

**REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING**  
**APRIL 14, 2020**

The Town Board of the Town of Conklin held a Regular Town Board Meeting via ZOOM at 6:00 P.M. on April 14, 2020. Mr. Dumian, Supervisor, presided. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PRESENT:** Town Board Members Boyle, Farley, Platt, Francisco, Dumian  
Town Counsel Cheryl Sacco  
Town Clerk Sherrie L. Jacobs

**GUESTS:** Country Courier Elizabeth Einstein

Mr. Dumian confirmed that there were no other members of the public in the ZOOM “waiting room.”

**MINUTES: MARCH 10, 2020 REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING**

Mr. Farley moved to approve the March 10, 2020 Regular Town Board Meeting minutes as presented.

Seconded by Mr. Platt.

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

**MINUTES: MARCH 26, 2020 SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING**

Mr. Platt moved to approve the March 26, 2020 Special Town Board Meeting minutes as presented.

Seconded by Mr. Farley.

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**WELLNESS AND COMMUNITY CENTER PROJECT**

Mr. Dumian stated that he received an e-mail on April 9, 2020, from GOSR (Governor’s Office for Storm Recovery) stating that the application for the Wellness and Community Center project has been approved and the project is moving forward. He added that the funding for the project remains the same as has been previously discussed, adding that he is working on a grant through The Agency. Mr. Boyle asked if the \$300,000 from Broome County will still be available, adding that he heard Broome County Executive Jason Garnar state that only essential projects will be funded during the COVID-19 crisis. Mr. Dumian stated that he will talk with Mr. Garnar to be assured that the money will be available as promised, and will let him know that this project is considered essential by GOSR.

**CLOSURE OF TOWN PARKS & DOG PARK**

Mr. Dumian stated that the Town Parks and the Dog Park remain closed, adding that people have been accessing the Dog Park through the small gate so that too has been secured. He stated that he has received complaints of people still congregating in the parks, but stated that the Town

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“can’t police people.” He added that he personally “won’t call the cops,” as people need to behave responsibly.

**REPORT: SUPERVISOR’S OFFICE**

The Supervisor’s Report is on file in the office of the Town Clerk.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**1539 CONKLIN ROAD**

Mr. Dumian reported that things are going smoothly with Mr. Douglas Ritter, owner of 1539 Conklin Road, adding that the required repairs have been made and the “condemned” status has been removed from the building. He added that Mr. Ritter has agreed to have the new siding installed by August 1, 2020.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**MUNICIPAL CLEAN-UP DAYS**

The Board discussed approving Municipal Clean-up Days on May 6, 7, and 8, 2020, with Broome County waiving the tipping fees on May 11, and approving collection of waste from illegal dumping. Mr. Boyle asked if the Town will be collecting tires as part of the clean-up and Mr. Dumian stated that Broome County will not waive the tipping fees for tires. Mr. Boyle suggested changing the proposed resolution to include tires, adding that the Town could charge residents a minimal amount to cover the tipping fees but have the Town take the tires to the Landfill. Town Attorney Cheryl Sacco commented that the Town of Windsor does this and charges residents \$4-\$5 per tire.

**RESO 2020-47: APPROVE MUNICIPAL CLEAN-UP DAYS**

Mr. Farley moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin approves Municipal Clean-up Days to be held May 6, 7, and 8, 2020, with Broome County agreeing to waive the tipping fees on May 11, 2020, and approves the collection of waste from illegal dumping.

Seconded by Mr. Francisco.

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

**RESO 2020-48: APPROVE ADVERTISEMENT/COUNTRY COURIER/MUNICIPAL CLEAN-UP DAYS**

Mr. Platt moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin approves advertisement in the **Country Courier** of the dates for Municipal Clean-up Days.

Seconded by Mr. Francisco.

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**RESO 2020-49: AUTHORIZE PAYMENT/SOUTHERN TIER EAST REGIONAL  
PLANNING DEVELOPMENT BOARD/COALITION FEE & ASSET MAPPING  
PROGRAM**

Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin authorizes payment, account code A 8540-4-400, to the Southern Tier East Regional Planning Development Board in the total amount of \$3,700.00 for 2020 Coalition Fee (\$1,500.00) and Asset Mapping Program (\$2,200.00).

Seconded by Mr. Farley.

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

Mr. Dumian explained that this mapping program maps infiltration into the Binghamton-Johnson City Sewage Treatment Plant, adding that Town Engineer John Mastronardi used to do this mapping for the Town. Mr. Boyle asked if infrastructure work will be required and Mr. Dumian replied that the Town of Conklin pays the Joint Sewage Board for the flow sent from Conklin. Ms. Sacco stated that the Board could check with Mr. Mastronardi to be sure, but she believes the infiltration and influx were separated into gray water and white water several years ago. Mr. Francisco agreed, adding that there are no storm drains in the Town of Conklin. Mr. Platt asked if the Town only pays for the amount of flow sent and Mr. Dumian confirmed that this is the case but there is also a surcharge which Conklin must pay because the Town joined the outside users group later than some other towns. He stated that the Town of Conklin is locked into this agreement forever because of a “bad contract.” Mr. Francisco stated that the City of Binghamton’s sewer system is undersized for its needs. Mr. Dumian stated that the Town of Conklin is able to send more flow, adding that the cost is increasing because of new regulations from the DEC (New York State Department of Environmental Conservation).

**RESO 2020-50: AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR/SIGN MS4 MUNICIPAL COMPLIANCE  
CERTIFICATION FORM/NYSDEC**

Mr. Boyle moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin authorizes the Town Supervisor to sign the MS4 Municipal Compliance Certification Form for the period ending March 9, 2020, to be submitted to the NYS DEC.

Seconded by Mr. Francisco.

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

Mr. Dumian stated that Mr. Mastronardi completed the MS4 update and the Town of Conklin is in compliance.

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**RESO 2020-51: RATIFY PAYMENT/NYSEG**

Mr. Platt moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin ratifies payment of check #16763, various department codes, in the amount of \$11,814.91 to NYSEG (New York State Electric and Gas Corporation).

Seconded by Mr. Francisco.

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

**RESO 2020-52: RATIFY PAYMENT/BILL LIST/\$25,773.80**

Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin ratifies payment of the following Bill List dated March 24, 2020, in the total amount of \$25,773.80:

General	\$ 22,826.06
Highway	2,056.87
Water Districts	583.94
Sewer Districts	<u>306.93</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25,773.80</b>

Seconded by Mr. Platt.

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

**RESO 2020-53: RATIFY PAYMENT/BILL LIST/\$33,460.57**

Mr. Boyle moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin ratifies payment of the following Bill List dated April 9, 2020, in the total amount of \$33,460.57:

General	\$ 19,159.55
Highway	7,270.12
Water Districts	6,771.29
Sewer Districts	<u>259.61</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 33,460.57</b>

Seconded by Mr. Farley.

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

**BILL FOR AMERICAN BANKERS INSURANCE**

The Board discussed a bill in the amount of \$6,496.00 from American Bankers Insurance for flood insurance on the concession stand in Schnurbusch Park, a building worth about \$4,200.

Mr. Dumian stated that he will be speaking with Haylor, Freyer, and Coon, the Town's insurance

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company about this cost to find out if this pays for liability insurance on everything in the park, or only the concession stand. He is also going to look at Town records to see if this was instituted after the 2006 and/or 2011 floods, adding that the cost of flood insurance on the Maines Community Center is only \$1,600.

Mr. Dumian stated that the Board did a good job working with ZOOM for the meeting tonight.

### **STREET LIGHTS**

Mr. Boyle told Mr. Francisco, the Town's liaison to NYSEG, that one of the new street lights in Conklin Forks is "blinding" the residents of a home there, adding that the angle of the light to the street needs to be adjusted. Mr. Francisco replied that there are six similar lights on Conklin Road that need adjustment, and asked Mr. Boyle to obtain the pole number of the light in question. Mr. Francisco explained that the light on the new street lights is aligned to the arm but in some cases the pole itself is tipped.

### **DRAINAGE PROJECTS**

Mr. Boyle stated that it is difficult to get drainage projects completed amid the COVID-19 shutdown. Mr. Dumian stated that the DEC has postponed the Schnurbusch Park project until May. He added that the Town is fully functional and if there is a project Mr. Boyle thinks needs to be addressed immediately, Mr. Boyle can contact him and he can contact the Highway Department and make sure it gets done.

### **WHISTLE AT CARLIN ROAD RAILROAD CROSSING**

Mr. Farley stated that he is still working with the railroad company to not blow train whistles at the closed Carlin Road crossing, adding that he is working on a document to send to Harrisburg. He stated that the Town's other option, if this communication is not successful, is to enact an ordinance.

### **TOWN BASEBALL/SOFTBALL**

Mr. Dumian stated that the Youth Commission met recently and will be refunding all payments that have been made for this season, which is unable to be played due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He added that perhaps a makeshift league will be formed after the restrictions on social gathering are lifted.

### **COMMUNITY CENTER & PARK PAVILION RENTALS**

Town Clerk Sherrie Jacobs stated that the Town has had to refund payments on several rentals of the Maines Community Center and on one rental of a park pavilion due to the restrictions on social gatherings.

### **TOWN OF CONKLIN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

Mr. Boyle urged the Board not to let work with the Town of Conklin Comprehensive Plan drop because of the pandemic. Mr. Dumian stated that he believes the plan is on the Broome County website if the Board wants to read it and discuss it at future meetings.

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**PARK DRAINAGE**

Mr. Dumian reiterated that the DEC drainage project at Schnurbusch Park has been postponed until May. He stated that the property owners of adjacent property have signed the necessary easements to take the pipe out, asking that the land be tapered when it is finished. Mr. Boyle suggested using gravel from the Susquehanna River for this purpose, instead of purchasing crusher run stone. Mr. Dumian stated that the DEC is requesting an alternate easement from the Town, adding that the Town has a plan to accommodate that request. The beavers continue to be an issue by damming up drainage areas.

**FOOD DISTRIBUTION**

Mr. Dumian stated that he has been working with Kiwanian Bill Krasowsky and other volunteers to obtain and distribute dry goods – produce and non-perishable food items – from CHOW (Community Hunger Outreach Warehouse) for needy families in the Towns of Conklin and Kirkwood. Tracy Parker has been instrumental in distributing food to Liberty Partner families in the area. Mr. Dumian stated that the Town is working with the Susquehanna Valley School District to distribute food on Tuesdays and Thursdays. He added that Inland Paper donated 200 boxes to use for the food distribution.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Farley moved for adjournment, seconded by Mr. Francisco. The meeting adjourned at 7:02 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherrie L. Jacobs  
Town Clerk