Office of Emergency Management informing them of the effective date of changes in coverage.
- The Office of Emergency Management will amend the 911 maps at the County level.
- A letter will be forwarded to the appropriate NYS offices to advise them of the changes.

The following scenarios for coverage may be considered by the Board:

- Contract with the V/West Carthage to cover the entire area previously served by the Champion Volunteer Fire Department.
- Contract with both the V/West Carthage and the Great Bend Fire District to each provide coverage to a portion of the area previously served by the Champion Volunteer Fire Department.

Motion by Mr. Watkins, seconded by Mr. Buzzell to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:20pm.

Christina Vargulick

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Town Clerk