

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

APRIL 26, 2022

The Town Board of the Town of Conklin held a Regular Town board Meeting at 6:30 P.M. on April 26, 2022, at the Conklin Town Hall. Mr. Dumian, Supervisor, presided. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Town Board Members Finch, Boyle, Farley, Francisco, Dumian
Town Counsel Cheryl Sacco
Parks/Water Superintendent Nick Platt
Code Officer Nick Pappas
Zoning Board of Appeals William Brodsky
Deputy Town Clerk Elizabeth Einstein

GUESTS: John Colley
Laurie Francisco

MINUTES: APRIL 12, 2022 REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

Mr. Francisco moved to approve the April 12, 2022, Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes as presented.

Seconded by Mr. Farley.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No public comments.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Dumian said the use of Jake brakes on Route 7 was an issue two or three years ago and is making a reappearance. The truck traffic on Route 7, between Conklin and the Pennsylvania state line, has increased and truck drivers are using their Jake Brakes resulting in noise that is too loud for residents. He said a letter with signatures is coming. He questioned if the noise was just occurring during normal business hours and was told it is happening at all hours, even during the night. He asked the Board members for their opinion on moving ahead now to petition New York state for signage prohibiting the use of Jake Brakes on Route 7. “Who thinks that we should go ahead and petition the state, and who feels that it’s not a good idea to do that?”

Mr. Francisco replied, “I say petition the State.” Mr. Fraley and Mr. Finch agreed. The Supervisor said there is now a sign on I-81 in the area referred to as” Hospital Hill”, prohibiting the use of Jake Brakes on that section of the highway. Mr. Dumian questioned Mr. Boyle, saying he remembered him saying before that he had safety concerns about prohibiting the use of the Jake Brakes. Mr. Dumian stated, “In many cases, they are using their Jake Brakes to save on their brakes, correct?”

Mr. Boyle said there is more traffic coming out of PA, including more tankers filled with gas because NYS does not want pipelines. He has concerns about the traffic safety at intersections should the Jake Brakes be prohibited because they also help drivers maintain control over the truck.

Mr. Dumian said he would be abstaining because some of those with concerns are family members.

Mr. Boyle asked if petitioning for a reduced speed limit would be a better route to take. The consensus was that drivers would still be using the Jake Brakes. Mr. Finch said he was certain there would be some drivers who would still use the brakes even if the request is granted.

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

APRIL 26, 2022

Mr. Dumian said that since three out of the five on the Town Board agreed, he would see that the request for the signage goes out to New York State Department of Transportation. If the request is granted it would be up to New York State to take care of the signage and enforcement.

He said a petition was also expected from people on Stillwater Road, but Code Enforcement Officer Nick Pappas said nothing has been received as of the Board meeting. The Supervisor said they will wait until the correspondence comes in to address that concern.

REPORT: CODE OFFICE

Mr. Dumian said there is a property owner in Stillwater who is not in compliance. “We are following due process, doing what we can to try and get that property owner in compliance. The property owner is not cooperating. The same person has dogs that run free constantly and we have continued complaints from Stillwater Road residents. Mr. Dumian said he was going on record as saying that Rick Murray is doing an excellent job as DCO trying to contain that situation. He said another call came in today and Rick went down and spoke with the property owner; the dogs were contained and taken care of. He said that the DCO had taken the dogs to the shelter multiple times and as soon as he takes them to the dog shelter they are picked up by the owner and right back in the same situation.

Mr. Farley asked if the owner is billed for them at the shelter. The Town Attorney said the owner has to pay a fee to redeem the dogs.

Code Enforcement Officer Nick Pappas said that another property on Stillwater Road is to be cleaned up by Saturday. The tenant moved out and had a certain amount of time to return and get their belongings. That time has expired. Mr. Pappas stated he has heard multiple stories about how the property will be cleaned up, but expected it to be done by Saturday.

In regard to 880 Powers Road, Mr. Pappas spoke with the owner. She has retained Attorney Paul Battisti to begin the eviction process. The property is placarded based on a fire in the electrical box.

Property on Millburn that has been a concern has been “completely cleaned up,” said Mr. Pappas.

Mr. Dumian said that was good news. In regard to other code violations the Town has taken action on, he said, “We need the state to help us with holding people accountable for their actions. It sounds like I am being so threatening in regard to property owners. I am not being threatening. We try to work with property owners not in compliance. You are not working with us at all. Nick is very approachable about time lines and working with people.”

TOWN HALL AND HVAC SYSTEM

The Supervisor said Nick Platt has received a preliminary quote on the boiler system. He took a moment to thank Nick, Colin and Cody for the great job they did in dealing with the April 12 storm and subsequent power outage. He said the only reason there was not a generator at the Town Hall was because it was needed at the J.R. Sewer Station to make sure everything was up and running. He said there was also a lack of communication with alarm systems, as well. A new Hot Spot was purchased as they were checking every two hours through the night to be sure everything was running. “I am very pleased with the decisions they made and how they handled the situation,” said Mr. Dumian. He added that thanks to decisions made by the Town Board over the last four years, the Town is much better prepared to handle an emergency situation.

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

APRIL 26, 2022

He said the power outage reminded him that the permanent on-site generators are older. In one case a mouse got into a transfer switch causing damage. Dumian would like to see either a three-year or four-year cycle established for replacing the generators.

Cemetery maintenance is underway. They are learning more about how long mowing and maintenance at the Conklin Cemetery will take. Nick said that the mowing looks like it is going to be a two-person job.

TEMPORARY FENCES ON BALL FIELDS

Nick Platt verified with the Susquehanna Valley School District that the placement of temporary fences to allow for more ballfields would not impact modified softball. Mr. Dumian said there is a portable pitching mound that can be used on both the large lighted field and the pool field. This will allow more Little League games to be played and that will help with scheduling.

Last year, the Board and the Parks Department discussed removing some of the dirt from the infield on the lighted field to make that more usable for Little League and Minor League play. Said Mr. Dumian, "It will not have a negative effect because you are taking out dirt and planting more grass. It will not affect men's or women's games."

The Supervisor said he is still looking for a nice piece of property where a couple more playing fields could be developed.

Councilman Jim Finch asked if the FEMA property across from Hobart Stone and next to Masciarelli's could be a place for a ballfield. They also discussed the property on River Boulevard and using Kirkwood fields.

BACKHOE TRADE IN VALUE

At the April 12, 2022, meeting there was discussion about the difference in price on the 2022 John Deere Backhoe. The Supervisor said he and Highway Superintendent Brian Coddington went over the figures and the difference was a result of the length of the wait to trade in the backhoe. The difference of approximately \$1200 plus was only because of the longer length of time it was used and when the initial resolution (Reso. 2021-80) was approved and when the trade-in/purchase was actually made.

REPORT: SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

On file in the office of the Town Clerk.

CHANGES IN FLOOD PLAIN LEGISLATION

Mr. Dumian stated he would like to keep the existing law with some additions in terms of compensatory storage, just making sure that fill is not being brought in. He believes there are things to iron out before setting a public hearing. He said most of his concerns were in regard to verbiage. He asked Board members for their concerns. Mr. Boyle said his concern was learning all the new codes in the flood plain. Mr. Dumian will reach out to Engineer John Mastronardi and Town Attorney Cheryl Sacco and iron out some of the biggest concerns.

Said Dumian, "The goal is not to prohibit. The goal is to make sure that everyone who has had to deal with the 2006 and 2011 floods is protected from those that did not." Mr. Boyle also had concerns about campers and RVs along the river. Mr. Dumian said he has concerns about the enforcement piece. He said they will take more time getting the revision right.

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

APRIL 26, 2022

CONKLIN YOUTH SPORTS

The wet conditions in the park have been discouraging for the start of sports season so as of this meeting Opening Day had not been set. Dumian said there are four major teams. The program is growing fast. He did not have a date for Opening Day yet. The schedules have been put together but was pushed back because of the snow storm and wet conditions for the fields. "We are also doing something a little different this year. The Youth Commission had the great idea to bring in a fundraiser Barbecue truck on opening day so the proceeds can go to the Booster Club," stated Mr. Dumian. He thanked Jenn Travis for the great job she had done over the past years. She has stepped down and there is a new Booster Club President.

He asked about Pitch Hit and Run. At this point no one had any information. Dumian said there will be Friday and Saturday night games that the kids love. He is excited to be getting the kids outdoors and away from technology. He also wants to reach out to the church about the acre of property Conklin Presbyterian Church wanted to sell. He said it was a little wet and did not have enough room for a ball field but it could be used for something.

"Our program is growing right now and I am proud of the job we are doing with the youth and proud of Conklin's parks," stated Mr. Dumian.

TOWN HALL ROOF AND HVAC

Mr. Dumian said Mr. Platt did get some preliminary pricing on replacing the boiler system, and Dumian emphasized the numbers tonight were not hard numbers, only preliminary. It looks like the cost would be in the neighborhood of \$48,000 - \$52,000 to replace the boiler system with condensing-style, high efficiency boilers and the required piping system. It was mentioned that the company may have a bid number with Broome County. They will look to see if a bid has been awarded in Broome County and find out if Conklin can "piggy-back" on the bid.

CONKLIN/KIRKWOOD EMERGENCY WATER CONNECTION

John Mastronardi has not been able to get any cost estimates for on-site boring. Mr. Dumian has started the application process with County Legislator Kelly Wildoner and said, "I can only take that process so far when I don't have numbers."

Mr. Boyle said the contractors are concerned about how stable the riverbanks might be. Dumian said that while it is his understanding that the water pressure would be best from Kirkwood, the connection is only intended for use in an emergency so people have water to take showers and flush toilets. He believes when choosing to connect with Binghamton or Kirkwood, the connection should be made based on what the best price is.

APRIL 2022 STORM DAMAGE/CLEANUP

Dumian said the Highway Department crew did a great job keeping the roads passable. The heavy wet snow brought a huge number of trees, limbs and power lines down. "Good job" to the Highway Department and "Good job" to the Water/Sewer/Parks Department.

2022 SUMMER CONCERTS IN THE PARK

Nick Platt reported that everything is all set. All the dates and bands are in place and there are also some bands willing to step in should a backup be needed. The schedule will be coming out soon.

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

APRIL 26, 2022

RESO 2022-58: APPROVE PAYMENT OF CLAIMS

#22-00325 - #22-00371/\$50,896.39

Mr. Finch moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin approves payment of the following Claims #22-00325 through #22-00371, which have been audited and approved for payment, in the total amount of \$50,896.39:

General	\$ 16,426.64
Highway	2,295.83
Water Districts	652.42
Sewer Districts	27,037.50
Non-Budgeted	<u>4,484.00</u>
Total	\$ 50,896.39

Seconded by Mr. Farley.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Non.

RESO 2022-59: EXECUTIVE SESSION/PERSONNEL ISSUE

Mr. Farley made a motion for the Board to move into a short Executive Session at 7:43 P.M. to talk about a direct personnel matter.

Seconded by Mr. Boyle

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

RESO 2022-60: RE-OPEN REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

Mr. Francisco made the motion to close the Executive Session and re-open the Regular Town Board Meeting at 7:49 P.M.

Seconded by Mr. Finch

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

RESO 2022-61: CANCEL TOWN BOARD MEETINGS

Mr. Finch moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: The Town Board of the Town of Conklin approved cancellation of the following Regular Town Board meetings: May 24, June 28, July 26, and August 23, 2022.

Seconded by Mr. Francisco.

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

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Farley moved for adjournment, seconded by Mr. Francisco. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Einstein, Deputy Town Clerk

