

The Town of Champion Town Board met in regular monthly session on Monday, August 5, 2019 at the Town Municipal Building, 10 North Broad Street, West Carthage, NY. 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 public forum. No one from the public addressed the Board.

Monthly Reports

- Engineer – M. Altieri provided a bid tabulation sheet for the fuel tank project. Three bids were received and opened on July 18, 2019. LaValley Brothers Construction is the apparent low bidder. The fuel oil tank canopy and gas tank removal and closure were bid as alternates. M. Altieri reported that updated loan/grant information is being prepared to calculate the estimated EDU costs for the proposed Sewer District #3 which would include the Champion Heights development and sections of Sayre Road. The utility work is complete in Patriot Estates and the temporary water/sewer services are constructed to the Rural Health Center.
- Councilmen – L. Waite questioned why the windmill project did not repair/build any roads in the Town. Supervisor Ferguson reminded Mr. Waite that Boni Road Spur was significantly improved through an agreement with the wind developer. Mr. Waite asked why County Route 47 was not included. Highway Superintendent Strife stated that since it is a county road that the County would have had to request an agreement.
- Assessor – Mr. Vargulick requested an executive session to discuss litigation.
- Planning Board/ZEO – Mr. LaBarge reported that the Planning Board had approved a site plan for the construction of two 875kw solar arrays on County Route 47 on property owned by Elwood Thomas. Ten zoning permits were issued during the previous month.
- Historian – Mrs. Thornton has sat for an interview with WPBS for a 3-part series on the history of Jefferson County including the Town of Champion. Mrs. Thornton suggested that residents consider an evening walking tour of West Carthage. Interpretive maps are available at the Town Clerk's office.
- Circuit Rider – M. Dietrich summarized his written report.

Motion by Mr. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Waite to approve the minutes for July 1, 2019 as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

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

General #185-211.....	\$28,998.11
Highway #130-147.....	\$34,016.90
RACOG #15-16.....	\$1,013.80
Con WD#1 O&M #15-17.....	\$8,129.73
WD#2,4&5 O&M #55-60.....	\$33,967.26
SD#1 O&M #9-10.....	\$1,046.40
SD#2 O&M #33-35.....	\$1,180.63

Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

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

Board members received the revenue/appropriation analysis report to audit and comment.

New Business

- Board members discussed the scope of the fuel tank project and agreed by consensus to delete alternate no. 1 (canopy) due to cost. Motion by Mr. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Waite to authorize the Supervisor to execute the award documents for the base bid minus alternate no. 1 in the amount of \$85,440 with LaValley Brothers Construction pending approval of the post bid submittals. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Supervisor Ferguson reviewed the proposed 5-year County Snow & Ice contract in detail pointing out that twenty-five percent (25%) of the lane miles plowed by the town highway department are county roads requiring a truck and a two man crew plus fuel, maintenance, salt and sand. Thirty cents per thousand (\$.30/\$1,000) of taxes collected by the Town go to pay for plowing County roads. In addition, the road conditions on County Route 47 have deteriorated to the point that they present a plowing hazard to highway employees and damage to Town highway trucks and plowing equipment. Opting out of the County Snow & Ice contract will not adversely impact the Town budget. There would be no employee lay-offs. Supervisor Ferguson and Highway Superintendent Strife both recommended opting out of the 2020-24 County Snow & Ice Agreement. Members discussed whether the County will maintain the level of service on the county roads in the Town. Motion by Mr. Buzzell, seconded by Mr. Stewart to opt out of the 2020-24 County Snow & Ice Agreement. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Board members discussed a standard development agreement between the Carthage Area Hospital, Lundy Development & Property Management, and the Town pertaining to the construction of water and sewer utility improvements to the Rural Health Center. Mr. Buzzell questioned why “exhibit A” was not attached. Supervisor Ferguson advised him that the plans have been received and are available for inspection. Motion by Supervisor Ferguson, seconded by L. Waite to authorize the Supervisor to execute the Agreement for Infrastructure Intended for Dedication to the Town as presented. Vote: T. Stewart-aye, H. Watkins-aye, S. Buzzell-nay, L. Waite-aye, and Supervisor Ferguson-aye. Motion carried.
- Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Watkins to reappoint William Vargulick as Town Assessor for a term of six years (10/01/2019 – 9/30/2025). Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Watkins to reschedule the next meeting for September 3, 2019 due to the Labor Day holiday.
- Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Buzzell to go into executive session to discuss litigation. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried. Executive session began at 8:10pm.
- Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Waite to return to open session. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried. Open session resumed at 8:21pm.
- Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Watkins to authorize legal counsel to hire the recommended appraiser in the matter of WDC Associates vs. Town of Champion with the condition that the cost be equally shared by the Carthage Central School District. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Waite to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:23pm.

Christina Vargulick, Town Clerk