

**REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING**  
**MARCH 13, 2018**

The Town Board of the Town of Conklin held a Regular Town Board Meeting at 6:30 P.M. on March 13, 2018, at the Conklin Town Hall. Mr. Dumian, Supervisor, presided. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PRESENT:** Town Board Members Boyle, Farley, Platt, Francisco, Dumian

Town Counsel	Nick Cortese
Town Clerk	Sherrie L. Jacobs
Secretary to the Supervisor	Lisa Houston
Code Officer/Dog Control Officer	Nick Vascello
Crew Leader	Tom DeLamarter

**GUESTS:** **Country Courier** Elizabeth Einstein  
Broome Co. Emergency Services Michael Ponticiello  
Laurie Francisco  
LeRoy Jenkins  
Evelyn Deeley  
John Colley

**MINUTES: FEBRUARY 27, 2018 WORK SESSION & REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING**

Mr. Francisco moved to approve the February 27, 2018 Work Session and Regular Town Board Meeting minutes as presented.

Seconded by Mr. Farley.

VOTE: Boyle – Yes, Farley – Yes, Platt – Yes, Francisco – Yes, Dumian – Yes. Motion passed unanimously.

**STATE OF THE COUNTY/MIKE PONTICIELLO/DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Director of Emergency Services Mike Ponticiello provided an update on the state of the County, filling in for Broome County Executive Jason Garnar, who had a prior commitment. Mr. Ponticiello stated that Mr. Garnar’s focus was “Building a Better Broome,” with such goals as increased jobs, lower taxes, improved infrastructure, a safe environment, and a more efficient government.

Mr. Ponticiello stated that highlights of Mr. Garnar’s attempts to “build a better Broome” include joining a pharmacy coalition, which he stated resulted in large savings; the announcement of 750 new jobs in Broome County; the efforts of the Broome-Tioga WorkForce in training workers to fill vacant positions; addressing areas of blight in the County; promoting tourism events; improving safety by adding money to the budgets of the Sheriff’s Department and of Emergency Services; fighting the heroin epidemic; creation of a Safe Schools Task Force, comprised of the Deputy County District Attorney, Social Services, Mental Health Services, and Broome Security; and establishing the Small Community Business Fund to help businesses in rural areas.

Mr. Boyle asked about the status of the solar farm located in the Broome Corporate Park, and Mr. Ponticiello stated that he has heard that it is “very close” to going online, but will follow up to get more information.

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### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Mr. Dumian acknowledged receipt of correspondence from Joan Paugh of 1533 Conklin Road regarding the speed limit on Route 7A. Ms. Paugh stated that she has had vehicles damage her home and car twice because the drivers were speeding and lost control of their vehicles. She would like the Town to decrease the speed limit on Route 7A, which is something the Town recently requested from the DOT (New York State Department of Transportation). The DOT denied the request.

Mr. Dumian also read excerpts from a response by State Senator Fred Akshar to a letter written to him regarding the need for a reduced speed limit on this roadway. Senator Akshar repeated the response given by the DOT that its study showed that reducing the speed limit would actually result in more drivers speeding and driving aggressively out of frustration. The DOT is not willing to reduce the speed limit for this reason, although it did agree to post more speed suggestion signs on Route 7A, such as reduced speed on curves in the road. Mr. Dumian stated that the Town will revisit this request in a few months.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **CONKLIN YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAMS**

Mr. Dumian stated that he and Mr. Farley are working with Youth Commissioner Fran Bealo and the coaches of the various Conklin Youth Sports teams to grow and revise the programs. He explained that the Town of Binghamton has an overall Director of Youth Sports and a Commissioner for each sport, adding that he thinks it would be helpful for the Town of Conklin to use this model. "Fran needs help," he stated, referring to Youth Commissioner Fran Bealo. There was also talk of combined Sabers team, made up of children from the Town of Binghamton, Conklin, and Kirkwood. Mr. Farley added that he is working with Mr. Bealo and the coaches to develop the Town of Conklin Girls' Softball program, adding that Dan Miller is stepping up to help with the softball program. Mr. Farley stated that there are also more members in the Conklin Youth Booster Club. The Kiwanis Pitch, Hit, and Run event will be held starting at 1:00 P.M. on April 21, with the Town Baseball/Softball Opening Day to be held on April 28.

Mr. Dumian stressed that the groups need to work together. He stated that there is only one team in Conklin for the 11 to 12 year old boys group, whereas the Town of Binghamton has four teams in that age range. Mr. Dumian stated that feedback from the community indicates that the residents want to grow and improve the Town of Conklin program, rather than combine with another town, adding that he thinks it is late in the season to combine anyway. Mr. Dumian stated that another issue is that registration in the Town of Conklin is \$20, whereas it is \$40 in the Town of Binghamton. He stated that a meeting will be held at the end of the season to evaluate the program and look at options. Mr. Dumian stated that the Town will provide hamburgers and hot dogs for Opening Day and suggested that a parade be organized to travel around Schnurbusch Park as part of the celebration.

Mr. Dumian stated that the Minor Softball (9 and 10 year old girls) group is "struggling," adding that good players will be pulled up to play in the Majors (11 and 12 year old girls). He stated

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that there are approximately 20 youth signed up for T-Ball however, which bodes well for the future. Secretary to the Supervisor Lisa Houston asked if the girls and boys teams could be combined and Mr. Dumian replied that the girls can already try out for the boys teams, adding that there are “other issues” to be considered.

Mr. Farley stated that the Conklin teams have “very dedicated coaches.” Mr. Dumian stated that combined teams would need to hold tryouts, where selections are made based on skills, and asked where the Town of Conklin children would fit in. He stated that there should be an assessment of skills to build evenly matched teams, with no “stacking” to make winning teams, adding that Town sports are “for the kids, not the parents.”

Crew Leader Tom DeLamarter, who has oversight of the Parks Department, stated that the portable mound used for Majors is too high for the Minors teams, adding that they need a dirt mound. He suggested that the Minors be allowed to play on the Little League field. Mr. Dumian suggested scheduling Friday night games at 8:00 P.M. under the lights for Little League Baseball and Major Softball, to build excitement. It was noted that help will be needed to run the concession stand.

Mr. DeLamarter commented that the fields should be “skinned,” so that only dirt is showing, with no grass in the field. He will get a price on this procedure. The Town of Conklin has equipment needed to skin the fields. Mr. Dumian stated that Conklin Forks Park should also be made practice and game ready.

Code Officer Nick Vascello, who formerly worked in the Town of Binghamton Parks Department, stated that the Town of Binghamton takes down and rebuilds its portable mound for Little League and Softball. Mr. Farley stated that practices have been scheduled. Mr. DeLamarter commented that “concessions should be open.”

## **TOWN DRAINAGE PROJECTS**

Mr. Boyle stated that he met with the DEC (New York State Department of Environmental Conservation) in Cortland and was advised that the DEC can issue permits for drainage projects after the Town submits plans for these projects, adding that the plans do not have to be stamped by an engineer. After the permits are issued, it is a matter of waiting for better weather, stated Mr. Boyle.

Mr. Dumian asked about funding for the boat launch that the Conklin Volunteer Fire Department wants in Stillwater, adding that he has spoken to representatives from GOSR (Governor’s Office for Storm Recovery) about funding and would seek other funds. He stated that he has also asked if the Town can apply Rising Community Grant funds for the boat launch. Mr. Dumian asked if the boat launch would be for public use and Mr. Boyle stated that it would be emergency use only for public safety. Mr. Boyle stated that the Town of Kirkwood boat launch was designed and installed by the DEC, but added that the DEC currently has no funds available for another boat launch project. He stated that the Town of Kirkwood Highway Department did the blacktopping on its boat launch to finish the project. Mr. Dumian reiterated that the boat launch would not be available for public use but would be for emergency public safety use only. He added that he and Mr. Boyle are working on plans for funding.

Mr. Boyle also stated that he is working on plans for the roof at the Town Hall/Castle. Mr. Dumian stated that “stewardship (of drainage systems and buildings) requires equipment and personnel,” adding that the Town will “get some done in 2018.”

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**BULDING PROJECTS**

Mr. Dumian commented that the painting done at the Community Center “looks great.” He added that he had some questions about the lights in that building and the dimmer switches. Mr. Dumian stated that some of the lights in the parking lot are non-functional. Mr. Francisco stated that he is working on a cost comparison between installing LED (Light Emitting Diode) lights vs. replacing ballasts in the current lights. He added that the bulbs have been replaced in the lights outside the building. Kevin Coates, Temporary Laborer, will re-finish the floors in the Community Center.

Mr. Francisco stated that the sidewalks outside the Town Hall are sinking, so the curbs are higher and present a tripping hazard. Mr. Dumian stated that the Town could polyfill the sidewalks with concrete, but added that it is expensive. He stated that the sidewalks could be levelled with cement underneath or the curbs could be pinned in place. Mr. Dumian stated that he is concerned with the aesthetic of the building and grounds if the curbs are painted, adding that he does not want to “band aid” the problem and alter the appearance. Mr. Boyle added that paint makes the surface slippery and could actually increase the chance of someone falling. Mr. Dumian stated that the Town will get estimates on both techniques.

Mr. Dumian stated that the generator installation at the Town Hall is getting closer to completion. He added that the Town Hall will have to be closed for a day and the power turned off to complete the installation. The Town’s IT provider will shut down the server so that no damage is done.

**COMMUNITY CENTER/DAY CARE GRANT UPDATE**

Mr. Dumian stated that he has inquired whether the Clerk of the Works for the Community Center/Day Care Project can be a Town of Conklin employee, instead of hiring a Construction Manager. He has also asked if grant money can be used if the Town hires a Clerk of the Works. Mr. Dumian stated that the Architectural and Engineering portion of the project needs to be “locked in.”

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS RIVER BASIN STUDY**

Mr. Dumian stated that the Army Corps of Engineers is conducting a River Basin Study of the Susquehanna River and is looking at municipalities which have experienced major flooding to consider stewardship that would prevent future flooding, such as construction of berms along the river in certain areas, adding that berms constructed in Conklin would create issues downstream in the City of Binghamton. Mr. Dumian stated that funding for this project would come from the DEC (65%), Town of Conklin in kind funds (15-20%), and other agency funding (15-20%).

**RESO 2018-43: APPROVE RECEIPT/ANNUAL PARK PERMIT/BLUE RIDGE PARK HOLDINGS, LLC**

Mr. Boyle moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin approves receipt of the 2018 Annual Park Permit in the amount of \$200.00 from Blue Ridge Park Holdings, LLC.

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Seconded by Mr. Platt.

VOTE: Boyle – Yes, Farley – Yes, Platt – Yes, Francisco – Yes, Dumian – Yes. Motion passed unanimously.

**RESO 2018-44: APPROVE CODE DEPARTMENT SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION TO FEMA/LEASE BUYOUT PROPERTIES**

Mr. Boyle moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin approves the Code Department to submit application to FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) seeking approval for leases on the following Buyout properties by the following individuals for Mowing and Maintenance, with each lease being a five year term for a total cost of \$25.00 per property:

923 Conklin Road	162.12-2-51	Jan Stone
925 Conklin Road	162.14-2-50	Jan Stone
913 ½ Conklin Road	162.14-2-57	Jan Stone
10 Miller Street	161.12-2-22	David Warner
10 Arbutus Avenue	178.11-1-44	Frank DeMaine

Seconded by Mr. Francisco.

VOTE: Boyle – Yes, Farley – Yes, Platt – Yes, Francisco – Yes, Dumian – Yes. Motion passed unanimously.

**RESO 2018-45: AUTHORIZE PAYMENT/BILL LIST/\$49,008.22**

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 \$49,008.22:

General	\$ 16,122.24
Highway	19,299.12
Sewer District	265.73
Water District	<u>13,321.13</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 49,008.22</b>

Seconded by Mr. Farley.

VOTE: Boyle – Yes, Farley – Yes, Platt – Yes, Francisco – Yes, Dumian – Yes. Motion passed unanimously.

**RESO 2018-46: APPROVE SELECTION TEAM EVALUATION & SCORING/SELECT DELTA ENGINEERS/ARCHITECT & ENGINEER RFP/COMMUNITY AND DAY CARE CENTER**

Mr. Farley moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin approves the evaluation and scoring of the selection team, which found that Delta Engineers, Architects & Land Surveyors (Delta) is the best and most qualified applicant under the architect and engineer RFP for the Town of Conklin Community Center and Day Care Center Project and it is the town's intent to enter into a contract with Delta to design the facility, and the Town will award with

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Delta contingent upon approval of the award from GOSR; once that approval is received, the supervisor is approved to enter into a contract with Delta.

Seconded by Mr. Platt.

VOTE: Boyle – Yes, Farley – Yes, Platt – Yes, Francisco – Yes, Dumian – Yes. Motion passed unanimously.

**RESO 2018-47: AUTHORIZE EXECUTION OF AMENDED SUBRECIPIENT AGREEMENT/CHANGES IN BOTH SCOPE & FUNDING OF COMMUNITY CENTER & STILLWATER DRAINAGE PROJECT**

Mr. Boyle moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin authorizes execution of an Amended Subrecipient Agreement to reflect the various changes to the Town of Conklin Community Center and Day Care Center Project and the Stillwater Drainage Project, including both the scope and funding changes.

Seconded by Mr. Farley.

VOTE: Boyle – Yes, Farley – Yes, Platt – Yes, Francisco – Yes, Dumian – Yes. Motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**MILLBURN DRIVE DRAINAGE**

John Colley of Millburn Drive asked about the drainage issues on Millburn Drive, which he stated are caused by people filling in the railroad ditch. He stated that the railroad has been contacted but refuses to do anything about the issue. He wondered if the new owners, Norfolk Southern Railroad, will be willing to address the problem, with either cleaning out the ditch or allowing someone else to clean it out, and perhaps install a new sluice pipe. Mr. Colley stated that it drains at the drain pipe at Conklin Forks East. Mr. Dumian stated that he will look into the situation.

**SV DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS RUN/WALK**

Mr. Platt stated that the Susquehanna Valley Dollars for Scholars group is not a school-sponsored group and therefore is not covered under the school district's insurance for its proposed 5K Run/Walk. Ms. Houston stated that it could be covered under the Town's umbrella insurance, adding that she could obtain a statement confirming this fact. Mr. Dumian stated that this proposed run/walk is not a Town function and he does not want the Town to assume liability for it.

**SMART STREET LIGHTING**

Mr. Francisco stated that the New York Power Authority has instituted a Smart Street Lighting Program to help municipalities make energy-efficient changes to their street lighting. Services include a lighting audit, engineering and design, bidding and procurement, construction management, environmental services, and low rate financing for qualified customers, including the option to finance the purchase of the system as part of the project. The savings include a rebate from NYSEERDA (New York State Energy Research and Development Authority). He stated that it also includes a low business loan with a ten year payback.

Mr. Francisco also noted that Governor Cuomo has been encouraging the replacement of current street lights with LED lights across the state. Mr. Dumian stated that the Town would own any new replacement fixtures but must pay salvage rates for the old fixtures to NYSEG (New York State Electric and Gas Corporation). He stated that the Town would need to know the total cost. Mr. Francisco stated that he will contact the New York Power Authority to learn the application

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process. He stated that he has also been in contact with Ryan Remza, whose company sells LED lights.

**TOWN/BUSINESS ASSOCIATION EASTER PARTY**

Town Clerk Sherrie Jacobs reminded those present that the annual Easter Party sponsored by the Town of Conklin and the Conklin Business Association will be held on March 24, 2018, from 11 A.M. to 1 P.M. at the Community Center.

**UNSAFE STRUCTURES**

Code Officer Nick Vascello stated that the owner of 848 Conklin Road (the former Dino's on the Susquehanna) submitted an application for a permit, with a deadline for obtaining engineer's plans for renovation by April. Mr. Dumian asked if there is a timeline for this project and Mr. Vascello stated that he can pull the permit at any time if there is no progress, adding that the owner is aware of the required goals.

Mr. Dumian stated that he asked Nick Pappas to apply to the Land Bank for consideration of three properties (the former Dino's, the former Progressive Dental building, and a neglected building on Hardie Road) for demolition if nothing is done by their respective owners. The Land Bank demolishes and repurposes abandoned buildings. Mr. Dumian stated that the applications for these three buildings have been submitted to the Land Bank.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Francisco moved for adjournment, seconded by Mr. Boyle. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherrie L. Jacobs  
Town Clerk