

The Town of Champion Town Board met by video conference, due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic restrictions on gatherings, Monday, May 4, 2020. Present were Supervisor Ferguson, Councilmen Stewart, Watkins, Waite and Gump, and D. Martel, clerk to the Supervisor.

Supervisor Ferguson called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and opened the meeting for public comment. J. Schell, Eddy Road, questioned why login information for the meeting was not posted on the website. Supervisor Ferguson apologized for the oversight. J. Schell also questioned if the Town's declared state of emergency had been advertised for the public. Supervisor Ferguson responded that information had been published.

Monthly Reports

- Engineer – Supervisor Ferguson reported that the grant program for the construction of a salt barn is subject to change by the State. Based on current funding packages, the estimated annual user cost for the proposed Sewer District #3 is \$1,200 - \$1,800 therefore the project is not feasible at this time.
- Councilmen – M. Gump reported that he was contacted by Omni Navitas, a solar company, seeking a PILOT for a proposed solar construction in Great Bend who reported that their request to be placed on the meeting agenda was denied. Supervisor Ferguson responded that because the Town has opted out of the solar exemption that NYSERDA regulations do not allow the Town to enter into a PILOT. He explained that a PILOT could be sought by the company through the Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency (JCIDA) which the company and JCIDA have indicated is happening. M. Gump accused the Supervisor of an ethics violation for not adding the request to the agenda and requested that a discussion regarding solar exemptions be added to the June agenda. T. Stewart congratulated Ruth and Henry Watkins on sixty (60) years of marriage.
- Highway Superintendent – Supervisor Ferguson reported on the following highway department activities: sand stockpiled for next winter; tree removal; culvert cleaning; and equipment maintenance.
- Justice Court – By order of the Fifth Judicial District, the Town Court is closed until May 30, 2020.
- Planning Board/ZEO – The zoning officer is not issuing any permits pending a change to the NY Pause orders.
- Circuit Rider – M. Dietrich reported that the Commission is updating the regional map.

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

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

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|--------------------------|-------------|
| General #105-127..... | \$11,712.32 |
| Highway #56-72..... | \$13,163.19 |
| Con WD#1 O&M #9-10..... | \$6,812.95 |
| WD#2,4&5 O&M #24-29..... | \$4,851.83 |
| SD#2 O&M #21-23..... | \$1,316.19 |

L. Waite questioned an invoice from Slye Law Office and mileage for the zoning officer. Supervisor Ferguson advised that the invoice for the attorney is for representation for Copenhagen Wind Farm vs. Towns of Champion and Rutland and is

shared equally with the T/Rutland. L. Waite recommended that the ZEO prepare a written report. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

D. Martel, read the Supervisor's report. Copies of the report were emailed to board members. Supervisor Ferguson noted that sales tax for December through February was higher than expected. D. Martel advised that the March through May sales tax collection shall likely decrease significantly due to the pandemic shut down. She also noted the uncertainty regarding CHIPs, Winter Recovery, and Pave NY funding due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic response on the State budget. Motion by H. Watkins, seconded by T. Stewart to accept the report as presented. Ayes-4, Nays-1 (M. Gump). Motion carried.

Supervisor Ferguson reported that the V/West Carthage mayor has informed him that the Village summer recreation program has been cancelled. The members of the Twin Village Swimming Pool Commission have agreed, by consensus, to close the pool for this year due to difficulties enforcing social distancing at the pool facility.

The NYSDOT multi-modal project has been approved and encumbered by the State. The grant amount is \$50,000.

New Business

- Board members reviewed the agreement to spend town highway funds as recommended by the Highway Superintendent.

PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 284 OF THE HIGHWAY LAW, THE TOWN OF CHAMPION TOWN BOARD ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION AT A MEETING HELD ON MAY 4, 2020 FOR WHICH THE BOARD WAS GIVEN ADEQUATE NOTICE AS REQUIRED BY LAW AND AT WHICH A QUORUM WAS PRESENT AND VOTING.

Resolution offered by Councilman Gump; seconded by Councilman Waite:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the monies levied and collected for the repair and improvement of highways, shall be expended as follows conditioned on the assurance that the Town will receive the anticipated NYSDOT funding:

GENERAL REPAIRS: The sum of \$5,000 may be expended for general repairs upon 43.7 centerline miles of town highways, including sluices, culverts and bridges having a span of less than five feet and boardwalks or the renewals thereof.

IMPROVEMENTS: The following sums shall be set aside to be expended for the improvement of town highways:

(a) On VanBrocklin Road, commencing at the intersection with Line School Road and proceeding to the intersection with the Town Line for a distance of 9/10 mile there shall be expended not over the sum of \$76,874.40.

Type: 12.5mm Asphalt Hot Top; Width of travel surface: 22 ft.; Thickness: 1.5" compacted

(b) On Jackson II Road, commencing 1.6miles past the intersection with NYS Rte 26 and proceeding for a distance of 1.1 miles toward NYS Rte 3 there shall be expended not over the sum of \$58,125.60.

Type: Hot Top 12mm; Width of travel surface: 20 ft.; Thickness: 1.5" compacted

Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

- Supervisor Ferguson recommended a technical services agreement for asset management plans for Water Districts #1,2, 3, 4, & 5 and Sewer District #2. He explained that Route 3 Sewer Corridor System (T/Champion SD#1) recently

completed a plan. The plan identifies, in detail, the working components of each district, the age of the components, the estimated useful life of each component and the estimated cost of replacement. The plan also will prioritize a replacement schedule. The total cost for the service shall not exceed \$8,000 and the cost will be borne by the water and sewer districts. H. Watkins agreed that the plan would provide necessary information for planning and budgeting. Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by M. Gump that the Town of Champion hereby approves the technical services agreement between the Town of Champion and the Development Authority of the North Country for asset management plans for Water Districts #1,2,3,4,& 5 and Sewer District #2 in an amount not to exceed \$8,000 and authorizes the Supervisor to execute the agreement. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

- Copies of the Memorandum Decision and Order issued by NYS Supreme Court Justice James McClusky in the matter of the Attorney General of New York vs. Champion Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. were distributed to the board. The Order dissolves the fire company and directs that the remaining assets owned by the company be distributed to the Town of Champion for use within the two (2) fire protection districts. The Order further directs the fire company to provide a five-year accounting of all assets, liabilities, income and expenses of the Corporation, certified by the Treasurer, to the Attorney General and states that the Petitioner, in coordination with the Town, shall submit a plan of dissolution outlining the proposed transfer of assets including real property consistent with the order no later than June 30, 2020. Supervisor Ferguson recommended the formation of a committee to develop a plan with representation from the Town, the Villages of West Carthage and Copenhagen, and the West Carthage and Copenhagen fire departments. Motion by H. Watkins, seconded by T. Stewart to appoint T. Stewart and M. Gump as representatives for the Town. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried. In response to a question from the Supervisor, L. Waite stated that the Champion Volunteer Fire Company would cooperate with the transition. Attorney Robert Slye will continue to represent the Town in this matter.
- Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by L. Waite to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Christina Vargulick

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Town Clerk