

The Town of Champion Town Board met in regular monthly session on Monday, February 3, 2020 at the Town Municipal Building, 10 North Broad Street, West Carthage. Present were Supervisor Ferguson, Councilmen Stewart, Watkins, Waite and Gump 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. Lesley Jackson, Carthage Area Rescue Squad (CARS) Asst. Chief, submitted information regarding the squad's restructuring and a copy of the new by-laws. Councilman Gump questioned billing for the treatment of volunteer firemen at the scene. Ms. Johnson stated that a patient care report is completed for all firemen treated and is forwarded to Jefferson County Emergency Management and that the fire chief forwards an incident report. Any resulting charges are paid by Worker's Compensation. M. Gump disagreed that it was necessary to complete a patient care report based on conversations he had with other squads. Ms. Johnson stated that it is mandatory. Supervisor Ferguson stated that from the Town perspective that CARS has been responsive to any billing issues referred by the Town.

### **Monthly Reports**

- Councilmen – M. Gump read a prepared statement regarding his position that the Town should offer a solar exemption for both residential and commercial installations. He stated that the Town lost a 10 megawatt solar farm based on the lack of the exemption. Motion by M. Gump, seconded by L. Waite to repeal Local Law #1 for 2016- A Local Law Opting Out of Tax Exemptions provided by Section 487 of the Real Property Tax Law. Supervisor Ferguson stated that solar farms do not provide any long term employment opportunities. W. Vargulick, Town Assessor, stated that he has not assessed any value to residential solar installations because he has no evidence that the installations increase the market value of the property. H. Watkins and T. Stewart stated that they need more information prior to considering any action. Motion by M. Gump, seconded by L. Waite to reconsider the previous motion and to withdraw it at this time. Ayes-5, Nays-0.
- Highway Superintendent – J. Strife reported that the department continues to replace/update road signage. NYSDEC inspected the highway facilities. Minor issues that were cited have been addressed. Superintendent Strife recommended the purchase of a 14' Galion 553U stainless steel dump box from Viking Cives at a cost of \$28,136.37, the lowest quoted price. Four written quotes were received from Viking Cives (2 quotes), Blackburn Truck Bodies LLC., and Henderson Products Inc. Motion by L. Waite, seconded by T. Stewart to authorize the purchase of a 14' Galion 553U stainless steel dump box from Viking Cives at a cost not to exceed \$28,136.37. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Planning Board/ZEO – P. LaBarge reported that he wrote two (2) permits in January.
- Parks/Historian – L. Thornton reported that she is working on a history of hospitals in Carthage/West Carthage.
- Circuit Rider – M. Dietrich reported that RACOG will meet February 19, 2020 at the Carthage Municipal Building. The design study for LED lighting is expected to be completed by April. National Grid is recalculating the buyback quotes. The quotes will be reviewed by the Public Service Commission.

Motion by H. Watkins, seconded by T. Stewart to approve the minutes of January 6, 2020 as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by M. Gump to pay the following bills as presented:

General #15-49.....	\$306,107.73
Highway #8-24.....	\$30,926.63
RACOG #3.....	\$500.00
Con WD #1 O&M #3.....	\$7,014.29
WD#2,4&5 O&M #4-11.....	\$11,865.80
SD#1 O&M #2-3.....	\$62,679.40
SD#2 O&M #2-6.....	\$1,225.82

Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

The Supervisor's monthly report was read and discussed. Motion by L. Waite, seconded by T. Stewart to approve the report as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried. Board members received the monthly revenue/expenditure report for their review and comment. D. Martel reported that the 2019 AUD has been completed.

Supervisor Ferguson advised the Board that the Town has been awarded a 50/50 matching grant in the amount of \$150,000 to construct a new salt barn. He is seeking information from the State in regards to in-kind matches.

Supervisor Ferguson requested authorization to sign a letter of engagement with Attorney Robert Slye for legal services related to an Article 78 filed by Copenhagen Wind Farm regarding school and property tax bills that were levied. Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by H. Watkins to authorize the Supervisor to execute the letter of engagement with Slye Law Office, P.C. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Supervisor Ferguson reported that there is a vacancy on the Town Planning Board due to the resignation of Frederick Metzger. The vacancy has been advertised and a letter of interest was received from Daniel Leary. Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by M. Gump to appoint Daniel Leary to the Town Planning Board for a term ending 12/31/2022.

Supervisor Ferguson shared information regarding a request for support for a proposed plan to activate and station a fourth Army Corps Headquarters at Fort Drum. Motion by L. Waite, seconded by T. Stewart to authorize the Supervisor to forward a letter supporting the activation and stationing of a fourth Army Corps Headquarters at Fort Drum. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

### **New Business**

- The Town received two (2) proposals to the advertisement for Request for Proposals for Agreed Upon Procedures. Proposals were received from Stackel & Navarra and EFPR Group to perform the work. The five year proposals were for \$26,650 and \$31,500, respectively. Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by L. Waite to select Stackel & Navarra, CPA, PC to provide the Agreed Upon Procedures as highlighted in the RFP for the fiscal years 2018-2022. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Highway Superintendent Strife has a stock of used motor oil from servicing equipment. The used motor oil may be used by person(s) for the purpose of fueling a waste oil furnace. Town Attorney Farley has prepared a release of claims to allow the removal of the oil and hold the Town harmless. Motion by L. Waite, seconded by M. Gump to authorize the Highway Superintendent to require a signed release form prior to removal of the oil. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

- Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by M. Gump to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:09pm.

*Christina Vargulick*

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Town Clerk