

The Town of Champion Town Board met in regular monthly session on Monday, March 2, 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. No one from the public addressed the Board.

Monthly Reports

- Councilmen – M. Gump acknowledged his apology to Lesley Jackson, CARS Asst. Chief, for remarks he made at the February board meeting. He distributed information regarding solar exemptions. L. Waite questioned prior Board of Assessment Review decisions that impacted parcel no. 85.15-1-14 (former fire department facility) and a NYS Attorney General lawsuit involving the Champion Volunteer Fire Company. Supervisor Ferguson responded that the NYS Attorney General will make all decisions regarding the disposition of the department’s assets.
- Highway Superintendent – J. Strife reported that the department has been servicing spring equipment; fire hydrants have been cleaned out following the blizzard; and department employees are being tested for respirator certification as per state regulations. All violations identified during a NYSDEC inspection have been corrected.
- Assessor – W. Vargulick reported on a proposed plan by the state to value solar construction. M. Gump discussed a PILOT between a developer and the T/Clayton and Jefferson County for a solar array. W. Vargulick discussed solar valuations in T/Denmark and the potential impact of a solar exemption using M. Gump’s solar construction as an example. Based on current rates, M. Gump’s total tax bill would increase, even if the Town offered the exemption, due to the higher taxable value and the applicable school and special district taxes. L. Waite reported that he had received a letter from a potential developer looking for land to construct solar arrays.
- Planning Board/ZEO – P. LaBarge reported that the board has reviewed a preliminary site plan for a proposed Dollar General. The application proposed siting the store in a Hamlet Zone. That use is not an allowed use in that zone. The developer is considering nearby sites in the Rural Corridor zone where the use would be allowed.
- Circuit Rider – M. Dietrich reported that the next scheduled RACOG meeting is March 17th. He is proposing holding a daytime meeting for presentations by Good Energy, MEGA, and Joules Assets regarding a community choice aggregation project.

Motion by L. Waite, seconded by T. Stewart to approve the minutes of February 3, 2020 amending the paragraph regarding the appointment of Dan Leary to the Planning Board with “Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.” M. Gump suggested changes expanding on his statements at the meeting. Supervisor Ferguson asked if he believed the minutes were inaccurate. M. Gump responded no. H. Watkins stated that the board minutes are intended to reflect actions taken not discussions. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

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

General #50-72.....	\$149,926.24
Highway #25-41.....	\$23,478.12

Con WD#1 O&M #4-5.....	\$309.75
WD#2,4&5 O&M #12-17.....	\$3,551.93
SD#2 O&M #7-14.....	\$28,552.66

Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

The Supervisor's report was read and reviewed. Motion by H. Watkins, seconded by T. Stewart to accept the report as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried. Board members received the monthly revenue/expenditure report for their review and comment.

Supervisor Ferguson reviewed correspondence including the following:

- Pleasant Lake will be treated for weeds in April or May. The water will be subsequently tested to establish when it is potable. Until it is certified, the water should not be used for drinking or cooking.
- NYSDOT will be reconstructing the sidewalks in Great Bend and installing ramps.
- The Copenhagen Fire Department is holding their annual banquet on April 25th and has invited six guests from the Town.

New Business

- Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by L. Waite to certify that the 2019 financial records for the Town Supervisor, Town Clerk and Town Justice Court have been audited by the Town Board. T. Stewart-aye, H. Watkins-aye, L. Waite-aye, M. Gump-abstain, and Supervisor Ferguson-aye. Motion carried.
- Motion by H. Watkins, seconded by T. Stewart to authorize the Highway Superintendent to post town roads as he deems necessary. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by H. Watkins to go into executive session to discuss a personnel issue. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried. Executive session began at 7:47pm.
- Motion by L. Waite, seconded by T. Stewart to return to open session. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried. Open session resumed at 7:58pm.
- Motion by M. Gump, seconded by T. Stewart to authorize the Highway Superintendent to extend the night crew for a period of two weeks as necessary. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by L. Waite to hire Zachary Jones as a temporary highway employee at a rate of \$18.06/hour for the remainder of the year starting when his employment converts from night crew to day crew. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by Supervisor Ferguson to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Christina Vargulick

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Town Clerk