

The Town of Champion Town Board met in regular monthly session on Monday, June 1, 2020 by video conference due to restrictions on gatherings as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Present were Supervisor Ferguson, Councilmen Stewart, Watkins, Waite and Gump.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm. Supervisor Ferguson opened the meeting for public comment. Jonathan Schell, Eddy Road, questioned if developers talked to any town officials about locating a Tractor Supply Store on property available on NYS Route 26 near Family Dollar. Supervisor Ferguson stated that he had not had any conversations. P. LaBarge, Zoning Officer, also stated he had not had any inquiries and noted that the specified property is located in the V/West Carthage.

### **Monthly Reports**

- Engineer – Supervisor Ferguson reported that the Town is positioned to apply for grants that may become available for the construction of the proposed SD#3.
- Councilmen – Supervisor Ferguson provided a copy of the Order on Application for Approval of Preliminary Plan of Dissolution/Distribution.  
T. Stewart and M. Gump reported that an inventory of the physical assets of the former Champion Fire Department has been conducted with representatives of the West Carthage and Copenhagen Fire Departments. A list of the assets was compiled and has been reviewed by the fire departments and Village mayors. Both departments have submitted lists of items they would be interested in obtaining for fire protection. T. Stewart reported that locks have been ordered and that a neighbor has volunteered to mow the property.

Supervisor Ferguson provided a copy of a letter of support from the Town of Champion to JCIDA regarding the GSPP-24658 County Route 47 North & South, LLC solar project approved on tax map #76.06-1-38.1 (leased land) for the Board's information. The letter of support from the town, in conjunction with letters of support from Jefferson County and Carthage School District, authorize the JCIDA to commence negotiations with the solar developer for a PILOT agreement.

Supervisor Ferguson presented an example of the tax implications on residential solar construction if the Town were to opt into the exemption. Currently, the Town does not add any assessment for residential solar construction therefore there is no tax liability from any taxing jurisdiction. If the Town were to opt into the solar exemption and assess the value of the solar construction, then affected properties would pay school tax and, where applicable, fire protection tax on the additional assessment thereby increasing the tax liability on the parcel. M. Gump stated that the document is misleading and advocated for opting into the solar exemption. M. Gump made a motion to repeal the local law (Local Law #1 for 2016) regarding solar exemption opt out. The motion did not receive a second. L. Waite and H. Watkins asked M. Gump to provide information supporting his position.

- Highway – J. Strife provided a written report detailing the department's activities including: repairing drainage issues on VanBrocklin Road; grading gravel roads; and, building shoulders on Cole Road from NYS Route 26 to Constitution Drive under the Multi-Modal DOT project. The Superintendent anticipates paving on portions of Cole Road next week.
- Justice Court – The court was authorized to allow a single clerk or judge to conduct tasks with mail and filings effective May 6, 2020. The court is still closed to the public.
- Planning Board/Zoning Enforcement – P. LaBarge reported that the Planning Board is not conducting meetings at this time. He has issued eighteen (18)

zoning permits in the past two months. Supervisor Ferguson noted that the zoning officer's mileage report includes information to back up the reimbursement.

- Circuit Rider – M. Dietrich reported that the Commission is opening up on a limited basis. He will be transferring Zoom meeting videos to communities to free up space. M. Dietrich reported that a RACOG intern from Fort Drum will be starting in July. The individual's area of interest is economic development.

Motion by H. Watkins, seconded by T. Stewart to approve the minutes for May 4, 2020 as presented. M. Gump felt strongly that his statement that the Supervisor may not unilaterally exclude persons wishing to address the Board from the agenda should be included in the minutes. Supervisor Ferguson noted that anyone wishing to address the Board may speak during the public forum. Vote: T. Stewart-aye, H. Watkins-aye, L. Waite-aye, M. Gump-nay, and Supervisor Ferguson-aye. Motion carried.

Motion by L. Waite, seconded by H. Watkins to pay the following bills as presented:

General #128-156.....	\$25,559.44
Highway #73-79.....	\$22,650.86
Con WD#1 O&M #11.....	\$234.75
WD#2,4&5 O&M #30-35.....	\$3,458.83
SD#2 O&M #24-27.....	\$1,026.87

Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

D. Martel reviewed the Supervisor's monthly report. Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by L. Waite to approve the report as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried. Board members were provided with a copy of the monthly revenues and appropriations report.

Supervisor Ferguson reported that Dexter Worden resigned his position as transfer site manager effective May 8, 2020. Steve Mix, T/Rutland site manager, has agreed to provide service for both towns.

Supervisor Ferguson received a complaint from an individual on Railroad Street regarding the activities of the Great Bend Fire Department racing team. The department was issued a Stop Work Order last year because the site plan they submitted, and that was approved, did not include any approvals for race team activities, including practicing with the racing car. The issue has been referred to the Town Attorney.

**New Business**

- Supervisor Ferguson reminded the Board that the Court has ordered the Town to prepare for its review and approval, a plan of dissolution outlining a proposed transfer of assets, including real property, no later than June 30, 2020. Motion by M. Gump, seconded by H. Watkins to schedule a special meeting for Friday, June 19, 2020 at 7:00pm to take action on the plan. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by H. Watkins, seconded by L. Waite to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

*Christina Vargulick*  
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Town Clerk