

WORK SESSION

JUNE 9, 2020

The Town Board of the Town of Conklin held a Work Session at 6:00 P.M. on June 9, 2020, via Zoom. Mr. Dumian, Supervisor, presided.

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

Town Counsel	Cheryl Sacco
Town Clerk	Sherrie L. Jacobs
Highway Superintendent	Brian Coddington
Secretary to the Supervisor	Laurie Gregory

GUESTS: Country Courier Elizabeth Einstein

CONKLIN POOL

The Board discussed whether or not to open the Town Pool this summer, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Dumian stated that he looked at the costs associated with the pool, including \$22,000 to \$30,000 in chemicals and \$10,000 to \$20,000 in Lifeguard salaries. He added that the earliest the pool might open would be the end of June, and with all these factors, he recommends against opening the pool this summer. The Board agreed, calling the decision “sad but necessary.” Mr. Farley commented that social distancing would be a problem. Mr. Platt commented that other towns in the area have opted to not open their pools this year. The loss in sales tax revenue due to the COVID-19 shutdown means that the Town must cut costs where it can.

Mr. Francisco stated that there will still be some cost to maintaining the pool, even if it isn’t open. Mr. Dumian stated that Tom DeLamarter, Parks Superintendent, has stated that he has enough chemicals and water to protect the pool liner and prevent algae, at a cost of \$3,000 or less. He will run the pumps occasionally to keep everything in good condition. Mr. Francisco stated that the Town must make sure the motion detectors in the lights around the pool are functioning, to prevent people breaking in to swim.

FIRST WEEK RE-OPENED/COVID-19

Mr. Dumian stated that the first week of the Town Hall being reopened has run smoothly. He noted that only one outside door is open to the lobby, with visitors to the Town Court entering from the Court entrance in the rear of the building. He added that the glass for the office doors has been delivered and will be installed this week. Staff is wearing masks whenever they are outside their offices or are dealing with the public.

The Primary Election will be held on June 23, with the Town Hall being the only polling place in Conklin. There has been a big push for use of absentee ballots this year, so walk-in attendance may be less than a normal year.

Town Clerk Sherrie Jacobs stated that she was told that the mobile DMV (New York State Department of Motor Vehicles) units will probably not return for two more months. Town Attorney Cheryl Sacco stated that Governor Cuomo extended the Executive Order allowing public meetings to be held virtually until July 6, 2020, adding that more information may be available on Friday, June 12, as our region enters Phase 3 of the re-opening plan. Mr. Dumian stated that the July 14 meeting will be held in person at the Town Hall. Mr. Francisco asked if the vouchers will be in the Board Room for the Board members to sign and Mr. Dumian stated that this will be the arrangement for now.

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COVID-19 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Mr. Dumian stated that the loss in sales tax revenue due to the COVID-19 shutdown will mean no excess spending by the Town. He added that the Budget is already conservative, with no extra expenses added. Mr. Dumian stated that he is awaiting receipt of the sales tax information. “We are doing everything we can,” stated Mr. Dumian, adding that the Town recently abolished a position in order to save money. He also stated that \$40,000 to \$50,000 has been cut from the Parks Department budget that was slated for new dugouts in Schnurbusch Park. Mr. Dumian stated that the Town will use cinder blocks and fencing for the dugouts, for a cost of approximately \$20,000. “We are still in a good place,” stated Mr. Dumian, adding that the Board has been keeping the Town safe from legal issues. He stated that the Concert in the Park series has been scheduled but may not be allowed by State mandates, adding that the musicians will only get paid if the concert is held. “We are erring on the side of caution,” stated Mr. Dumian.

PARK DRAINAGE

Mr. Dumian stated that the Schnurbusch Park Drainage Project is almost completed and the water is flowing. He stated that a gate has been installed for the property owner, and the area is being brush hogged. Mr. Francisco stated that beavers are still an issue in some areas and Mr. Dumian advised that residents call the DEC (New York State Department of Environmental Conservation) if they have an issue with beavers.

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

JUNE 9, 2020

The Town Board of the Town of Conklin held a Regular Town Board Meeting at 6:30 P.M. on June 9, 2020, via Zoom. 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
	Highway Superintendent	Brian Coddington
	Secretary to the Supervisor	Laurie Gregory

GUESTS: Country Courier Elizabeth Einstein

MINUTES: MAY 12, 2020 WORK SESSION AND REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

Mr. Boyle stated that the May 12, 2020 Regular Town Board Meeting minutes should be corrected on page 2 to read “Property at 650 Conklin **Forks** Road,” instead of Conklin Road. Also, as a clarification in that section, the building in question is more than 75 square feet in size, not more than 75 feet high.

Mr. Farley moved to approve the May 12, 2020 Work Session and Regular Town Board Meeting minutes with the above listed correction and clarification.

Seconded by Mr. Platt.

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

MINUTES: MAY 29, 2020 SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING

Mr. Francisco moved to approve the May 29, 2020 Special Town Board Meeting minutes as presented.

Seconded by Mr. Farley.

VOTE: Boyle – Abstain, Farley – Yes, Platt – Yes, Francisco – Yes, Dumian – Yes. Motion passed: 4 – Yes, 1 – Abstain.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Dumian stated that he received correspondence from The Agency regarding NY Forward Loan Fund for small businesses, adding that it is “disheartening to see how many small businesses won’t re-open.” He stated that there is discussion that the loans may be forgiven. Mr. Dumian stated that business owners should call The Agency with any questions.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

REPORT: SUPERVISOR’S OFFICE

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

OLD BUSINESS:

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

JUNE 9, 2020

BEAVER DAMS

Mr. Dumian asked Mr. Francisco how issues with beaver dams and drainage problems had been handled in the past. Mr. Francisco stated that issues occurred mostly in the area behind Donnelly Elementary School, causing flooding on Carol Court. He added that there are no signs of problems in that area now, so residents may have cleaned out the area. Mr. Dumian stated that the DEC is not trapping beavers on New York State property, adding that Mr. Boyle is planning on renewing his town-wide trapping permit. Mr. Dumian stated that independent trappers must be paid, adding that this is the responsibility of the DEC.

SUMMER FUN PROGRAM

Mr. Dumian stated that the Summer Program is moving ahead, although there will be no children on site at the Susquehanna Valley High School. The program directors, Sarah Masters and Tracy Parker, will distribute food and craft bags and conduct online teaching. Both women agreed to accept \$1,000 instead of the usual \$1,500 this year as salary. Mr. Dumian stated that twice a week, food packets supplying breakfast and lunch for seven days will be distributed, with the food being provided through BOCES.

COMMUNITY & WELLNESS CENTER

Mr. Dumian stated that GOSR (Governor's Office for Storm Recovery) will be looking for contract consent from the high bidders for the Community Center/Wellness Center Project.

STREET LIGHTS

Mr. Platt asked Mr. Francisco about a street light on Conklin Road near the golf cart rental outlet that has not yet been converted to LED lighting. Mr. Francisco stated that he will check with NYSEG (New York State Electric and Gas Corporation), adding that NYSEG is confirming which street lights are in which Light District.

TOWN OF CONKLIN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Mr. Boyle stated that the Board should look at the Town's Comprehensive Plan to make sure it is being followed, adding that Governor Cuomo is "pushing windmills and solar farms." Mr. Dumian commented, "Solar hasn't panned out very well," and suggested that Mr. Boyle contact New York State representatives. Mr. Boyle stated that height restrictions in Town Code would prohibit a 70 foot windmill. Town Attorney Cheryl Sacco stated that the Towns of Windsor and Sanford have windmills, adding that the topography determines whether or not wind power is feasible. She added that the Town can enact a local law regarding wind energy.

Mr. Dumian stated that the Town should look at the Comprehensive Plan, adding that it is available online for digital review. He reminded the Board that New York State Code overrides Town Code. Mr. Dumian commented, "We should have all available forms of energy, including natural gas."

NEW BUSINESS:

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

JUNE 9, 2020

**RESO 2020-68: RATIFY PAYMENT/U.S. POSTAL SERVICE/2ND QUARTER WATER
& SEWER BILLING**

Mr. Boyle moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin ratifies payment of check #16971, account codes SW8310.4 and SS1-8110.4, in the amount of \$306.25 to the U.S. Postal Service for postage for the 2nd Quarter Water and Sewer billing.

Seconded by Mr. Francisco.

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

**RESO 2020-69: APPROVE PAY RATE INCREASE/L. GREGORY/SECRETARY TO
THE SUPERVISOR & BUDGET OFFICER**

Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin approves a pay rate increase of \$1.00 per hour (per pre-employment agreement) for Laurie Gregory, Secretary to the Supervisor and Budget Officer, effective June 1, 2020.

Seconded by Mr. Farley.

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

Mr. Dumian added that Ms. Gregory is doing “a very good job.”

RESO 2020-70: APPROVE PAY RATE INCREASE/M. PLONSKI/ACCOUNT CLERK

Mr. Farley moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin approves a pay rate increase of \$.25 per hour for Mary Plonski, Account Clerk, effective June 1, 2020.

Seconded by Mr. Boyle.

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

Mr. Dumian stated that Ms. Plonski is doing “a phenomenal job” handling both Code and Water and Sewer billing duties.

RESO 2020-71: RATIFY PAYMENT/BILL LIST/05-26-2020/\$87,651.27

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 May 26, 2020, in the total amount of \$87,651.27:

General	\$ 72,115.90
Highway	6,094.88

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Water Districts	\$ 2,514.89
Sewer Districts	5,795.84
Light Districts	<u>1,129.76</u>
Total	\$ 87,651.27

Seconded by Mr. Farley.

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

RESO 2020-72: RATIFY PAYMENT/BILL LIST/06-04-2020/\$30,732.28

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 June 4, 2020, in the total amount of \$30,732.28:

General	\$ 9,746.00
Highway	19,226.55
Water Districts	1,731.42
Sewer Districts	<u>28.31</u>
Total	\$ 30,732.28

Seconded by Mr. Francisco.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

EXCAVATOR

Mr. Boyle stated that future budgeting plans need to include purchase of an excavator.

DEFIBRILLATORS

Mr. Platt stated that Conklin Fire Chief Bill Gorman is researching the cost of replacement defibrillators for the Town. The current supplier charges the Town \$190 per month per unit and is asking for a three year contract. The cost of purchasing a new defibrillator is \$1,270. Ms. Sacco stated that the Town is required by law to have defibrillators. There are currently four, located at the Town Hall, Community Center, Highway Garage, and Town Pool.

SALT BARN

Highway Superintendent Brian Coddington stated that construction has begun on the Salt Barn and it should be completed June 10 or 11.

RESO 2020-73: EXECUTIVE SESSION/PARTICULAR PERSONNEL ISSUE

Mr. Dumian moved to close the Regular Town Board Meeting and move into Executive Session at 7:13 P.M. to discuss a particular personnel issue.

Seconded by Mr. Boyle.

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

An Executive Session of the Town Board of the Town of Conklin was held at the Conklin Town Hall at 7:13 P.M. with Supervisor William Dumian presiding. Present were: Supervisor Dumian, Mr. Boyle, Mr. Farley, Mr. Platt, Mr. Francisco, and Attorney Cheryl Sacco. Ms. Sacco assumed duties of secretary of the meeting.

A discussion was held pursuant to Public Officers Law section 100 of the State of New York regarding the medical, financial, credit, or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal, or removal of a particular person or corporation.

RESO 2020-74: RE-OPEN REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

After this discussion, Mr. Francisco moved to close the Executive Session and re-open the Regular Town Board Meeting at 7:29 P.M.

Seconded by Mr. Farley.

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

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Dumian moved for adjournment, seconded by Mr. Boyle. The meeting adjourned at 7:31 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherrie L. Jacobs
Town Clerk