

WORK SESSION
OCTOBER 12, 2021

The Town Board of the Town of Conklin held a Work Session at 6:00 P.M. on October 12, 2021, at the Conklin Town Hall. Mr. Dumian, Supervisor, presided.

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

Town Counsel	Cheryl Sacco
Town Clerk	Sherrie L. Jacobs
Code Officer	Nick Pappas
Water/Sewer/Parks Superintendent	Tom DeLamarter
Board of Assessment Review	William Brodsky

GUESTS: Country Courier Elizabeth Einstein
Laurie Francisco
John Colley
Peter J. Motsavage
Carol Armstrong

GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Mr. Dumian stated that he has been discussing grant funding opportunities with a grant writing firm to help determine whether or not the Town of Conklin might qualify for some grant funding for infrastructure projects, particularly municipal water expansion and flood remediation projects. He stated that there are two types of grants: Income based and non-Income-based. Mr. Dumian stated that in order to qualify for Income-based grants, the median income of the Town must be less than a certain level. This is not the case with non-Income-based grants.

Mr. Dumian stated that he spoke with the grant writing firm about potential municipal water expansion, and the creation of a new water district, in the Stillwater Road/Conklin Road area. The Town has data from a study conducted in 2016. Water would be supplied by the Town of Kirkwood through a pipe crossing the Susquehanna River. Mr. Dumian stated that first, a Feasibility Study would be completed, followed by an Engineering Study. He stated that a non-Income-based grant would cover 60% of the cost of the project. Mr. Dumian explained that when a new water district is proposed, at least 51% of the residents in the proposed area must approve the creation of the water district. He noted that the problem with the area in question is the fact that, following major flooding in 2006 and 2011, 57 of the properties in the proposed area are vacant, but their owners would still be required to pay on the bond for the new water district for 30 years. Mr. Dumian stated that he is not sure the Town could get 51% of the residents in question to agree to the creation of a new water district. He stated that with income-based grants, the mobile home parks in the area cannot be figured into the income, because they are already supplied with water from the Town of Kirkwood. Mr. Dumian stated that he will research income-based grants further, adding that it is a matter of return of investment with these projects.

SULLIVAN PARK PAVILION

Parks/Water/Sewer Superintendent Tom DeLamarter stated that he has plans for a pavilion measuring 24 feet by 48 feet by 8 feet high to construct at Sullivan Park. Mr. Dumian stated that there are cost concerns, since the cost of building materials and labor have increased greatly since the pavilion was first proposed. He stated that the last time the Town estimated the cost, it was to be less than \$20,000 except for the concrete, which was estimated at \$7,000. The Board discussed the merits of a tin roof as opposed to an asphalt roof. It was decided to meet with Robert Sullivan, who donated the land for Sullivan Park and has also donated \$20,000 for the pavilion, to see if he would be interested in donating additional monies. Mr. Dumian stated that he is not opposed to getting the concrete pad poured now, before the weather gets colder.

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with signage, although he cannot put it on the utility pole as he had suggested. Code Officer Nick Pappas suggested installing a fence to deter drivers damaging the lawn.

OLD BUSINESS:

2022 WATER & SEWER BILLING RATES

Mr. Dumian stated that the municipal water and sewer billing rates will remain the same for 2022 as they have been for 2021.

2022 BUDGET QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION

Mr. Dumian stated that the Conklin Cemetery being deemed “abandoned” by New York State means that the Town must assume responsibility for maintenance and operation of the cemetery, adding that there are some funds in place to use for maintenance. He stated that it creates some difficulties with budgeting because the Town has to guess at the number of burials that will occur in 2022. He stated that accounting and operation of Shawsville Cemetery, which the Town already owns and operates, will be kept separate from Conklin Cemetery. Mr. Dumian stated that Mike Wolyniak, who is currently conducting the 2020 Audit for the Town and who is retired from working in the New York State Comptroller’s Office, has been very helpful in answering questions about cemetery funds. Parks/Water/Sewer Superintendent Tom DeLamarter, who currently manages Shawsville Cemetery, will manage Conklin Cemetery as well. Mr. Francisco will help with the transition to Town management and will continue to assist with Conklin Cemetery. Mr. Francisco stated he has already given Mr. DeLamarter maps and lists of plots in Conklin Cemetery. The Board discussed the possibility of moving to requiring flat markers instead of tombstones to make mowing easier, and also discussed the possibility of purchasing a zero-turn mower for maintenance of the cemetery.

NEW BUSINESS:

HALLOWEEN CURFEW

Mr. Dumian reminded those present that the Halloween curfew will be in place October 30, October 31, and November 1, from 8 P.M. until 6 A.M. for persons under the age of 18, per Town of Conklin local law. Mr. Dumian asked that the notice of the curfew be run in the **Country Courier** and put on the Town website. He added that local law enforcement would be contacted to request extra patrols for Saturday and Sunday of Halloween weekend.

BANKING CHANGES/INTEREST-BEARING ACCOUNTS

Mr. Dumian stated that he had met with representatives of Peoples Security Bank and Trust, who he stated is looking for government accounts. He stated that the interest rates at PSBT are as good or better than those at NBT Bank, which the Town currently uses for most of its accounts. Mr. Dumian stated that the Town could gain more than \$9,000 per year in interest by switching banks.

RESO 2021-126: SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING/PROPOSED 2022 FIRE PROTECTION CONTRACT/CONKLIN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin schedules a Public Hearing at 6:32 P.M. on October 26, 2021, to receive input regarding the proposed 2022 Fire Protection Contract with the Conklin Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

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Seconded by Mr. Farley.

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

RESO 2021-127: SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING/PROPOSED 2022 MUNICIPAL WATER AND SEWER BILLING RATES

Mr. Finch moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin schedules a Public Hearing at 6:35 P.M. on October 26, 2021, to receive input regarding the proposed 2022 Municipal Water and Sewer billing rates.

Seconded by Mr. Farley.

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

RESO 2021-128: SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING/PROPOSED 2022 GENERAL AND HIGHWAY BUDGET FOR TOWN OF CONKLIN

Mr. Finch moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin schedules a Public Hearing at 6:38 P.M. on October 26, 2021, to receive input regarding the proposed 2022 General and Highway Budget for the Town of Conklin.

Seconded by Mr. Farley.

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

RESO 2021-129: ACCEPT RESIGNATION/DAWN SHAFER-D'INTRONO/MEMBER/PLANNING BOARD

Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin accepts the resignation of Dawn Shafer-D'Introno from the position of Member of the Planning Board, effective October 31, 2021.

Seconded by Mr. Finch.

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

RESO 2021-130: ACCEPT RESIGNATION/BETH MARSHALL/TOWN JUSTICE

Mr. Finch moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin accepts the resignation of Beth Marshall from the position of Town Justice, effective December 31, 2021.

Seconded by Mr. Farley.

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

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RESO 2021-131: APPROVE HIRING/DAWN SHAFER-D'INTRONO/JUSTICE-IN-TRAINING

Mr. Farley moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin approves the hiring of Dawn Shafer-D'Introno to the position of Justice-in-Training, effective November 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021, at a pay rate of \$1,000 per month.

Seconded by Mr. Francisco.

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

RESO 2021-132: APPOINT DAWN SHAFER-D'INTRONO/TOWN JUSTICE

Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin appoints Dawn Shafer-D'Introno to the position of Town Justice, effective January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022, at a pay rate of \$17,000 per year.

Seconded by Mr. Farley.

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

RESO 2021-133: ACCEPT RESIGNATION/MEGHAN JACOBS/SUBSTITUTE CROSSING GUARD

Mr. Farley moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin accepts the resignation of Meghan Jacobs from the position of Substitute Crossing Guard, effective October 12, 2021.

Seconded by Mr. Finch.

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

RESO 2021-134: APPOINT LAURIE GREGORY/SUBSTITUTE CROSSING GUARD

Mr. Farley moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin appoints Laurie Gregory to the position of Substitute Crossing Guard, effective October 12, 2021, at a pay rate of \$35 per day.

Seconded by Mr. Finch.

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

RESO 2021-135: AMEND RESOLUTION 2021-125/SANDI BEAM TO FILL UNEXPIRED PLANNING BOARD TERM OF SHARON PLATT

Mr. Farley moved for the following resolution:

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Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin amends Resolution 2021-125 to read: the Town Board of the Town of Conklin appoints Sandra Beam to the position of Member of the Planning Board, effective October 12, 2021, to fill the unexpired term of Sharon Platt, which ends December 31, 2021. (The Resolution originally had Ms. Beam filling the unexpired term of Lyle Fassett, but Dawn Shafer-D’Introno is filling that position.)

Seconded by Mr. Finch.

Vote: Finch – Yes, Boyle – Yes, Farley – Yes, Francisco – Yes, Dumian – Yes. Motion passed unanimously.

RESO 2021-136: APPROVE SUPERVISOR/OPEN & MAINTAIN CHECKING
ACCOUNTS/PEOPLES SECURITY BANK & TRUST

Mr. Farley moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin approves the Supervisor to open and maintain consolidated checking accounts at Peoples Security Bank and Trust, and approves William Dumian, Jr., and Charles Francisco to be authorized signers on all accounts.

Seconded by Mr. Finch.

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

RESO 2021-137: APPROVE PAYMENT/BILL LIST/10-08-2021/\$162,118.11

Mr. Boyle moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin approves payment of the following Bill List dated October 8, 2021, in the total amount of \$162,118.11:

General	\$ 78,473.69
Highway	1,909.09
Sewer District	81,576.56
Water Districts	<u>158.77</u>
Total	\$ 162,118.11

Seconded by Mr. Francisco.

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

RESO 2021-138: APPOINT TREVOR HARDER/HIGHWAY LABORER

Mr. Boyle moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin appoints Trevor Harder to the probationary position of Highway Laborer, effective October 26, 2021, at a pay rate of \$19.00 per hour, with the obligation to obtain a CDL A Manual Transmission License within 90 days.

Seconded by Mr. Francisco.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

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RAILROAD ISSUES

Mr. Farley stated that he met again with representatives from the railroad company to address the Town's issue of trains blocking all three railroad crossings for long periods of time and was advised to contact the Executive Director of Government Affairs for the railroad.

YOUTH SPORTS

Mr. Farley reported that wrestling and basketball signups will begin in late October, adding that it is still uncertain whether or not the Town will be able to utilize the gyms at the school.

TRACTOR TRAILERS ON MONTROSE DRIVE

Mr. Francisco stated that he has received complaints from residents on Montrose Drive that tractor trailer drivers are employing their "jake brakes" to slow down the vehicles and it is very noisy. He asked if signage had been or could be installed prohibiting this practice. Mr. Dumian stated that Montrose Drive is a New York State road and the Town has no jurisdiction to put signage on a State road.

BRIDGEWATER CHURCH VOLUNTEERS TO DO COMMUNITY CLEANUP

Town Clerk Sherrie Jacobs stated that she was contacted by the pastor at Bridgewater Church in Conklin about possible projects to help the Town for their "Be The Church" day on October 17. She stated that, with the help of Mr. DeLamarter and Highway Superintendent Brian Coddington, a list of potential cleanup projects was generated and sent to the church for their consideration. The municipality is grateful to the church for this assistance in cleaning up our community. Potential projects included weeding at the Veterans Memorial and marquee and at Sullivan Park, trimming at Conklin Cemetery, cleaning weeds out of the ball fields at Schnurbusch Park, and picking up litter along several Town roadways.

CODE ISSUES

Mr. Dumian stated that the Code Office is making progress with habitual offenders but "it is a very long process." He suggested that the Town consider getting dumpsters in the spring of 2022 for residents to bring their debris, with the Town paying the landfill charges, a project undertaken by the Town of Binghamton a few years ago. Code Officer Nick Pappas, who serves both Towns as Code Officer, suggested charging residents \$1.00 per tire to drop off tires. Mr. Boyle like the idea of the dumpsters, but suggested charging \$3.00 or \$3.50 per tire.

Mr. Dumian stated that if violators skip the Court dates, fines can be levied against the property owner's taxes.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Finch moved for adjournment, seconded by Mr. Farley. The meeting adjourned at 7:23 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherrie L. Jacobs
Town Clerk

