

The Town of Champion Town Board met in regular session on Monday, November 1, 2021 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.

Proof of notice having been furnished, the public hearing on the 2022 Preliminary Town Budget was called to order at 7:01pm. No one spoke in favor or in opposition to the proposed budget. All persons desiring to be heard, having been heard, the hearing was closed at 7:02pm.

Supervisor Ferguson opened the meeting for public comment. No one addressed the Board.

Monthly Report

- Councilmen – M. Gump recommended that the Town Board contact NYS Department of Transportation to request lowering the speed limit on County Route 47. No action was taken because the Town has no jurisdiction over County highways.
 - T. Stewart urged those in attendance to vote on Tuesday, November 2, 2021.
 - L. Waite questioned if there were ARPA funds available for the Champion Methodist Church. Supervisor Ferguson stated that the funds received by the Town have been earmarked to replace backup generators. He advised that Jefferson County has allocated a portion of the County funding for non-profits to be administered by the North Country Community Foundation.
- Highway Superintendent – J. Strife reported the following department activities in October: trimming back trees from roads; hauling sand; and fitting trucks with plows. Two new hires have begun work. The sale of the 2008 Ford F350, utility trailer and backhoe netted the Town \$9,400 at auction.
- Planning Board/ZEO – P. LaBarge stated that the Planning Board did not meet in October. He issued four permits during the month.

Motion by H. Watkins, seconded by L. Waite to approve the minutes of October 4, 2021 as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

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

General #297-316.....	\$22,363.38
Highway #143-158.....	\$38,149.16
Con WD#1 O&M #21-23.....	\$9,630.94
WD#2,4&5 O&M #74-79.....	\$5,303.64
SD#2 O&M #40-41.....	\$1,274.32

Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

The Supervisor's monthly report was read and discussed. D. Martel noted the increase in sales and mortgage tax. D. Martel recommended paying off the 2017 loan with USDA-RD for the snow plow truck. The balance on the truck is \$93,000 plus accrued interest. Motion by M. Gump, seconded by L. Waite to pay off the loan to USDA-RD for the snow plow truck in full. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by M. Gump, seconded by H. Watkins to accept the Supervisor's report as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Supervisor Ferguson reported that NYSERDA has approved the Town's marketing plan and campaign to advertise the community solar program making the Town eligible for a \$5,000 grant. Supervisor Ferguson urged residents to sign up to take advantage of the savings on their electric bills.

New Business

- Supervisor Ferguson commented on the 2022 Preliminary budget noting that the proposed budget is financially responsible. The Town has been able to pay off the snow plow eleven years early and reserve monies to replace and enlarge the salt barn. Salaries are fair and competitive to attract and retain valued highway employees. The projected tax rate is \$3.44/\$1,000 assessed value, a drop of \$.06. D. Martel reviewed changes to the preliminary budget including a \$95,000 increase in taxable value; \$708 in pro-rated taxes; a decrease in County map maintenance fees; and a decrease in the taxable value in Fire Protection District #2.

- Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by H. Watkins;

WHEREAS, the Town Board has met at the time and place specified in the notice of public hearing on the preliminary budget and heard all persons desiring to be heard thereon;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board does hereby adopt the preliminary budget as the annual budget of the Town of Champion for the fiscal year beginning on the first day of January 2022 and that such budget as so adopted be entered in the minutes of the Town Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk of the Town shall prepare and certify, in duplicate, copies of the said annual budget as adopted pursuant to Section 202A and B2 of the Town Law and shall present a copy thereof to the Supervisor of the Town to be presented by him to the County Legislature.

Ayes-5, Nays-0. Resolution adopted.

- Supervisor Ferguson advised the Board that one bid was received in response to the advertisement for fuel bidding from Christman Fuels. The bid price is almost double last years. Due to the significant increase, Supervisor Ferguson recommended accepting the fixed bid rather than the variable anticipating more increases. Motion by L. Waite, seconded by T. Stewart to accept the fixed fuel costs for diesel, winter blend, propane and heating oil from Christman Fuels. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Supervisor Ferguson introduced a letter from the Village of West Carthage requesting the town's financial support for the Chamber of Commerce Christmas parade, tree lighting and fireworks. Motion by L. Waite to contribute \$500 to the event. No second was received. Motion by M. Gump, seconded by T. Stewart to contribute \$1,000 from bed tax funds to support the events. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by B. Ferguson to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:32pm.

Christina Vargulick

Christina Vargulick
Town Clerk