

**Organization Town of Champion****Board Town Board****Date and Time Monday, October 2 2017 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, October 2, 2017 at the Town Municipal Building, 10 North Broad Street, West Carthage. Present were Supervisor Ferguson, Councilmen Stewart, Watkins, Buzzell, and Waite, 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. No one from the public addressed the Board.

Jon Furgison, Furgison & Co., CPA, presented the 2016 government wide and justice court audits. Mr. Furgison reported that both audits received an unqualified opinion which he explained was the most favorable opinion. Mr. Furgison reviewed the audit findings including segregation of duties, receiving reports/packing documents, payroll civil service certification and payment of claims.

Matt Johnson, Tug Hill Commission, presented the draft 2017 Town Comprehensive Plan as prepared by the comprehensive plan committee. Mr. Johnson stated the key benefits in adopting a comprehensive plan include defining the Town's vision with shared goals and strategies; prioritizing decisions and investments; providing a legal defense for land use regulations and programs; improving opportunities for grant and loan programs; and requiring consideration by other public agencies active in the Town. He outlined the procedure for adoption of the plan as follows: the Town Board holds a public hearing; refers the plan to the County Planning Board for comment; the Town Board holds a final public hearing and adopts the plan as presented or amended.

**Monthly Reports**

- Councilmen - Board members acknowledged Councilman Watkins' participation in the Honor Flight program. Mr. Watkins expressed his thanks to the Board and to the overwhelming "welcome back" that the Honor Flight participants received upon their return to Syracuse. Councilman Stewart reported that he attended the Honor Flight welcome event with over 500 other attendees. Mr. Stewart also attended the ribbon cutting for the new VEM food pantry building. Mr. Stewart reported that the site and building were donated by Mr. Robert Sturtz who shared that he first discussed the initiative with former Town Supervisor Terry L. Buckley. Councilman Waite, as per a directive from the September meeting, recommended the following to notify residents of water service interruptions: Add home numbers for the Supervisor and Deputy Supervision to the voicemail greeting message, include the Supervisor's home number on the town website, and contacting the local television station. Supervisor Ferguson directed Councilman Waite to prepare a detailed standard operating procedure for notifying residents.
- Highway Superintendent - Superintendent Sech reported that road construction is complete. He plans to replace a pipe on Jackson Road and repair a soft spot on the Lee Road. The new truck has been delivered and the plow equipment will be installed shortly. He reported on other activities in the department during the previous month including equipment maintenance, assisting the V/West Carthage and the T/Rutland, work done for the County, assisting with the bulk clean up. Superintendent Sech recommended declaring two trucks as surplus due to their condition and to redeploy a box and other equipment from the trucks to repair and maintain a truck still in the fleet. The plan would maintain five trucks in the fleet for four plow routes. Motion by Mr. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Stewart to declare the 1988 Mack and 1995 Mack trucks as surplus equipment. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried. Superintendent Sech stated that he has a verbal offer to purchase the trucks. Mr. Buzzell stated that he believes that the trucks should be put up for bid. Supervisor Ferguson requested that the offer be submitted in writing and will refer the question regarding bidding to the town attorney for an opinion.
- Justice Court - Justice Quinn reported on discussions to change the time for court to 3:00pm that may require hiring security. He also discussed the capacity of the board room. Supervisor Ferguson requested that the justice department confer with him about any issues that may have budget implications.
- Planning Board/ZEO - Mr. LaBarge reported that the Planning Board is reviewing a minor subdivision and potential major subdivision. Mr. LaBarge issued six zoning permits in September.
- Parks/Historian - Mrs. Thornton invited the public to the dedication of the Asa Hadsall Family monument on October 3. The monument was donated by T. F. Wright and Sons Granite Foundry. The burial site is located on the Mark Freeman farm. Mrs. Thornton also invited the public to the annual 4River Valleys Historical Society meeting on October 15.
- Circuit Rider - Mickey Dietrich, the new circuit rider, reported that there will be a RACOG meeting on October 12 at the V/Carthage Municipal Building at 6:00pm and a number of upcoming agency meetings.

Motion by Mr. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Stewart to approve the minutes for September 5, 2017 as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

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

General #238-264.....	\$18,223.75
Highway #158-176.....	\$28,374.48
RACOG #8.....	\$500.00
Con WD#1 O&M #20-22.....	\$1,797.86
WD#2,4&5 O&M #59-64.....	\$5,949.65
SD#2 O&M #5.....	\$35,760.00
SD#2 O&M #42-47.....	\$19,863.01

Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

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

Supervisor Ferguson reported that the most recent Comptroller's stress report has changed the Town's status to "no designation", a significant improvement in status. Supervisor Ferguson reported that, in response to an inquiry, the town attorney has stated that the Town retained its right-of-way on the Boni Road Spur when the Board classified the road as qualified abandoned. The Supervisor has requested that EDF prepare and submit the required road designs and road agreements for review prior to any further action by the Town Board. Supervisor Ferguson informed the Board that the balance of the CHIP funds will be rolled over to 2018 since the balance did not support the scope of the work planned on the Eddy Road.

### **New Business**

- The Town of Champion Town Board adopted the following resolution at a regular meeting held on October 2, 2017 for which the Town Board was given adequate notice as required by law and at which a quorum was present and voting.

Resolution offered by Councilman Stewart; seconded by Councilman Watkins:

WHEREAS, the Town Board engaged Furgison & Co., CPA, P.C. to conduct the annual independent audit of the Town's general and Justice Court financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2016, and;

WHEREAS, the audit of the financial statements has been completed and copies of the findings and representations presented at a public meeting of the Town Board.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board acknowledges that the audit was conducted in accordance with standards for financial audits contained in the Government Audit Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Supervisor Ferguson.....aye  
Councilman Stewart.....aye  
Councilman Watkins.....aye  
Councilman Buzzell.....aye  
Councilman Waite.....aye

Resolution adopted.

- Supervisor Ferguson distributed the 2018 tentative budget to the Board. The tax rate remains unchanged at \$3.10 and budgets for upgrades to facilities and infrastructure. The Supervisor requested that the Board review the budget prior to a meeting to adopt the tentative budget and set a public hearing on the preliminary budget. Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Waite to schedule a special meeting for October 16, 2017 at 7:00pm to adopt the tentative budget and any other necessary business. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Waite to schedule a public hearing on the Town's Comprehensive Plan for November 6, 2017 at 7:00pm. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Supervisor Ferguson reported that he advertised for letters of interest from individuals willing to serve on the Board of Assessment Review to replace Terry L. Buckley who resigned due to relocating. He received one letter of interest from Kathryn Smith and recommended her appointment. Mr. Waite asked to nominate an individual. Supervisor Ferguson advised Mr. Waite that a letter of interest has been received as requested as per the process as advertised. Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Watkins to appoint Kathryn Smith to the Board of Assessment Review to complete the term vacated by a resignation. The term of the appointment expires 9/30/2021. Roll call vote: Mr. Stewart-aye, Mr. Watkins-aye, Mr. Buzzell-aye, Mr. Waite-nay, and Supervisor Ferguson-aye. Motion carried.
- Supervisor Ferguson presented budget transfers as recommended by the financial director. Motion by Mr. Watkins, seconded by Mr. Stewart to approve the budget transfers as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Waite to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:32pm.

