

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

MARCH 26, 2013

The Town Board of the Town of Conklin held a Regular Town Board Meeting at 5:30 P.M. on March 26, 2013, at the Conklin Town Hall. Mr. Finch, Supervisor, presided. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT:	Town Board Members	Bullock, Minoia, Francisco, Finch
	Town Counsel	Cheryl Sacco
	Town Clerk	Sherrie L. Jacobs
GUESTS:	Country Courier	Elizabeth Einstein
		Mike Gabello
		Laurie Francisco
		Kathy Minoia

MINUTES: MARCH 12, 2013 REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

The approval of the March 12, 2013 Regular Town Board Meeting minutes will be held over until the April 9, 2013 Town Board meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Finch acknowledged receipt of a letter from a local Girl Scout troop offering to build birdhouses to beautify the Town parks and grounds. He also acknowledged receipt of a letter from the Binghamton-Johnson City Joint Sewage Board regarding an audit of the Town's water and sewer billing system.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

REPORTS:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

SEWER EXTENSION GRANT UPDATE

Mr. Finch stated that he met with the Broome County Economic Development Office and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to discuss ways of applying for and obtaining more grants, to either increase flow to the Binghamton-Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant or to build a small treatment plant in the southern end of Conklin. The DEC representative stated that "we need to find a way to help Frito-Lay (located on the Colesville Road Extension) to stay here" and resolve its waste removal issues.

TIME WARNER CABLE/GRATSINGER ROAD UPDATE

Mr. Finch stated that the residents of Gratsinger Road petitioned to have Time Warner Cable extend its franchise services to Gratsinger Road. He stated that Time Warner Cable conducted a cost survey and sent a questionnaire to the residents asking what services they would want and

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what amount they would be willing to pay for these services. Time Warner Cable agreed to extend its services from Conklin Forks Road to the Whitmore household on Gratsinger Road.

SURPLUS GENERATOR UPDATE

Mr. Finch stated that the Federal surplus generators purchased by the Town have arrived and are at the Highway Garage. He added that one generator only has three hours use on it. Mr. Francisco will look at the generators and see what is needed to hook them up. Mr. Francisco stated that in order to be in compliance with Town Code, circuit protection may be required in order to hook up the generators. He added that 60 kilowatts would run the Town Hall but without supporting heat or air conditioning. Mr. Francisco stated that the cable would need to be sized to the service in whatever building the generator was to run. Mr. Minoia stated that the service should be standardized on all of the generators, so that they are interchangeable at different sites, such as the four sewer stations. Mr. Finch commented that the Town already owns a generator that is used in emergencies at the Julius Rogers sewer station. Mr. Finch stated that the Federal government paid \$64,000 each for the generators, and then sold them to the Town for \$800 each.

UPDATE/DECKER QUARRY/FARNHAM ROAD

Mr. Finch stated that he met with the owner of the Decker Quarry on Farnham Road and the owner has agreed to sweep the dust off the road each night.

NEW BUSINESS:

MEETING WITH BROOME COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & DEC

As was noted earlier, Mr. Finch met with representatives from the Broome County Economic Development Office and the DEC on March 21, 2013. Mr. Finch stated that he has also met with Town Engineers Dan Griffiths and John Mastronardi, who will send a letter to the Joint Sewage Board asking whether or not the Board will accept more sewage from the Town of Conklin if the Town were to extend the sewer lines. Mr. Finch explained that a response of either yes or no is needed from the Joint Board before the Town can proceed with seeking more grants for this project.

MEETING & AUDIT/JOINT SEWAGE TREATMENT BOARD

Mr. Finch stated that an auditor from the Joint Sewage Treatment Board met with him, Water Budget Director Lisa Houston, and Public Works Superintendent Tom Delamarter on March 25 to examine the Town's water and sewer billing system. He stated that the auditor was "checking billing and meters – nitpicking." Mr. Finch stated that the auditor was not pleased that the Town does not charge the Susquehanna Valley School District for filling its pool or watering the football field. The Joint Board therefore wanted \$1,000 from the school district. Ms. Houston will create a form to document each water usage for filling pools, watering fields, etc. Mr. Minoia asked about the flow meter in the sewer line and why that reading wasn't used. Mr. Finch stated that the water in question doesn't go through the flow meter and therefore, in the eyes of the Joint Board, the Town is "giving water away."

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AGRICULTURAL ZONING/TAX I.D. #194.01-2-11.1/UPPER POWERS ROAD

Town Attorney Cheryl Sacco stated that the owners of tax parcel #194.01-2-11.1, which is located on upper Powers Road, wish to own horses, and so have petitioned to be included in the Agricultural Zone in that area. She explained that this is not a re-zoning of the parcel or changing any zoning, merely Broome County adding parcels to the Agricultural Zone, which it can do under the Agriculture and Markets Law of New York State. The Town Board had no objections to this change.

GIRL SCOUTS/BIRD HOUSE PROJECT

Mr. Finch explained that a local Girl Scout troop has offered to build bird houses to beautify Town parks and grounds as part of the work toward a merit badge. They are willing to build 10 or 12 bird houses. It was suggested that the bird houses be located at Conklin Forks Park, Schnurbusch Park, Sullivan Park, the Town Hall, and at the Community Center.

RESO 2013-51: SUPPORT SUSQUEHANNA RAIN AND STREAM GAUGES

Mr. Bullock moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board (hereinafter “Board”) of the Town of Conklin (hereinafter “Town”), duly convened in regular session at Town Hall, does hereby resolve as follows:

WHEREAS, the Town of Conklin is located within Broome County;

WHEREAS, there are currently a series of sixteen rain gauges and eighteen stream gauges in the Susquehanna River Basin, all of which are federally funded;

WHEREAS, one of the rain gauges and three of the stream gauges are in Broome County;

WHEREAS, the stream and river gauges are maintained and operated by the U. S. Geological Survey and generate real-time data needed by the National Weather Service to forecast river levels and to issue timely, accurate early flood warnings;

WHEREAS, this information is used by emergency managers, local officials, and citizens to make critical decisions to protect life and property;

WHEREAS, the Susquehanna River is one of the most flood prone portions of the country, with more than 80 percent of the over 1,400 municipalities in the region including areas that are flood prone;

WHEREAS, Broome County was subject to a devastating record flood in 2006;

WHEREAS, the 2006 record flood was exceeded by a more damaging flood in 2011;

WHEREAS, the 2011 flood event alone caused hundreds of millions in damage due to property loss, economic impacts, and infrastructure damage;

WHEREAS, the community is still recovering from the 2011 flood;

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WHEREAS, we were fortunate not to have experienced loss of life during the 2011 flooding, due in substantial part to having sufficient advance warning to allow for orderly evacuations;

WHEREAS, according to our recently drafted Hazard Mitigation Plan, there is the potential for \$1 billion in damage in Broome County alone from a future flood event;

WHEREAS, the annual cost to the Federal government to maintain this vital gauge system for the entire Susquehanna River is approximately \$215,000;

WHEREAS, the funding of these vital gauges is uncertain from year to year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the undersigned, urgently call for the Federal government to make a firm, long-term commitment to funding this critical rain and stream gauge system.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is requested that the Clerk send a certified copy of this resolution to:

Frank Evangelisti, Chief Planner
Broome County Department of Planning
P.O. Box 1766
Binghamton, New York 13902

LASTLY, IT BE RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Seconded by Mr. Francisco.

VOTE: Minoia – Yes, Bullock – Yes, Francisco – Yes, Finch – Yes. Motion passed unanimously.

RESO 2013-52: RATIFY PAYMENT/JE KOCAK TRUCKING & TRANSPORT/PICK UP CHARGE/3 GENERATORS/RICHAMOND, VIRGINIA

Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin ratifies payment of check #5675, account code HA-8760-4M, in the amount of \$1,750.00 to JE Kocak Trucking & Transport, LLC, for the pick-up charge for three generators located in Richmond, Virginia.

Seconded by Mr. Minoia.

VOTE: Minoia – Yes, Bullock – Yes, Francisco – Yes, Finch – Yes. Motion passed unanimously.

RESO 2013-53: AUTHORIZE PAYMENT/BILL LIST/\$64,782.76

Mr. Bullock moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin authorizes payment of the following Bill List in the total amount of \$64,782.76:

General	\$15,431.99
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Highway	18,037.38
Flood Emergency	18,513.00
Light Districts	1,820.72
Sewer District	446.81
Water District	4,547.86
Non-Budget	<u>5,985.00</u>
Total	\$64,782.76

Seconded by Mr. Francisco.

VOTE: Minoia – Yes, Bullock – Yes, Francisco – Yes, Finch – Yes. Motion passed unanimously.

“CHIPS” MONEY FOR ROAD REPAIR

Mr. Minoia commented that the “CHIPS” (Consolidated Highway Improvement Fund) money is based on center-line miles and determined by the New York State Thruway Authority, stressing that it is important to keep track of road inventory per mile.

BEROTA COURT DRAINAGE

Mr. Bullock asked about the drainage issues on Berota Court, which the Town would like to address, and Mr. Finch explained that the Town is still waiting for one signature from a property owner, whose house is in the Buyout Program, to grant the Town the right-of-way needed to address the problem.

FIRE ALARM SYSTEM/HIGHWAY GARAGE

Mr. Bullock stated that a fire alarm system is needed at the Town Highway Garage. Mr. Finch asked Mr. Bullock to determine what is needed for this project.

VETERANS MEMORIAL

Mr. Finch stated that Bob Page, who is spearheading the Veterans Memorial Project, requested that the site of the proposed memorial be moved and Mr. Finch told Mr. Page this would not be possible because it would then interfere with the operation of the annual fair. He stated that the memorial site will be shifted slightly left to alter the sidewalk angle. Mr. Finch stated that he met with Mr. Joe Roberts, who has agreed to sell crusher run and base material for the memorial at \$3 per ton, instead of the \$12 per ton the Veterans Memorial Committee had been quoted. The Committee currently has approximately \$14,000 to begin the memorial. When it is completed, the Town of Conklin will accept the memorial as part of its grounds and will maintain it. Mr. Bullock asked if it will be lit with solar lights and Mr. Finch stated that those will be used. Mr. Francisco stated that it would be possible to get pole-mounted solar lights. Mr. Finch stated that it is important to get the project started.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Francisco moved for adjournment, seconded by Mr. Minoia. The meeting adjourned at 6:03 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherrie L. Jacobs
Town Clerk

