

**Organization Town of Champion**

**Board Town Board**

**Date and Time Monday, November 6 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, November 6, 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.

Proof of notice having been furnished, the public hearing on the 2018 preliminary budget was called to order at 7:00pm by Supervisor Ferguson. Supervisor Ferguson summarized the budget including the total spending, tax levy and tax rate. The 2018 budget stayed under the state tax cap and includes spending for infrastructure improvements to the highway garage, road construction and the justice court expansion due to the dissolution of the V/West Carthage court. Diana Harris spoke in opposition to the salary rate for the Highway Superintendent. All persons desiring to be heard, having been heard, the public hearing was closed at 7:02pm.

Proof of notice having been furnished, the public hearing on the Comprehensive Plan was called to order at 7:02pm by Supervisor Ferguson. The hearing was attended by a large number of property owners from Pleasant Lake. The following persons voiced concerns regarding the Pleasant Lake water quality, invasive weeds in the lake, wetland identification, zoning in the lake district, limiting access to the private lake, and funding for broadband and sustainable agriculture: Eric Latremore, Dan Mosher, Jonathan Schell, Nancy Vermeulen, Richard Bader, Bryan Zevotek, Chris Lorence, Roxaina Hurlburt, Anthony Cleaver, Vernon Scoville, and Lou Cesario. All persons desiring to be heard, having been heard, the public hearing was closed at 7:32pm. Supervisor Ferguson stated that the comments had been noted.

Board members commented on the plan. Mr. Buzzell recommended saving paper by reducing spacing between paragraphs and recommended adding County or New York State before route numbers where applicable. Mr. Watkins recommended that the property owners on Pleasant Lake contact the Lake Bonaparte Lake Association for information regarding invasive weed management. Mr. Waite stated that fire departments were not mentioned in the comprehensive plan.

**Monthly Reports**

- Engineer - Kris Dimmick, BC&A, reported that the sewer district improvement project is expected to close with Rural Development by the end of the month. The layout for the oil/water separator has been marked out at the highway garage. Mr. Waite complained about the hardness of the water in WD#2. Mr. Dimmick advised that hardness is not a NYS DOH health issue.
- Councilmen - Councilmen reported that they had been contacted by an individual interested as acting as dog control officer.
- Highway Superintendent - Mr. Sech reported on the following department activities: cold patching; completing a motor job on the Ford pickup; truck inspections; trucks prepared for winter plowing/sanding; and the anticipated new Mack truck delivery on 11/8/17. The department has returned to its winter work schedule. Supervisor Ferguson and Councilman Stewart thanked the department for its valuable and appreciated service to the Town.
- Assessor - Mr. Vargulick advised the Board that there are pending commercial assessment challenges.
- Justice Court - Justice Quinn announced that starting in December court will begin at 3:00pm to accommodate an expected increase in cases due to the dissolution of the V/West Carthage court.
- Planning Board/ZEO - Mr. LaBarge reported that the proposed residential development formerly owned by Uhlinger Capital has been sold. The new owner has applied for a zoning permit to begin construction on one parcel this year.
- Circuit Rider - Mr. Dietrich discussed the recent RACOG meeting, proposed meeting topics, and outreach. Supervisor Ferguson recommended review of the recently published Joint Land Use Study for issues relevant to the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

Motion by Mr. Watkins, seconded by Mr. Stewart to approve the minutes of October 2 and October 16, 2017 as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

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

General #265-299.....	\$43,807.94
Highway #177-199.....	\$31,563.57
RACOG #9.....	\$301.00
Con WD#1 O&M #23-24.....	\$23,232.30
WD#2,4&5 O&M #65-76.....	\$5,398.96
SD#2 O&M #48-54.....	\$16,595.10

Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

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

Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Watkins to approve the budget transfers as recommended. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Supervisor Ferguson reviewed correspondence received during the month. The sewer district improvement project has been awarded an additional \$502,000 in grant funds. The funds will be used to pay down the project loan.

**New Business**

- The Board discussed the 2018 budget. Mr. Watkins supported funding for a invasive species survey at Pleasant Lake. In regards to remarks made during the public hearing on the Comprehensive Plan, Mr. LaBarge, ZEO, added that he had met with a representative of the property owners on Pleasant Lake and advised him to meet with the Town Board after a plan for dealing with the invasive weeds was developed. No plan was submitted. Supervisor Ferguson stated that he had budgeted \$20,000 in economic development to support actions to address the goals identified in the Comprehensive Plan.

Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Watkins:

WHEREAS, the Town Board has met at the time and place specified in the notice of public hearing on the preliminary budget and heard all persons desiring to be heard thereon;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board does hereby adopt the preliminary budget as the annual budget of the Town of Champion for the fiscal year beginning on the first day of January 2018 and that such budget as so adopted be entered in the minutes of the Town Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk of the Town shall prepare and certify, in duplicate, copies of the said annual budget as adopted pursuant to Section 202A and B2 of the Town Law and shall present a copy thereof to the Supervisor of the Town to be presented by him to the County Legislature.

Mr. Stewart-aye, Mr. Watkins-aye, Mr. Buzzell-nay, Mr. Waite-nay, and Supervisor Ferguson-aye. Motion carried.

Resolution offered by Councilman Stewart; seconded by Councilman Buzzell:

RESOLVED, that the Town of Champion hereby accepts the purchase of a 2018 Mack truck and plow equipment as complete, and;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Champion hereby recommends and authorizes Final Payment.

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

Resolution adopted.

- Supervisor Ferguson introduced the operation and maintenance agreements for the town water districts. The contracts are for a term of five (5) years with three percent (3%) annual increases. Mr. Waite maintained that the contract should include a requirement that the operator inform the news media of any extended service interruption and an anticipated time for repairs to be completed. Supervisor Ferguson advised Mr. Waite that RACOG is studying systems to directly alert affected users regarding service interruptions and repairs.

RESOLUTION offered by Councilman Stewart,  
Seconded by Councilman Watkins;

RESOLVED, that the Town of Champion hereby approves the operations and maintenance service agreement between the Town of Champion and the Development Authority of the North Country for Water Districts 1 and 3 as presented, and;

Furthermore, the Town seeks to discuss, at a later date, an amendment to the agreement regarding public notification when service is interrupted.

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

Resolution adopted.

- RESOLUTION offered by Councilman Stewart,  
Seconded by Councilman Watkins;

RESOLVED, that the Town of Champion hereby approves the operations and maintenance service agreement between the Town of Champion and the Development Authority of the North Country for Water Districts 2, 4 and 5 as presented, and;

Furthermore, the Town seeks to discuss, at a later date, an amendment to the agreement regarding public notification when service is interrupted.

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

Resolution adopted.

- Bids for the 2018 fuel needs for the Town were opened and compiled at 3:00pm, November 6<sup>th</sup> as advertised. The Town received bids from three suppliers. Christman Fuels Service was the low bidder for ULS diesel and heating oil and Simpson Fuels was the low bidder for unleaded gas and propane. Motion by Mr. Waite, seconded by Mr. Stewart to award the fuel bids to the low bidders- Christman Fuel Service and Simpson Fuels. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Bids for excess equipment (1988 Mack and 1995 Mack) were opened and compiled at 3:00pm as advertised. The Town received one bid from Dan Roes for \$13,000. Motion by Mr. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Stewart to award the bid for the excess equipment to Dan Roes as the high bidder. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Buzzell to authorize the Supervisor to execute the transmission decommissioning agreement between the Town of Champion and the Copenhagen Wind Farm LLC as reviewed and recommended by the Town Attorney. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Watkins to approve the decommissioning bond as reviewed and recommended by the Town Attorney. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Watkins to authorize the Supervisor to execute the road maintenance agreement between the Town of Champion and the Copenhagen Wind Farm LLC as reviewed and recommended by the Town Attorney. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Watkins to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:37pm.

Christina Vargulick  
Christina Vargulick  
Town Clerk