

Organization Town of Champion

Board Town Board

Date and Time Monday, August 1 2016 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 1, 2016 at the Town Municipal Building, 10 North Broad Street, West Carthage. Present were Supervisor Ferguson, Councilmen Stewart, Watkins, Buzzell, and Leary and Highway Superintendent Sech.

Supervisor Ferguson called the meeting to order at 7:00pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Supervisor Ferguson opened the meeting for public comment. Frank Koster advised the Board that the light on the Village Green Park pavilion is not working. He also suggested that the Board may want to consider putting a different surface under the swing set.

Monthly Reports

- Engineer – K. Dimmick, BC&A, submitted Form E #8 for signature and reported on a request to USDA-RD to expend project funds to hydrofrack well no. 1. USDA-RD has agreed to share in the cost of removing contaminated soils that were discovered near the boundary with property owned by the Joint Village Sewer Board. The Town shall enter into an inter-municipal agreement with the Joint Board and then contract with an approved environmental firm to clean up the affected soil. Mr. Dimmick reported that a Consolidated Funding application has been submitted for planning funds to study the feasibility of extending the new sewer line along a portion of Sayre Road and up into the development known as Champion Heights. Mr. Dimmick recommended reaching out to homeowners in the study area to ascertain their interest in the project and to identify any current issues of concern. Supervisor Ferguson reported that three property owners have reported that grass has not been re-established in the areas where the sewer line was installed.
- Councilmen – Mr. Buzzell questioned the access to Taylor Road bridge. Supervisor Ferguson and Highway Superintendent Sech reminded him that the bridge has been red-flagged by the NYS DOT. Due to the condition of the bridge, the NYS DOT will not allow either repairs or narrowed access. The cost for replacing the bridge is \$300,000. Highway Superintendent Sech suggested that if the bridge was removed and the property returned to the adjacent property owners, that it may be possible for the local snowmobile club to obtain easements to build a crossing suitable for snowmobiles. Mr. Stewart remarked that fire hydrants in the water districts need maintenance including weed trimming and painting. Supervisor Ferguson asked Highway Superintendent Sech to develop a maintenance plan.
- Highway Superintendent – Mr. Sech reported the following activities: road sides mowed for the second time including the water line from Sayre Road to Champion Heights; equipment repair; ditch maintenance; repairs necessary for the gravel screener motor; sand stored for Town and V/West Carthage; hauling paving materials from Fort Drum for crushing and use; and reported on tires illegally disposed of on Hall Road.
- Assessor – Mr. Vargulick reported that he has received one commercial tax challenge which has been forwarded to the Town Attorney.
- Planning Board/ZEO – Mr. LaBarge reported that the Planning Board is reviewing a site plan for a proposed school house on Boni Road. He issued ten (10) zoning permits in the month of July.
- Parks/Historian – Mrs. Thornton reported that she has responded to a number of calls regarding use of Village Green Park. Following the 4th of July activities, the 4 River Valleys Historical Society saw an increase in membership and donations.
- Circuit Rider – Ms. Amyot advised the Board that the Tug Hill Commission is coordinating budget workshops with Laird Petrie from the NYS Comptroller’s office. A workshop will be held on August 30th in Boonville.

Motion by Mr. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Leary to approve the minutes of July 5, 2016 as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

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

General #170-198.....	\$18,184.59
Highway #121-141.....	\$36,508.06
Con WD#1 O&M #20-22.....	\$10,216.09
WD#2,4&5 O&M #43-48.....	\$37,830.45
SD#2 O&M #25-28.....	\$1,760.80
SD#2 Capital #16-17.....	\$484.60

Ayes-5, Nays-0.

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.

Supervisor Ferguson circulated copies of a letter supporting the siting of a missile defense system on Fort Drum. He also reported that a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) exercise was the subject of the July Comprehensive Planning committee meeting. The meeting was attended by seventeen persons including members from the Comprehensive Planning committee, Planning Board, RACOG Cooperative ZBA, Town Highway and public. The survey results were presented and based on those results, a list of potential goals was developed by those attending for review at the next Comprehensive Planning committee meeting.

New Business

- Based on a recent article published in the Association of Towns magazine, the projected “2% tax cap” is estimated to be 0.42-.43%. Board members reviewed Local Law #3 for 2016 - A local law to override the tax levy limit established in General Municipal Law 3-c. Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Watkins to schedule a public hearing on Local Law #3 for 2016 on September 6, 2016 at 7:00pm. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Supervisor Ferguson reviewed contract changes negotiated between the Town and the NYS Teamster Council, representing the Town highway employees for the term covering 1/1/2017 through 12/31/2019. Wages would increase 2.5%, 2%, and 2% in each of the respective contract years. The health insurance premium will change from component pricing to composite saving the Town \$16,000 to \$18,000 in premium costs annually for the term of the contract. There were also modest increases in longevity and Class A CDL stipends. Motion by Mr. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Leary to approve the contract between the Town of Champion and NYS Teamsters Local 687 as negotiated. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Board members considered the recommendation by the Highway Superintendent for the expenditure of highway funds for improvements to portions of Bach Road at a cost of \$33,878.87. Motion by Mr. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Stewart to approve the expenditure of \$33,878.87 in highway improvement funds as recommended. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by Mr. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Stewart to approve the retirement resolution as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- The Town Board in their capacity as the Town Health Board discussed conditions at property owned by Kathy Hadley at 32610 NYS Route 3, Great Bend. Efforts by the Zoning Enforcement Officer and the Town Attorney to locate Ms. Hadley to inform her that the property violates Town Zoning Law have been unsuccessful. Board members, who visited the site separately, discussed their findings including garbage/junk piled to the east side of the residence but not within a building and a burned out vehicle with a broken windshield. Complaints have been made with the Town Clerk’s office regarding trash blowing on to neighboring properties and the unsightly condition of the property. Councilman Watkins noted that the garbage is accessible to the elements and animals. Councilman Leary stated that not only is the condition of the property a safety hazard but also an environmental hazard in regards to the fluids and battery in the burned out car. Councilman Stewart concurred with the stated findings.

Motion by Mr. Leary, seconded by Mr. Stewart to declare that the condition of the property (garbage/junk) located at 32610 NYS Route 3, Great Bend constitutes a health menace to the community and that the burned out car and broken windshield creates an unsafe and dangerous risk to the general public. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by Supervisor Ferguson, seconded by Mr. Stewart to take appropriate legal action to remove the identified public hazards at 32610 NYS Route 3, Great Bend and to levy the costs incurred for the removal on the 2017 property tax. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

- Motion by Mr. Watkins, seconded by Mr. Stewart to reschedule the September town board meeting for September 6, 2016 due to the Labor Day holiday. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Buzzell to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Christina Vargulick
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Town Clerk