

The Town of Champion Town Board met in regular monthly session on Monday, April 1, 2019 at the Town Municipal Building, 10 North Broad Street, West Carthage. Present were Supervisor Ferguson, Councilmen Stewart, Watkins, Buzzell and Waite and Highway Superintendent Strife.

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.

### **Monthly Reports**

- Engineer – M. Alteri reported that Patriot Estates is completing the last 100' of water main. M. Alteri met with the Highway Superintendent to discuss the removal and replacement of an underground fuel oil tank with a 2000G double walled steel above ground tank and the construction of a roof over both the diesel and fuel oil tanks. The gas tank will also be removed but not replaced. In response to questions regarding cold temperatures affecting the viscosity of the fuel oil, Mr. Alteri stated that the design would recommend a heating element to avoid operational issues. Councilman Waite questioned if the furnace would be replaced. Mr. Alteri responded that only minor modifications to the intake valves would be necessary.
- Councilmen – Mr. Watkins offered condolences to Lynn Thornton and her family at the passing of John Thornton. Mr. Buzzell and Mr. Waite both voiced their objection to the collection of a judgment awarded to the Town in the amount of \$1,534.00 by the Court of Appeals, affirming the opinion of the Appellate Division, Fourth Branch in the case of J. Waite, D. Williams, J. Schell, D. Harris, and J. Lawler vs. Town of Champion. Mr. Waite questioned the Supervisor's authority to sign the satisfaction of judgment which acknowledged payment. Motion by Mr. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Waite to return the collected judgment to the petitioners. Mr. Watkins stated that the petitioners' attorney was obligated to counsel them regarding the possibility of incurring costs if the suit was found in favor of the Town and that he found no reason to return the costs awarded to the Town by the Court. Supervisor Ferguson questioned whether Mr. Buzzell had read the court's decision. Mr. Buzzell stated that he had not. Vote: H. Watkins-nay, S. Buzzell-aye, T. Stewart-nay, L. Waite-aye, and B. Ferguson-nay. Motion denied.  
Mr. Stewart advised members that they can see the effect of LED street lighting in the V/Black River. The Village recently converted to LED.
- Highway Superintendent – Mr. Strife reported on the following: plowing and sanding continue; cold patching particularly on County Route 47 due to its severely deteriorated condition; and the department's recent completion of the defensive driving course.
- Assessor – Mr. Vargulick reported that the Town's equalization has been certified at 100%.
- Planning Board/ZEO – Mr. LaBarge reported that the site plan previously approved with conditions for the construction of a proposed hospital on Cole Road cannot be implemented as approved thereby invalidating the approval. The hospital has submitted an application for a temporary building with a private drive which is under review by the Board.
- Justice – Supervisor Ferguson reported that the video surveillance equipment purchased with a JCAP grant has been installed.
- Circuit Rider – M. Dietrich reported that the next RACOG meeting is scheduled for April 16 at the T/Wilna. InfoGroup will be the presenter.

Motion by Mr. Waite, seconded by Mr. Stewart to approve the minutes for March 4, 2019 as presented. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Mr. Buzzell abstained.

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

General #81-101.....	\$23,392.61
Highway #47-64.....	\$29,317.73
RACOG #9-10.....	\$942.53
Con WD#1 O&M #6-7.....	\$685.95
WD#2,4&5 O&M #22-30.....	\$4,138.47
SD#1 O&M #3-5.....	\$29,482.58
SD#2 O&M #13-18.....	\$48,906.47

Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

The Supervisor’s monthly 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.

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

D. Martel, financial director, reported that due to an error that omitted utilities from the taxable value for FP302 and FP303, the fire tax rate was incorrectly calculated. The error was corrected after the tax warrant was issued resulting in the collection of an additional \$4,598.61. The additional collection will be applied during 2020 budget preparation and will reduce the amount to be raised by tax.

Supervisor Ferguson reviewed correspondence including a letter from NYS DEC regarding a proposal to chemically treat the weeds in Pleasant Lake. Motion by Mr. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Waite that the Town has no objection to the treatment plan for Pleasant Lake. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

**New Business**

- Supervisor Ferguson spoke to the Board about a number of meetings he has attended to hear information from a number of vendors regarding LED street light conversion. Based on the meetings attended with the other participating municipalities, the group’s consensus was to participate in a program for conversion offered by the New York Power Authority (NYPA). NYPA proposes the following scope of services for the Town of Champion:

NYPA will provide full turnkey service to replace street lighting fixtures throughout the Town with new high efficient LED Street Lighting Fixtures. NYPA will provide full turnkey services for this project, at a minimum, the services will include:

- Design services
- Procurement and delivery of all lighting fixtures
- Engineering services during installation of fixtures
- Construction Management services during installation of fixture. This includes procurement of labor contract.
- Disposal of all lighting waste in accordance with all local, state and federal regulations
- Provide a complete, updated database of all fixtures replaced and installed. National Grid Database/Lighting Registry will be done by others
- Project financial closeout
- Provide one-year labor warranty
- Provide ten-year material warranty

The benefits of the plan include an annual energy savings of \$1,906 and annual maintenance savings of \$1,332, for a total annual cost saving of \$3,239 with a simple payback of 8.42 years. There will be \$0 required up front from the Town for the completion of the project. The project will provide improved light quality and reliability and LED lights are “dark sky friendly”. Maintenance costs will also be reduced since LED lights have a life expectancy in excess of 15 years. The cost to develop and implement this project is \$29,086. Repayment starts at the end of construction. NYPA has low interest financing for up to a 10 year repayment term and all applicable utility incentives will be applied

Mr. Buzzell voiced his opposition to contracting with NYPA in favor of National Grid and recommended that the Town do more research to understand the existing infrastructure. Mr. Buzzell questioned whether the maintenance contractor would be responsive and whether the LED lights have a longer life expectancy. Supervisor Ferguson and M. Dietrich, who has coordinated the project with the sixteen (16) interested communities, restated the number of meetings attended, the vendors who presented and the measurable savings achieved through the NYPA plan as compared to the National Grid offer and other proposals. Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Waite to proceed with the LED street light conversion through NYPA and to authorize the Supervisor to execute all related documents. Vote: Mr. Watkins-aye, Mr. Buzzell-nay, Mr. Stewart-aye, Mr. Waite-aye, and Supervisor Ferguson-aye. Motion carried.

- Supervisor Ferguson shared recommendations from the Town's insurer regarding cyber security. Supervisor Ferguson presented a "statement of work" from Robinson Information Security Inc. to perform a security assessment of practices and controls based on guidelines put forth by the NYS Division of Local Government and School Accountability and to prepare recommendations for remediation of any gaps at a cost not to exceed \$1,000. Members discussed issues related to cyber security and potential IT managers capable of providing the service. Motion by Mr. Waite, seconded by Mr. Stewart to contract with Robinson Information Security Inc. to perform the security assessment and authorized the Supervisor to execute the contract. Vote: Mr. Watkins-nay, Mr. Buzzell-aye, Mr. Stewart-aye, Mr. Waite-aye, and Supervisor Ferguson-aye. Motion carried.
- Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Waite to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

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Christina Vargulick  
Town Clerk