

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 28, 2023

The Town Board of the Town of Conklin held a Regular Town Board Meeting at 6:30 P.M. on February 28, 2023, at the Conklin Town Hall. Mr. Dumian, Supervisor, presided. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Town Board Members Boyle, Farley, Francisco, Dumian
(Finch – Excused)

Town Counsel	Cheryl Insinga
Town Counsel	Mark Spinner
Town Clerk	Sherrie L. Jacobs
Code Officer	Nick Pappas
Parks/Water/Sewer Team Leader	David Kilmer
Planning Board	Sandra Beam
Zoning Board of Appeals	William Brodsky

GUESTS: Country Courier Elizabeth Einstein
Laurie Francisco

MINUTES: FEBRUARY 14, 2023 WORK SESSION & REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

Mr. Francisco stated that the February 14, 2023 Regular Town Board Meeting minutes should be corrected on page 2 to read “if he or she makes \$600.00 or more” rather than “more than \$600” under “Conklin Cemetery Procedures.”

Mr. Farley moved to approve the February 14, 2023 Work Session and Regular Town Board Meeting minutes with the above correction.

Seconded by Mr. Francisco.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

CORRESPONDENCE:

REQUESTS TO BROOME COUNTY REGARDING COUNTY ROADS/NO RESPONSE

Mr. Dumian stated that he has not yet received a response to the Town’s request to Broome County to improve the sight line at the Murphy Road/Ketchum Road intersection nor to the request to lower the speed limit on Powers Road as it approaches Conklin Road. He will continue to follow up on these requests.

REPORT: HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Mr. Dumian stated that Highway Superintendent Brian Coddington informed him that the truck normally parked in the Town right-of-way at 116 Stillwater Road was not there during the recent snow storm.

REPORT: CODE OFFICE

Code Officer Nick Pappas stated that fire inspections are going well.

REPORT: PARKS/WATER/SEWER DEPARTMENT

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 28, 2023

Parks/Water/Sewer Team Leader David Kilmer stated that he had to rebuild the grinder pump at the sewer station, adding that the Town needs to buy a new one. He will get a quote from W2O, which is the sole source provider for this type of equipment.

Mr. Kilmer stated that the Town needs to address the issues with the parking lot at the Community Center, which is badly in need of repair. Mr. Dumian suggested that this might be a good municipal shared services project with the Town of Binghamton, which owns a paver.

Mr. Kilmer stated that his crew is removing the scrap metal that has been stored at the well house.

REPORT: SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

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

OLD BUSINESS:

TOWN HALL REPAIRS

Mr. Dumian stated that he has a quote on the cooling system only for the Town Hall. The quote is \$210,000 for the five compressors and condensers for the system, which would be removed from the roof and placed on a concrete slab. He also asked for a quote on a heat pump option, not wall units, which would add another \$15,000. Mr. Dumian explained that when the outside temperature hits 10 degrees, the boiler system would kick in to heat the building. Mr. Dumian stated that he also has a quote from Poster and Jaekel of \$57,000 for time and materials for installation of a new boiler.

Mr. Dumian stated that the compressors, which are Trane equipment, could be covered by a five-year parts and labor warranty for an additional \$6,850. He stated that the Town must make sure not to cover any water or sewer lines near the Town Hall when the concrete pad is poured. Work would not start until the fall of 2023. The Town personnel will be able to change the thermostat, unlike the current proprietary system.

Another preventative measure will be to move the server to a different room, rather than under the most vulnerable part of the roof. Mr. Dumian stated that the test cuts and patching of existing issues have been done on the roof, adding that the infrared scan is not needed, since it appears that there is not much moisture in the roof itself. He stated that there have been no leakage problems since the patching was completed. Mr. Dumian stated that the caps on the roof will be removed and restructured. Mr. Farley stated that it will cost approximately \$356,000 total for the roof repair and the new heating/cooling system. Mr. Dumian stated that the Board will vote on the repairs/replacements at the March 14 meeting, adding that the Town should have the contracts by that date. Town Attorney Cheryl Insinga reminded the Board that the contracts are piggybacked through cooperative purchasing with Broome County.

MUNICIPAL CLEAN-UP DAYS

The Board discussed the possibility of holding municipal clean-up days to help residents get rid of old furniture, tires, etc. Mr. Pappas, who is also the Code Officer for the Town of Binghamton, stated that the Town of Binghamton budgets \$5,000 twice a year for clean-up days, and takes tires to the landfill on days that the County waives the tipping fee. Mr. Dumian stated that he had been considering locations for the drop-off for the items, and settled on the Highway Garage. Mr. Pappas stated that the Town could block off one side of the Highway Garage lot with Town vehicles, adding that the Highway Garage already has security cameras installed.

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

FEBRUARY 28, 2023

Mr. Dumian stated that he thinks the Town should try it once and “see how it goes.” Mr. Pappas will send a letter to habitual Code violators informing them of the opportunity to get rid of unwanted items. Ms. Insinga stated that the Town will need a resolution authorizing spending not to exceed \$3,500, with a restriction of no commercial customers and a charge of \$2 per tire with a limit of six tires per household. Mr. Dumian stated that the application to Broome County is due by March 31, adding that the Board will vote on this at the March 14 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

FIREFIGHTERS’ EXEMPTION

Mr. Dumian stated that Broome County is considering adopting the newly proposed tax exemption for firefighters. He stressed that the firefighter can take only one exemption – either the standard deduction or the new deduction – but not both. It is uncertain whether or not the school district is also considering adopting this exemption. Ms. Insinga will draft a local law for introduction at the March 14 meeting, with a tentative Public Hearing scheduled for March 28. The local law would specify that a firefighter must be active for at least two years, and remain active, or be a life member who has served at least 20 years as an active firefighter.

REPLACEMENT CAMERA SYSTEM FOR TOWN HALL

Mr. Dumian stated that he received two quotes for a replacement camera system for the Town Hall. The first quote was from BlueStorm Technologies for \$7,987.00 and the second was from Myers Security for \$17,718.32. The upgrade would include an addition of a camera on the back of the Town Hall. A third quote was sought with no response.

Mr. Boyle suggested looking into obtaining a grant for this project and Mr. Dumian replied that the last time he approached the County for a grant he was told to “look at New York State first.” Elizabeth Einstein of the **Country Courier** stated that the grant fund has more money in it now.

RESO 2023-37: AWARD UPGRADE TO EXISTING SECURITY CAMERA SYSTEM/BLUESTORM TECHNOLOGIES

Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin awards the upgrade of the existing security camera system to BlueStorm Technologies for a cost not to exceed \$7,987.00, in accordance with Quote #BSTQ15652.

Seconded by Mr. Farley.

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

RESO 2023-38: RATIFY PAYMENT/PITNEY BOWES/POSTAGE METER REFILL

Mr. Boyle moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin ratifies payment in the amount of \$500.00 to Pitney Bowes for postage meter refill.

Seconded by Mr. Farley.

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

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 28, 2023

RESO 2023-39: AUTHORIZE TOWN CLERK/ATTEND ANNUAL NYSTCA
CONFERENCE/APRIL 23-26, 2023/SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

Mr. Farley moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin authorizes Town Clerk Sherrie Jacobs to attend the annual New York State Town Clerks Association Conference from April 23 – 26, 2023, in Syracuse, New York, at a cost of \$225.00 registration fee, plus all necessary travel and lodging expenses, account code A1410.4.

Seconded by Mr. Francisco.

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

RESO 2023-40: AUTHORIZE PAYMENT/CLAIMS #22-01308 - #22-01309/\$2,258.72

Mr. Boyle moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin authorizes payment of the following Claims #22-01308 through #22-01309, which have been audited and approved for payment, in the total amount of \$2,258.72:

General	<u>\$2,258.72</u>
Total	\$2,258.72

Seconded by Mr. Farley.

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

RESO 2023-41: AUTHORIZE PAYMENT/CLAIMS #23-00146 - #23-00175/\$161,348.74

Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin authorizes payment of the following Claims #23-00146 through #23-00175, which have been audited and approved for payment, in the total amount of \$161,348.74:

General	\$ 116,895.53
Highway	35,634.80
Light Districts	1,516.71
Sewer District	1,932.36
Water District	<u>5,369.34</u>
Total	\$ 161,348.74

Seconded by Mr. Farley.

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

RESO 2023-42: AUTHORIZE MODIFICATION/STATED FROM & TO BUDGET
LINES

Mr. Farley moved for the following resolution:

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 28, 2023

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin authorizes the following modification of the stated From and To Budget lines as of February 23, 2023 (see attached).

Seconded by Mr. Francisco.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

LAWSUIT/116 STILLWATER ROAD

Ms. Insinga stated that the Supreme Court action against Robert Triolo of 116 Stillwater Road is progressing with the Emergency Order to be completed either February 28 or March 1 for Dog Control and Code violations. The unpaid fines for Code violations have been forwarded to Broome County. Mr. Dumian stated that Dog Control Officer Rick Murray attempted to serve a dog seizure order but Mr. Triolo claimed the dogs were not present on his property.

SPEED LIMITS ON MONTROSE DRIVE

Mr. Boyle commented that the speed limit varies on Route 29/Montrose Drive, so that it is 40 miles per hour from Montrose to the New York/Pennsylvania border, then 55 miles per hour from the border to the section nearer Conklin Road that is 40 miles per hour speed limit. He suggested that the speed limit be made consistent by lowering the speed limit to 40 miles per hour on Montrose Drive from the New York State line to Conklin Road. Mr. Dumian stated that the Town can request that New York State make this change. The Board will discuss it further at the March 14 meeting.

YOUTH SPORTS

Mr. Farley stated that baseball and softball signups have started, and added that post-season wrestling continues with 30 wrestlers.

CONKLIN CEMETERY

Mr. Francisco stated that the Board has determined that Conklin Cemetery is closed for burials until the ground is less muddy, but there has been a request for a cremation burial. Mr. Kilmer stated that a cremation burial is dug by hand, so no large equipment is needed. The Board agreed to allow the burial as long as family members parked on the road and walked to the gravesite, because the ground is too wet to allow vehicle traffic.

Mr. Francisco stated that the Highway Department had given some of its millings to the Parks Department to use to help firm up the muddy driveways in the Conklin Cemetery, adding that it is “working well.” Mr. Kilmer asked for more millings for the project, but said he was told by Highway Superintendent Brian Coddington that he “didn’t think it was a good idea.” The Board disagreed with Mr. Coddington and Mr. Dumian stated that he “will get it done.”

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Francisco moved for adjournment, seconded by Mr. Farley. The meeting adjourned at 8:07 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherrie L. Jacobs
Town Clerk

