

Organization Town of Champion

Board Town Board

Date and Time Monday, August 3 2015 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, August 3, 2015 at the Town Municipal Building, 10 North Broad Street, West Carthage. Present were Supervisor Buckley, Councilmen Ferguson, Stewart, and Watkins, Highway Superintendent Sech and Attorney Farley. Councilman Buzzell was absent.

Supervisor Buckley called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and opened the public forum. Joe Plummer, Director of Jefferson County Fire and Emergency Management, discussed a proposal under consideration to erect a 180' communication tower on property located on County Route 47 to improve portable communications for emergency responders. The proposal includes twelve (12) towers located throughout the County that would also have the capability to utilize communication systems in neighboring counties. Councilman Ferguson questioned whether the antennas could be co-located on one of the nearby existing towers. Mr. Plummer responded that the Channel 7 tower is high enough but that it emits such a powerful signal that it would interfere with the proposed system's signal. He also discussed the prohibitive monthly cost of co-locating on a tower owned and/or operated by one of the telecommunication providers. Kris Dimmick, BC&A, reported that construction materials are on site for the SD#2 Improvement project with tentative construction start-up on August 6th. The project representative has been making contact with many of the residents within the construction area and executed some of the outstanding easements. No awards have been announced to date for the Northern Borders funding. David Miller and Kris Dimmick are studying the criteria for funding from the State and Municipal Facilities Program to determine the project's eligibility. A ribbon cutting is being organized to invite policy makers from EFC to tour the project area and see for themselves the positive impact the project will have on the area. Mike Harris criticized the Board for a "lack of consistency". He cited Town Board action that delayed a proposed Verizon tower and lack of oversight for the proposed County communications tower. Supervisor Buckley explained that the site plan application submitted by Verizon was under review by the Planning Board and RACOG Zoning Board of Appeals and that the Town Board had no role in land use reviews. The Supervisor also explained that the County is exempt from the Town's planning review. Jonathan Schell, Eddy Road, read prepared remarks regarding his concerns over the value and safety of his property in regards to the proposed fire protection district plan. Frank Koster, NYS Route 126, expressed his concerns over the number of personnel available to respond to fire emergencies during the summer firematic competition season. He urged that the Town require a minimum of thirty (30) responders in future fire contracts.

Monthly Reports

- Highway Superintendent – Mr. Sech reported on activities accomplished during the previous month including, but not limited to: topping 7500' of Jackson II Road with Novachip; grinding, profiling, rolling and paving South Lake Road; installing shoulders on South Lake Road and Jackson II Road; road side mowing; equipment repair; assisting the V/West Carthage with paving; and working for and invoicing Jefferson County. Supervisor Buckley requested a five year plan for equipment replacement prior to the start of the budgeting process.
- Assessor – Mr. Vargulick requested an executive session to discuss litigation. Board members congratulated the Assessor for achieving a score of 97% on the exam following his continuing education training held at Cornell.
- Planning Board/ZEO – Mr. LaBarge reported that the Planning Board approved one minor subdivision in July and that he issued a permit for a new house plus a number of smaller structures.
- Parks/Historian – Mrs. Thornton reported that she is working with a group to develop a bus tour of local historical sites. Mrs. Thornton has been charged with developing brochure to advertise the tour. Supervisor Buckley questioned if she had received any response to inquiries regarding funding to maintain older cemeteries. Mrs. Thornton reported that she has not received a response.
- Circuit Rider – Ms. Amyot reported that the V/West Carthage Trailhead Project is nearing completion and that August 14th will be the final day of operation for the Twin Village Swimming Pool.

Motion by Mr. Ferguson, seconded by Mr. Stewart to approve the minutes of July 6, 2015 as presented. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

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

General #178-197.....	\$19,054.12
Highway #132-156.....	\$134,820.44
RACOG #16-17.....	\$102.00
Con WD#1 O&M #22-23.....	\$8,575.56
WD#2,4&5 O&M #47-51.....	\$36,471.70
SD#2 O&M #25-27.....	\$687.78
SD#2 Capital #10-11.....	\$5,342.32

Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

The Supervisor's monthly report was read and discussed. Mr. Yugas noted that sales tax revenues are running very close to the 2014 earnings. Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Watkins to accept the report as presented. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

New Business

- Supervisor Buckley recommended that the Board schedule a public hearing on Local Law #1 for 2015 - to Override the Tax Cap. The Supervisor explained that the cap on budgets this year is .73% and that negotiated increases in health care premiums will exceed that figure. Motion by Mr. Watkins, seconded by Mr. Stewart to schedule a public hearing for Local Law #1 for 2015 for September 8, 2015 at 7:15pm. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Board members reviewed and discussed an application from Gerald Lacey, 32224 NYS Route 3, for a junkyard license. Mr. LaBarge explained the property has a home and a 3-stall garage. The pending site plan application submitted by Mr. Lacey seeks approval for a vehicle towing and repair service and used car sales. Resolution offered by Councilman Ferguson; seconded by Councilman Stewart:

RESOLVED, that an application from Gerald Lacey for a junkyard license for property located at 32224 NYS Route 3, Carthage, New York is hereby denied for the following reasons:

1. The proximity to neighboring junkyard facilities.
2. Additional junkyard facilities do not fit with Goal #1 of the Town of Champion's adopted comprehensive plan: promoting appropriate development.
3. The detrimental impact on the value of neighboring properties.

Supervisor Buckley.....aye
Councilman Stewart.....aye
Councilman Watkins.....aye
Councilman Buzzell.....absent
Councilman Ferguson.....aye

Resolution adopted.

- The Board considered a recommendation to increase the fees for zoning permits and minor subdivisions. Currently the fees are \$10 and \$15, respectively which does not cover the cost for legal notices. Motion by Mr. Ferguson, seconded by Mr. Watkins to raise the fees for zoning permits and minor subdivision applications to \$20 and \$30, respectively. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Ferguson to reschedule the September meeting for September 8, 2015 at 7:00pm due to the Labor Day holiday. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by Mr. Ferguson, seconded by Mr. Stewart to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing litigation. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried. Executive session began at 7:57pm.
- Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Ferguson to resume open session. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried. Open session resumed at 8:06pm.
- Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Ferguson to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:06pm.

Christina Vargulick
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Town Clerk