

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 9, 2014

no funds available for this project at this time. He added that the Town is researching the possibility of obtaining property on which to construct a salt barn. Mr. Ronk asked if specifications are available and whether or not a catch basin is included in the plans and Town Attorney Cheryl Sacco stated that Code Officer Robert Jones would have that information.

Mr. Ronk asked if the Town has made progress on installation of its newly acquired generators and Mr. Francisco replied that the Town has designed a plan to hook up the generators and has applied to FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) for a grant for \$100,000 for installation of the generators.

Mr. Ronk asked if the Rising Community Grant is funded by Broome County. Mr. Finch replied that it is not funded by the County; funds are available from the federal government and New York State government through grants for which the Town has applied.

Mr. Ronk asked about the new Walkable Community walkway and Mr. Finch explained that Broome County is building the walkway with funds from a federal grant, adding that the project was first approved in 2004. Mr. Ronk asked who will maintain the walkway and Mr. Finch replied that he does not know.

FEMA MONEY FOR FLOOD BUYOUT PROGRAM

Mr. Hal Cole asked about an article in the **Press and Sun Bulletin** which stated that the Town of Conklin received \$1.5 million, asking how the money will be utilized. Ms. Sacco stated that the monies cover parts of the Buyout costs of 60 properties – closing costs, legal costs, demolition, but not air monitoring. Mr. Cole asked about the money mentioned in the newspaper article. Ms. Sacco stated that it could be a ceiling for the Buyout but added that she is not familiar with the article in question and will research it. Mr. Finch suggested that Mr. Cole contact Senator Charles Schumer to seek answers to his questions.

LOSS OF “NEST EGG”

Chuck Little of Carol Court addressed the Town to “thank” the Board for “ensuring that he and his wife would be in the Town of Conklin 24/7 because they have no choice.” He stated that he owned a house located on 1096 Powers Road which was valued at \$89,000 before it was heavily damaged in the 2006 flood. He stated that this house, his “nest egg,” took on 13 feet of water in the flood. Mr. Little stated that Casey Igo, Code Officer at the time, told him that the building would need to be raised two feet before a building permit would be issued. Mr. Little stated that he passed this information on to prospective buyers, which decreased interest in his property. He stated that in his discouragement he “gave away” the property for a significant loss. After the sale, he stated, current Code Officer Robert Jones stated that the house did not have to be raised. Mr. Little stated that the bad information that he was given caused him to sell the house for much less than it was worth, leaving him no money for investment or vacations with friends, “who all go to Florida and on cruises.”

CARLIN CREEK DRAINAGE PROJECT

Phillip McKenzie of Sharon Drive asked, if the \$1.5 million for the Carlin Creek drainage project has been “taken back,” “who has that money?” Mr. Finch explained that the Town is working with the Rising Community Grant Committee on the Stillwater Road project and on the evacuation route in the middle of the Town. Ms. Sacco read a letter from Julie Sweet, Chairperson of the Rising Community Grant Committee, stating that these two projects replace

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the Carlin Creek drainage project. Mr. Finch stated that the engineering study for Carlin Creek is on hold for “sometime in the future,” adding that it is political maneuvering. Mr. Minoia asked about an engineering study on Carlin Creek completed by Rick Woidt and Mr. Finch replied that this study was completed six or seven years ago. Mr. McKenzie commented that the water is “going nowhere, with all the asphalt added on the hill” (Broome Corporate Park).

OLD BUSINESS:

UPDATE/FLOOD BUYOUT PROGRAM

Mr. Finch stated that closings have taken place on seven houses in the Flood Buyout Program, and the demolition contractors have been notified. Assistant to the Supervisor Lisa Houston stated that six properties have been submitted to FEMA for payment.

Mr. Finch stated that property owners of a house on June Street had closed on the house, making it federal property, then stripped materials out of the house, which is not allowed in the FEMA agreement. He stated that the Broome County Sheriff’s Department has been notified and the former owners will return the materials that they removed.

UPDATE/RISING COMMUNITY GRANT PROJECTS

Mr. Finch reiterated that the Town is moving forward with the Stillwater Road project and the evacuation route.

RENTAL RATES/COMMUNITY CENTER, PARK PAVILIONS, AND POOL

At Mr. Finch’s request, Town Clerk Sherrie Jacobs compiled an overview of the current rental rates for the Floyd Maines Community Center, the park pavilions, and the Town pool, along with Mr. Finch’s recommendations for increases in the rates and some changes to the rate structure. The Town Board will consider these recommendations and discuss rental rates at the September 23 Town Board meeting.

UPDATE/DOG CONTROL OFFICER

Mr. Finch stated that the Town of Binghamton Dog Control Officer, John Simmons, who provides dog control services for the Town of Conklin through a shared services agreement, has retired. Mr. Finch stated that Tarah Tripp will be the new Dog Control Officer until February 2015.

UPDATE/CODE OFFICER POSITION

Mr. Finch stated that the Town has received back one application for the position of Code Officer. Mr. Bullock and Mr. Francisco will interview prospective applicants. Mr. Finch stated that he met with the Town of Binghamton Code Officer, Nick Pappas, who stated that he could help the Town of Conklin if it becomes necessary.

NEW BUSINESS:

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RESO 2014-132: SCHEDULE BOARD MEETING TIMES AND WORK SESSIONS

Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin schedules its Regular Town Board meetings with a start time of 6:00 P.M. for both the first and second meeting of each month, with a Work Session beginning at 5:30 P.M. prior to the second meeting of each month, beginning with the October 14, 2014 Town Board meeting.

Seconded by Mr. Finch.

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

RESO 2014-133: AWARD BID/FRED A. COOK, INC./ TELEVISIONING, CLEANING, & SMOKE TESTING/SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM

Mr. Bullock moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin awards the bid for televising, cleaning, and smoke testing the sanitary sewer system to Fred A. Cook, Inc., for a bid amount of \$13,391.00.

Seconded by Mr. Minoia.

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

Mr. Finch stated that FEMA will pay for the cost of this testing.

RESO 2014-134: AWARD BID/GYMO, P.C./AIR MONITORING/DEMOLITION OF STRUCTURES/2011 FLOOD BUYOUT PROGRAM

Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin awards the bid for air monitoring for the demolition of structures in the 2011 Flood Buyout Program to GYMO, P.C., for a bid amount of \$40,740.00.

Seconded by Mr. Bullock.

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

RESO 2014-135: APPROVE COLIN CASEY/ATTEND GRADE C WATER DISTRIBUTION OPERATOR CERTIFICATION COURSE/ 10-20 – 10-24-2014/CORTLAND, NEW YORK

Mr. Minoia moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin approves Colin Casey to attend the Grade C Water Distribution Operator Certification Course to be held October 20 through October 24, 2014, in Cortland, New York, at a cost of \$550.00.

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Seconded by Mr. Francisco.

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

RESO 2014-136: ACCEPT DONATION/DALE COOK/\$200.00/FIELD USE FOR GIRLS' SOFTBALL CAMP

Mr. Bullock moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin accepts a donation in the amount of \$200.00, account code A2705, from Dale Cook for use of ball fields for girls' softball camp.

Seconded by Mr. Minoia.

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

RESO 2014-137: APPROVE HIRE/JESSICA STEINBRECHER/LIFEGUARD/EFFECTIVE 8-15-2014/PAY RATE \$8.00 PER HOUR

Mr. Minoia moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin approves the hiring of Jessica Steinbrecher to the position of part-time Lifeguard, effective August 15, 2014, at a pay rate of \$8.00 per hour.

Seconded by Mr. Bullock.

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

RESO 2014-138: APPROVE PAYMENT/SEPTEMBER 9, 2014 BILL LIST/\$75,956.73

Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin approves payment of the following September 9, 2014 Bill List in the total amount of \$75,956.73:

General	\$11,996.28
Highway	59,918.60
2011 Flood Emergency	375.00
Sewer District	5,400.00
Water District	269.62
Water District #6	3,347.23
Non-Budget	<u>50.00</u>
Total	\$75,956.73

Seconded by Mr. Bullock.

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

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2015 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Mr. Finch asked Paul Jacobs, President of the Conklin Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., why the fire department's contingency budget is lower for 2015 and Mr. Jacobs replied that some of the department's equipment that is 17 to 22 years old is being sold and two new pieces of apparatus are being purchased. He added that the fire department had to dip into its reserve funds \$15,000 to \$16,000 in 2014. Mr. Finch stated that the Town Board is trying to keep the Budget down but added that the fire department raised its budget by \$5,000. Mr. Jacobs replied that the fire department crunches numbers and tries to create the best budget it can because "we all pay taxes too." He added that New York State and OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) place many unfunded mandates on fire departments, particularly in regard to equipment and training requirements. Mr. Finch commented that the New York State Comptroller's Office has been auditing fire departments lately and Mr. Jacobs replied that the Conklin Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., is audited annually by an independent auditor, "as required by federal law."

Highway Superintendent Brian Coddington stated that his department's budget request included an increase of \$8,640 for salt. Mr. Finch stated that other municipalities use a mixture of 4 or 5 parts sand to 1 part salt, to save money. Mr. Coddington stated that his department uses a mixture of 2 or 3 parts sand to 1 part salt, adding that otherwise the mixture is too light and the road surface will refreeze and need to be re-sanded, using more material in the long run.

Town Justice J. Marshall Ayres stated that his department has not seen an increase in either its equipment or contractual line in the past five years. He added that this is the sixth year that crime has been less in the Town of Conklin. Mr. Ayres stated that the new security cameras, purchased through a grant from the New York State Office of Court Administration, were being installed today.

HORSES IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Ms. Sacco stated that although the Town Code does not prohibit horses in areas zoned Residential, the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets states that farm animals are not allowed in residential areas, and a horse is considered a farm animal, not a pet. She added that it is ultimately up to the Code Officer's interpretation of the law.

FLOOD BUYOUT CLOSINGS

Mr. Finch reiterated that the Town is moving forward with closings on the Flood Buyout properties and will be deducting the cost of any materials stripped from the structures after the closings have been completed.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Finch moved for adjournment, seconded by Mr. Bullock. The meeting adjourned at 7:48 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherrie L. Jacobs
Town Clerk

