

**REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING**  
**APRIL 24, 2018**

The Town Board of the Town of Conklin held a Regular Town Board meeting starting at 6:33 p.m. on April 24, 2018, at the Conklin Town Hall. Conklin Town Supervisor William Dumian Jr. presided. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PRESENT:** Town Board Members Boyle, Farley, Platt, Francisco, Dumian  
Town Counsel Cheryl Sacco  
Deputy Town Clerk Elizabeth A. Einstein  
Highway Superintendent Brian Coddington  
Code Officer/Dog Control Officer Nick Vascello

**GUESTS:** Broome County Legislator, District #3 Kelly F. Wildoner  
*The Country Courier* Don Einstein  
John Colley  
Jonathan Burgman  
Mike Patchen  
Laurie Francisco  
Holly Manchester  
Michaela Haskell  
Jackie Ryder  
Hannah Haskell

**MINUTES: APRIL 24, 2018, REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING**

Mr. Francisco moved to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2018 Regular Town Board meeting as presented.

Seconded by Mr. Platt.

VOTE: Boyle-Yes, Farley-Yes, Platt-Yes, Francisco-Yes, Dumian-Yes. The motion passed unanimously.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Mr. Dumian shared information from the Broome County Fire Chiefs Association reminding all that Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, from noon to 3 p.m., there will be a countywide Recruitment Day for fire departments. The Conklin Vol. Fire Department will be open from 12-3 p.m. and is in need of more volunteers. Enlistment is becoming a growing concern as there are a lot more requirements for someone to be a firefighter. He asked his listeners to encourage people to stop by Station One on Saturday. Mr. Dumian said that he will see that Recruitment Day signs are posted out in front of the Town Hall and inside the building.

Mr. Dumian said he had just received the Sheriff's Report for 2017 from Sheriff Dave Harder. He said it is interesting and well done, and is available in his office. He would be happy to let others read it.

**REPORT: HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

**MUNICIPAL CLEAN UP/APPLIANCE AND BRUSH PICKUP**

Mr. Dumian asked Highway Superintendent Brian Coddington if he had anything he wanted to bring to the Board. Mr. Coddington said the new skidsteer should be here within two weeks. Municipal Cleanup is next week, May 2nd-May 4th, and the White Goods and Brush pickup will follow soon after on May 9-11. Mr. Dumian asked if there was an electronics collection this year. Mr. Coddington said there was not. Mr. Dumian said he thought there was a possibility that something could be worked out next year with Broome County for an electronics collection and he and Mr. Coddington would get together to discuss this. Mr. Coddington also said that the snow plows had all been put away and he received several joking comments, both from the Board and residents, saying they hoped there would be no need to bring them out in the near future.

**REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING**  
**APRIL 24, 2018**

**REPORT: CODE OFFICE/DOG CONTROL OFFICER**

Code Enforcement Officer Nick Vascello said fire inspections have been on hold for right now. With the break in the weather people are coming in for building permits and the Code Office is also dealing with properties that need to be cleaned up. Mr. Dumian asked about the neglected properties that the Town has been concerned about for some time. He asked if the property owner of the former Dino's/Tego's had sent in his plans to rebuild. Mr. Vascello said he has the general plans but is still waiting for the engineering plans that deal with the building foundation. He is hopeful that with the nice weather, the owner would start work on the building again. Mr. Vascello has stayed in contact with him every couple of weeks. Mr. Dumian said the Board would like to see more action, such as a timeline and the engineering plans. He said he would get together with Mr. Vascello and they would put together a letter asking for the owner's timelines now that it is almost the end of April. He is concerned that there is a lot of discussion but no action and the project should be pushed along. Mr. Vascello said the property owner has been very cooperative and has had several other projects going at the same time. He expects that now that the weather is better, he will see some action. Mr. Dumian suggested, that since this property owner has always asked about coming in, that the gentleman be asked to come to a Town Board meeting and present his plans and the timeline to the Board. Mr. Vascello said the owner has planned to come to his office in May. Mr. Dumian suggested that he should be asked to come before the Town Board no later than the second Board meeting in May. The other Board members agreed.

Concerning the other property, the former Progressive Dental building, there has been nothing forthcoming from the present owner. Mr. Dumian reminded the Board that Nick Pappas, Town of Binghamton/Conklin Building & Code Inspector, has submitted both properties to the Broome County Land Bank Corporation so that in the event nothing positive does happen with these properties, the Town will have some recourse and potentially have the funding to take care of both of these dilapidated buildings. Mr. Platt said he had not seen anyone doing anything on the property, even walking around looking at the project.

Next Mr. Vascello was asked about lost dogs. Mr. Vascello said between the Town of Binghamton and Town of Conklin, he has picked up 12 dogs in the last 10 days—most of those dogs were in the Town of Conklin. He has picked up more dogs for Conklin this year than for Town of Binghamton. "Conklin is way ahead," said Mr. Vascello. He has had to take eight or nine dogs to the dog shelter.

Mr. Vascello also asked if the Board was going to support the pay increase to \$50 per dog for the Deputy Dog Control Officer. This had been discussed at a previous meeting. Mr. Dumian replied that the Board would consider that Resolution later in the meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**DUMPING BETWEEN AHERN AND POWERS ROADS**

Mr. Johnathan Burgman of 373 Powers Road, Conklin, spoke to the Board about a project he has taken on for the last two years to support Earth Day, observed every year in April. He walks for exercise and last year he noticed a particular roadside area where "a lot" of dumping has been going on for some time between Ahern and Coleman roads. He said that, last year on the low side of the road, over two different afternoons, he pulled out over 70 car and truck tires. Knowing it is a county road, he contacted Broome County and "They graciously came up and took them all away."

Mr. Burgman said that this spring he pulled out the rest of the trash on the low side of the road, which included "car parts, headlight assemblies, pieces of fenders and bumpers, some electronic gear not related to cars, probably a couple hundred bottles and cans, a gallon of antifreeze and all sorts of nasty things."

He is concerned because he could tell by the labels on the bottles and cans that some of the garbage being dumped there is new. Mr. Burgman described exactly where this is occurring and

**REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING**  
**APRIL 24, 2018**

mentioned that someone else, with heavy equipment, is also dumping near this site and then grading it off with a bulldozer. He said this has been going on for years and he really knows nothing about who it is or why this is happening.

Mr. Burgman said he had called the County about his recent cleanup and they suggested he talk about this issue to the Town first. He asked if some signage could be put up where this trash dumping is taking place. He feared that the signs may not do anything other than make him feel good, but he believes the Town should be aware of the dumping. Despite all his efforts he is also concerned that there will still be a lot more dumping in this specific area if no action is taken. He said the current guard rail is not a preventative. This is not his property or the property of his neighbors.

Mr. Dumian replied that he felt the Town could certainly see that some signage is posted. "Unfortunately to police it, you have to catch someone in the act," said Dumian.

Highway Superintendent Brian Coddington said he will contact Broome County about the issue and the need for signage. Mr. Dumian assured Mr. Burgman some action would be taken.

There were no other public comments.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**NEW COMMUNITY CENTER CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT**

Mr. Dumian gave an update on the Community Center/Day Care Center Grant. He had a conversation just that morning with the firm that was awarded the A&E portion of the project. They discussed a Clerk of the Works position. The A&E firm had a direct conference call with the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) and it looks like there may be an approval coming by the end of this week, giving the go-ahead to use the A&E firm in order to take on that portion of the project: weekly reviews and handling the billing process because the Town does not have anyone to do it. Said Mr. Dumian, "Nick Vascello will be involved from a Code perspective; John Mastronardi will be involved from Griffiths Engineering but, we don't have a CA Service here within the Town. . . . It will be a significant savings and will benefit us in the long run."

The Supervisor and Town Attorney Cheryl Sacco are reviewing the contract with the A&E firm to address some wording that was a concern and they are working through that. He told the Board to expect a resolution dealing with this at the next meeting.

**OPENING DAY CELEBRATION AT SCHNURBUSCH**

The Supervisor welcomed anyone to attend the Opening Day Celebration for Spring Youth Sports to help grill hotdogs and hamburgers and hand out bottled water. He said it was necessary to split the boys and girls start times because they did not have enough teams in certain groups to have all Conklin teams playing each other this year. So the Boys will start at 10AM and the Girls begin at 2PM. To accommodate this, there will be two little "kick offs". He was disappointed that there could not be a parade, but said, moving forward, they plan to work that out so this doesn't happen next year and the opening can be a memorable celebration.

Mr. Dumian will fire up the grill at 11:00 a.m. and start grilling soon after. He plans to serve the free hotdogs and hamburgers until around 3:00 p.m. when the girls games are well underway (at least 400 hotdogs and 380 hamburgers have been ordered. Bring your spatula and tongs and show up. He also extended that invitation to the attorney, who indicated she might just be there.

Councilman Will Platt said the fire department will still bring the fire trucks down around 9:45 a.m. and stay for a couple hours so the kids can look through the trucks.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING**  
**APRIL 24, 2018**

**MAY, JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST TOWN BOARD MEETINGS**

Mr. Dumian said he is not able to attend the Regular Town Board Meeting on May 8. He would like to change that meeting. He said the Zoning Board would like to meet on May 8<sup>th</sup> as well. He wants to have the meeting on Wednesday, May 9, 2018. The Board agreed to move the Tuesday, May 8, 2018 meeting to Wednesday, May 9, 2018, at 6:30 p.m.

The Supervisor said it is customary for the Town Board to cancel the second meetings of the month for June, July and August. The Board agreed that there will be just one meeting a month during the summer months. Mr. Dumian said he and his assistant, Lisa Houston, will soon begin crunching numbers and looking out to the 2019 budget.

**CONCERTS IN THE PARK**

Mr. Dumian asked the Board if having seven concerts in the park this summer met with the Board's approval. The concerts usually begin at the end of June and continue over the summer months until mid-August. Tom DeLamarter is in charge of getting the bands and has the schedule. The Board members were all in favor of having the seven concerts throughout the summer of 2018.

**RESO 2018-57: CANCEL THE SECOND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH WORK SESSIONS AND TOWN BOARD MEETINGS IN JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST**

Mr. Farley moved the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin approves the cancellation of the following 2018 work sessions and Town Board meetings: June 26, work session and Town Board meeting; July 24, work session and Town Board meeting; August 28, work session and Town Board meeting.

Seconded by Mr. Platt.

VOTE: Boyle-Yes, Farley-Yes, Platt-Yes, Francisco-Yes, Dumian-Yes. The motion passed unanimously.

**RESO 2018-58: RESCHEDULE THE TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2018 MEETING FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 2018**

Mr. Francisco made the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin approves rescheduling the Tuesday, May 8, 2018 Town Board meeting to Wednesday, May 9, 2018, at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Boyle made the second to the motion.

VOTE: Boyle-Yes, Farley-Yes, Platt-Yes, Francisco-Yes, Dumian-Yes. The motion passed unanimously.

**RESO 2018-59: INCREASE THE BUDGET APPROPRIATION FOR THE EMERGENCY/FILL-IN DOG CONTROL OFFICER**

Mr. Boyle made the following motion:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin increases the budget appropriation for the Emergency/Fill-In Dog Control Officer from \$25.00 to \$50.00 per event.

Seconded by Mr. Farley.

VOTE: Boyle-Yes, Farley-Yes, Platt-Yes, Francisco-Yes, Dumian-Yes. The motion passed unanimously.

**REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING**  
**APRIL 24, 2018**

**RESO 2018-60: AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF BILL LIST /\$93,411.00**

Mr. Platt 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 \$93,411.00:

General	\$20,451.52
Highway	1,393.97
Light Districts	2,321.56
Sewer Districts	64,674.24
Water District	<u>4,569.71</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$93,411.00</b>

Mr. Boyle seconded the motion.

VOTE: Boyle-Yes, Farley-Yes, Platt-Yes, Francisco-Yes, Dumian-Yes. The motion passed unanimously.

**RECOGNITION OF THE SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL**  
**GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM AS NYS CHAMPIONS**

Mr. Dumian invited Broome County District 3 Legislator Kelly Wildoner to come forward as the Town Board and Legislator Wildoner recognized the accomplishments of the 2017-2018 SVHS Girls Varsity Basketball Team that not only took the NYSPHSAA Class B Championship but the NYS Federation Championship as well. Those in the Town Board meeting room joined the Town Board with a round of applause for the team. Councilman Charles Francisco handed out the certificates from the Conklin Town Board to “very special young women,” and Mr. Wildoner presented the certificates from the Broome County Legislature. Mr. Dumian offered the girls his congratulations on “an awesome season” followed by another round of applause for the team.

Because of work and a new season of sports, only four of the players were able to attend. Mr. Francisco read the certificates lauding the girls on their accomplishments in both the NYS Public High School Athletic Association and the Federation Tournament. Mr. Wildoner praised the athletes for their phenomenal season and for making the community proud. The players able to attend the meeting were: Michaela Haskell, Hannah Haskell, Jackie Ryder and Holly Manchester. They all commented on what an exciting season it was for each of them.

The Town Board and Mr. Wildoner recognized and congratulated the team as a whole: Jenna Cotter, Alex Deeter, Maeve Donnelly, Mara Donnelly, Hannah Haskell, Michaela Haskell, Sophie Keehle, Trinasia Kennedy, Hillary Morgan, Emily Repp, Kendal Ryan, and Brooke Ryder. Congratulations on a great job were also sent to Varsity Girls Basketball Coach Chad Freije.

The basketball team was invited to participate in the Opening Day festivities for Conklin Youth Sports on Saturday, April 28. Mr. Dumian invited Holly Manchester to throw out the first ball if she was available.

**UPSTATE ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS MEETING**

Mr. Boyle asked the Town Board members to mark their calendars for the Upstate Association of Town’s Summer Barbecue to be held this year in Conklin’s Schnurbusch Park, Pavilion #3, on Wednesday, July 18

Brooks House of Barbecue, Oneonta, NY, will be catering. Mr. Dumian, Mr. Francisco, and Mr. Platt said they will plan to attend.

**REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING**  
**APRIL 24, 2018**

**DEFIBRILATORS IN THE TOWN HALL**

Mr. Boyle asked how many people at the Town Hall and on the Town Board are trained to operate the defibrillator. Ms. Houston said that several town hall employees had training in the use of the defibrillator. Councilman Platt commented on how good the directions are and said the defibrillator talks you through the process step by step.

Mr. Dumian said, just by way of information, Mr. DeLamarter had received notice that the Town's defibrillator had a minute chance of having a possible defect. "Tom is replacing that defibrillator. We are not going to take a chance," said Mr. Dumian.

**CONKLIN YOUTH SPORTS/ACTIVITIES**

Mr. Farley said the Conklin Kiwanis Pitch, Hit & Run held Saturday, April 21, was a success. He had several coaches step up to help Recreation Supervisor Fran Bealo and the Conklin Kiwanis Club with the competition. He said 29 young athletes competed to move on to the Regional Competition, which will be hosted by the Binghamton Rumble Ponies at NYSEG Stadium. He said next year they will try something a little different to get more kids involved. This year they were up against things like many games that had been postponed due to the weather.

Mr. Dumian said that he appreciated all the help from Mr. Farley with the spring sports season and said, "We are still looking at changing the direction and the focus a little bit after this baseball/softball season ends." He added, "It is starting to work out much better now that we have some other people involved and pitching in, doing some recruiting. My goal is to make sure that we do the recruiting for next year, directly after this season ends." He said he appreciates all the work that Director of Youth Activities Fran Bealo puts into these programs and is happy to see others helping because one person cannot do everything. Mr. Dumian thanked Dan Miller and the Conklin Booster Club for stepping up this year and making a difference.

Mr. Farley encouraged parents to volunteer to help as well as anyone interested in youth sports. "Don't be shy. Come see us. We will put you to work," he said.

**GENERATOR/TRANSFER SWITCH**

Mr. Francisco said that he was present when A.C. Spear was putting in the Generator Transfer Switch at the Town Hall on Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup> and he still has some concerns about backup power. He had conversations with the Supervisor and his assistant, Lisa Houston, regarding the equipment that resides outside of the server and what would happen if there was a failure in one unit. Mr. Francisco said that well over a year ago a small system was installed for the Highway Department to take care of their radios and necessary equipment in the case of a power outage. He said he was adamant about seeing something similar done at the Town Hall for the small satellite pieces of equipment.

Mr. Dumian said Mr. Francisco had talked to him about this the previous day and the suggested process has already been started. The Supervisor said he agreed that this was a good idea and acted on it right away. A quote from Bluestorm Technologies was already obtained to replace a bad switch on the server and provide the secondary backup power to move ahead on Francisco's suggestion.

Mr. Francisco wondered if there was anywhere else in the Town that they needed to take the same action. After running down the list, it was decided that other areas of concern already had secondary systems in place. As far as the backup generator at the Town Hall, Mr. Dumian said, "We just need the cables now to connect the generator into the disconnect switch." Mr. Francisco said the cables were expected to arrive in the next couple of weeks and then it would be necessary to schedule a test for the backup system.

**REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING**

**APRIL 24, 2018**

**THANK YOU**

Mr. Dumian thanked Councilman Bill Farley for his efforts in this year's Pitch Hit and Run Competition. He also thanked the Conklin Kiwanis Club for sponsoring the program and for all the effort that goes into it. He said there had been an increase in the participation in the program and he thought having the competition on a day by itself made a difference. He appreciated all the volunteers who helped that day.

He also thanked Mr. Francisco and Administrative Assistant Mary Plonski for their work behind the scenes in honoring the girls' basketball team.

**ELECTRONIC SIGN AT SCHNURBUSCH PARK**

Mr. Dumian said he did have one quote for the electronic sign the Town Board would like to install at Schnurbusch Park. He said the Town is seeking competitive bids on the project.

**NATURAL GAS INQUIRIES**

Ms. Houston said her office is starting to get inquiries on switching to different suppliers for natural gas. She said that previously the Board had asked her to put together information comparing the costs of electric suppliers such as MEGA and NYSEG. At that time, after looking at the differences, the Town chose to go with NYSEG for its electric utilities. She wondered if the Board would like compiled information along the same lines for natural gas distributors. She said there are four suppliers from which she could gain information to make some comparisons.

The Board agreed that this was a very good idea and Mr. Dumian said he had just read some information about fixed rates versus variable rates and encouraged Ms. Houston to move forward with putting information together. Mr. Francisco said as of May 1 there is a new rate increase going into effect for NYSEG. He said he was certain it would reflect across the board even with other companies. Mr. Dumian said, "The good news is that now we are getting some competitive information. In years past, when it was not deregulated, you couldn't get any competitive information. You basically had one choice. So choices are not a bad thing, but from everything we looked at last year, we saved a lot of money by going back to NYSEG. . . ."

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Boyle made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Francisco offered a second.

VOTE: Boyle-Yes, Farley-Yes, Platt-Yes, Francisco-Yes, Dumian-Yes. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Einstein, Deputy Clerk