

Organization Town of Champion

Board Town Board

Date and Time Monday, March 5 2012 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 met in regular monthly session on Monday, March 5, 2012 at the Town Municipal Building, 10 North Broad St., West Carthage. Present were Supervisor Buckley, Councilmen Stewart, Watkins, Buzzell, and Ferguson, Highway Superintendent Sech and Attorney Farley.

Supervisor Buckley called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and opened the public forum. The following members of the Champion Fire Department spoke regarding a request from the Town Board to comply with specific contractual requirements: Kyle Overton, Patrick McKenna, Craig Waite, Louis Waite, James Stout, and Jennifer Waite. K. Overton submitted a number of documents and a disk in response to the Town request. Mr. Overton asked if the Board would support the proposal to form a Fire District. Supervisor Buckley responded that the Board is not prepared to discuss the proposal since the Department has not complied with the audit requirement. Department members stated that the Town has also not complied with the contract citing the failure to mail letters by certified mail and communicating a request from the auditor via e-mail. J. Stout stated that if the Department did not have funds to replace tires and had a blow-out, that the Town would be liable. He questioned if a piece of paper (referring to the audit) would be worth it. Supervisor Buckley responded that the Town Board is responsible to the taxpayer and that compliance with all contractual requirements is important to establish accountability. Jennifer Waite confirmed that the Department has contacted Furgison & Co. to schedule the audit.

Todd Thomas and Candy Kinne, representing the Great Bend Fire Department and District, spoke in support of the proposal to form a Champion Fire District. Ms. Kinne discussed grant opportunities for fire districts. Supervisor Buckley stated that grants are not limited to fire districts and that the Town has offered the assistance of the Circuit Rider to prepare grant applications. The Champion Fire Department insisted that the Town had not told them that a grant writer was available. Ms. Amyot confirmed that she herself had spoken to department members regarding her offer to assist in grant writing. C. Waite reported that the Department had received a \$2,000 matching grant from NYSDEC for the purchase of a portable pump.

Jerry Flanders, Copenhagen Fire Department President, questioned why the Town had forwarded the fire contract to the V/Copenhagen for signature instead of the Department. Mr. Flanders stated that the Department owns its own building and equipment and is incorporated. Supervisor Buckley asked the Department to forward a copy of the incorporation documents so that the oversight could be corrected.

Jennifer Waite asked if each of the Town Board members would clarify their position in regards to the fire district proposal. Councilman Stewart responded that the department needs to prove that they can successfully run a fire department. Councilman Ferguson stated that before the Town can entertain the fire district proposal that the department needs to establish a level of confidence that a District could be successfully operated and that it would benefit the taxpayer. Councilman Watkins stated that a comprehensive financial audit would assure the community that the department is fiscally responsible and build community confidence. Councilman Buzzell stated that he is conflicted regarding the breadth of the audit but reminded the department that the Board has shown willingness to financially support the department if they comply with the contract.

Terry Emerson spoke to the Board about a moratorium on property tax exemptions. Mr. Emerson expressed concerns about the amount of property within the Town that is exempt from property tax. Supervisor Buckley shared Mr. Emerson's concern but stated that all property that is covered under a 501c 3 is wholly exempt from property tax.

Monthly Reports

- Engineer - Supervisor Buckley reported that the low bidders for the general construction and electrical contracts for the Consolidated Water Supply project have informed the engineer that they will not be able to honor their bids. The pipeline contractor has certified that they will honor their September 2011 bid.
- Councilmen - Mr. Ferguson thanked the Highway Superintendent for the tour of his department. Mr. Stewart commended the Highway Department for the work they did preparing the water construction site.
- Highway Superintendent - Mr. Sech reported that the department had spent a great deal of time cutting trees and chipping brush. He indicated his intent to post roads as soon as possible due to significant pavement deterioration.
- Justice - Judge Quinn reported that the Court had disposed of 105 cases in the previous month. Judge Quinn also reported that the Town has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$18,000 from the Office of Court Administration for the Court Renovation project.
- Circuit Rider - Ms. Amyot reported that the hardware and software for the JIMI project will be installed this week with the assistance of the Town Central Communication Coordinator and the County.

Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Ferguson to approve the minutes of February 6, 2012 as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

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

General #60-82.....	\$39,849.93
Highway #27-42.....	\$31,969.05
RACOG #3-4.....	\$126.02
Con WD#1 O&M #12-15.....	\$5,256.28
WD#4 O&M #7-8.....	\$160.00
WD#5 O&M #7.....	\$426.64
WD#5 Capital #2.....	\$299.94
SD#2 O&M #6-8.....	\$11,939.25

Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

The Supervisor's 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.

New Business

- Attorney Farley presented a modification to the Town Policy and Procedures Manual regarding Section 2.3 - Tobacco, Drugs and Weapons for the Board's review and action. Motion by Mr. Watkins, seconded by Mr. Stewart to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Champion has reviewed the current Personnel Policies and Procedures of the Town of Champion as adopted October 5, 1998 and revised May 3, 1999 (the "Personnel Policy"), and;

WHEREAS, the Town Board has decided it is in the best interest of the employees and citizens of the Town of Champion that the word "concealed" be removed from Section 2.3 of said Personnel Policy,

NOW, THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED that Section 2.3 shall read in pertinent part "weapons of any kind are not permitted on Town of Champion property, and are not to be carried by Town of Champion employees during the performance of work duties."

Ayes-5, Nays-0. Resolution adopted.

- Attorney Farley reviewed the proposed SCADA Services Agreement between the Town and the Development Authority of the North Country and approved the agreement as to form. Resolution offered by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Ferguson:

WHEREAS, the RTU controller and power supplies in the control panel at the Champion Heights water treatment plant are approaching the end of their useful life and are in need of replacement, and;

WHEREAS, the Town is desirous of receiving supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) services to upgrade the control panel.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Champion Town Board authorizes the Town Supervisor to execute an agreement between the Town of Champion and the Development Authority of the North Country to provide these services. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Resolution adopted.

- Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Ferguson to schedule the spring bulk clean-up for May 4 & May 5 and May 11 & May 12 during regular transfer site hours. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Supervisor Buckley reported that the Town has agreed to accept e-waste at the transfer site in conjunction with the T/Rutland. The e-waste will be collected in a separate storage container and transferred to the County Waste site as needed. A company known as "Sun King" has agreed to pay the Town \$.02/lb. for the e-waste based on weights recorded and reported by Jefferson County. Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Ferguson to authorize the Supervisor to execute an agreement with Sun King. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Buzzell to authorize the Highway Superintendent to post Town roads at his discretion. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Supervisor Buckley reported that the Development Authority of the North Country plans to submit a Local Government Efficiency Grant to explore the feasibility of sharing some GIS services between Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties, as well as the City of Watertown and the Tug Hill Commission. The Development Authority is requesting a letter of support. Motion by Mr. Watkins, seconded by Mr. Stewart to authorize the Supervisor to forward a letter of support for the Local Government Efficiency Grant to DANC. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Attorney Farley reviewed Local Law #3 for 2012 - A Local Law Amending the Town of Champion Water Use Laws for Water Connections, Disconnections, and Penalties with the Board. Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Ferguson to set a public hearing on the proposed amendment for April 2, 2012 at 7:15pm. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Ferguson to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:35pm.

Christina Vargulick
Christina Vargulick
Town Clerk