WORK SESSION MARCH 14, 2023

The Town Board of the Town of Conklin held a Work Session at 6:00 P.M. on March 14, 2023, at the Conklin Town Hall. Mr. Dumian, Supervisor, presided.

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

Town Counsel Mark Spinner
Town Clerk Sherrie L. Jacobs
Parks/Water/Sewer Team Leader David Kilmer

GUESTS: Country Courier Elizabeth Einstein

John Colley Laurie Francisco

TOWN HALL REPAIRS

Mr. Dumian stated that he received the proposal from Trane for the upgrades to the Town Hall HVAC system. He stated that the total cost will be \$225, 695.00 and includes the following warranties: 5-year whole unit parts and labor warranty; 5-year compressor and labor warranty; and compressor only warranty in years 6 through 10. Mr. Dumian stated that Town personnel will install the concrete pad for the equipment. He stated that he feels the Town does not need to extra multi-zone installation, which would cost another \$8,000.

MUNICIPAL CLEAN-UP DAYS

Mr. Dumian stated that Highway Superintendent Brian Coddington would like to ask for May 12 as the day the County waives the tipping fee for the Town white goods and brush pickup. Mr. Dumian stated that he will get more information regarding Municipal Clean-up Days for hauling away old furniture, tires, etc. The deadline for application to Broome County for Municipal Clean-up Days is March 31.

PROPOSED LOCAL LAW 1, 2023/FIREFIGHTERS EXEMPTION

The Board discussed proposed Local Law 1, 2023, which would provide a maximum exemption of 10% of assessed value of property owned by volunteer firefighters with a minimum of two years of active service or a lifetime membership, which is 20 consecutive years of active service. Mr. Dumian stated that the firefighter could take either the \$200 standard deduction or the 10% deduction, but not both. The firefighter must apply for the exemption annually. Town Attorney Mark Spinner stated that the Town can also include this exemption to continue for the unremarried spouse of a deceased firefighter who was either a lifetime member or who died in the line of duty. The exemption is for the primary residence only. Mr. Dumian stated he felt the Town should include both exemptions for un-remarried spouses of deceased firefighters. The school districts and Broome County have also been approached to adopt this exemption, although no school districts have yet agreed to it. Mr. Dumian stated that it is "well deserved," adding that it is "hard to find volunteers."

PARKS UPDATES

Mr. Dumian asked Parks/Water/Sewer Team Leader David Kilmer when the new truck will arrive and Mr. Kilmer stated it "will be here soon."

Mr. Kilmer stated that he contacted Broome Bituminous, which has the County bid for blacktop, regarding the parking lots at the Town Hall and at the Community Center. He stated that the Community Center parking lot is in particularly bad shape, adding that it will cost approximately \$5,000 to mill both parking lots. A base coat and top coat of blacktop would then need to be added. Mr. Dumian commented that one of the neighboring municipalities has a paver that the

WORK SESSION MARCH 14, 2023

Town of Conklin might be able to borrow, but questioned whether or not Broome Bituminous would be willing to mill the lots if they were not also doing the blacktop work. He added that an easement will be needed for the building near the Community Center currently owned by Justin Marchuska.

CASTLE

Mr. Francisco asked if there are any plans to address the issues with the Castle part of the Town Hall, specifically the roof. Mr. Kilmer stated that most of the leaks in the roof have been stopped. Mr. Dumian stated that he "would love to see the Castle restored." He stated that he will have KB Services look at the roof and give the Board an estimate of cost to repair it. Mr. Dumian stated that he has been advised to look for historical grants for the renovation of the Castle, but have found historical grant writers to not be optimistic of the Town's probability of receiving grants. It was noted that the walls, damaged by water from the leaky roof, also need to be repaired.

UPDATES

Mr. Dumian stated that he has seen evidence that the County may be doing a speed study on Murphy Road near the intersection with Ketchum Road, which hopefully means the County will work to improve the sight line and conditions at that intersection.

Mr. Dumian stated that the Town needs to do the bore test to see if it is possible to run a water line under the Susquehanna River to tie into the Town of Kirkwood water system, as an additional water supply in case of emergency. He stated that this test will cost approximately \$12,000.

Mr. Boyle stated that the Upstate Association of Towns is planning a trip to Albany.

Mr. Dumian stated that the server will be moved to a different room, rather than its current location under the air handling equipment on the roof.

LAWSUIT/116 STILLWATER ROAD

Mr. Dumian stated that he received updates from the Code Department and the Town's legal counsel regarding the lawsuit against the property owner of 116 Stillwater Road. He stated that the paperwork was submitted for the State Supreme Court action last week, adding that a date for the hearing will be set soon. If the property owner does not comply with the order and address the issues on the property, the Town will have the right to inspect it and board it up, if necessary. Mr. Dumian explained that the Dog Control Officer must get a new seizure order for the dogs on the property each time there is an incident, as every time he has gone to seize the dogs they have been temporarily removed.

The Town Board of the Town of Conklin held a Regular Town Board Meeting at 6:30 P.M. on March 14, 2023, 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 Mark Spinner
Town Clerk Sherrie L. Jacobs
Parks/Water/Sewer Team Leader David Kilmer
Planning Board Sandra Beam

GUESTS: Country Courier Elizabeth Einstein

John Colley Laurie Francisco

MINUTES: FEBRUARY 28, 2023 REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

Mr. Francisco moved to approve the February 28, 2023 Regular Town Board Meeting minutes as presented.

Seconded by Mr. Farley.

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

carried: 4 - Yes, 1 - Abstain.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

RESO 2023-43: AUTHORIZE ADVERTISEMENT/COUNTRY COURIER/WHITE GOODS & BRUSH PICK-UP

Mr. Farley moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin authorizes advertisement in the **Country Courier** for white goods and brush pick-up from May 8 through May 12, 2023.

Seconded by Mr. Finch.

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

The Town will request May 12 as the day the County waives the tipping fee.

REPORT: PARKS/WATER/SEWER DEPARTMENT

Mr. Kilmer reported that the sewer pump is almost fixed. He stated that he and his crew have been working on maintenance at the Community Center, and have repaired the leak at the well house. He stated that Secretary to the Supervisor Teresa Bamber has been "great with the computer work" in installing the new water meter software and transferring it to the department's phones.

Mr. Dumian stated that the Town needs options if a resident refuses to allow the Town entry to inspect/repair/replace a dysfunctional water meter after they have been notified that there is a problem. He stated that the Water Department has been serving notices, adding that the water can be shut off for lack of cooperation, but added, "I don't want to go there." Instead, Mr.

Dumian suggested adding a minimum charge. Town Attorney Mark Spinner will research the Town's options for handling this problem.

Mr. Kilmer stated that the paperwork has been filed with the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, adding that Ms. Bamber was also a "huge help" with that project. He stated that his crew has started painting Pavilion 1 at Schnurbusch Park, and started preparing for baseball and softball season. Mr. Dumian stated that the new pavilion near the Community Center needs to be stained and the pavilion at Conklin Forks Park needs work.

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 the Town is waiting for a contract from Poster and Jaeckel for the updates to the boiler system.

MUNICIPAL CLEAN-UP DAYS

Mr. Dumian stated that he will get more information about the Municipal Clean-up Days and the Board will discuss it at the March 28 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESO 2023-44: INTRODUCE PROPOSED LOCAL LAW 2, 2023/ "FIREFIGHTERS EXEMPTION"/SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Finch moved for the following resolution:

WHEREAS, a local law entitled "A LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 119 OF THE TOWN CODE ENACTING A PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND AMBULANCE WORKERS PURSUANT TO SECTION 466-a OF THE REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW" was introduced at this meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board desires to hold a public hearing with respect to the adoption of said Local Law, as amended,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a public hearing will be held by the Town Board of the Town of Conklin with respect to the adoption of the aforesaid Local Law on March 28, 2023 at 6:30 P.M.; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause public notice of said hearing to be given as provided by law.

Seconded by Mr. Farley.

CERTIFICATION

I, Sherrie L. Jacobs, do hereby certify that I am the Town Clerk of the Town of Conklin and that the foregoing constitutes a true, correct and complete copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Conklin at a meeting thereof held on March 14, 2023. Said resolution was adopted by the following roll call vote:

Supervisor William Dumian, Jr. YES

Councilman Dell Boyle YES

Councilman William Farley YES

Councilman Charles Francisco YES

Councilman James E. Finch YES

Dated: March 14, 2023

Sherrie L. Jacobs, Town Clerk

Town of Conklin Seal

RESO 2023-45: APPROVE PAYMENT/CLAIMS #23-00183 - #23-00238/\$50,206.67

Mr. Farley moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin approves payment of the following Claims #23-00183 through #23-00238, which have been audited and approved for payment, in the total amount of \$50,206.67:

Total	\$ 50,206.67
Non-Budgeted	4,046.00
Water District	28,110.35
Sewer District #1	33.99
Highway	6,952.14
General	\$ 11,064.19

Seconded by Mr. Francisco.

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

RESO 2023-46: APPROVE MONTHLY CELL PHONE REIMBURSEMENT/ SEAN CODDINGTON

Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin approves a monthly cell phone reimbursement in the amount of \$50.00 per month to Sean Coddington, effective March 1, 2023.

Seconded by Mr. Finch.

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

RESO 2023-47: AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR/SIGN TRANE PROPOSAL/UPGRADES TO TOWN HALL HVAC SYSTEM

Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin authorizes the Supervisor to sign Trane Proposal #7166093 for upgrades to the Town Hall HVAC system for a cost not to exceed \$225,695.00, using cooperative bidding with Broome County or New York State.

Seconded by Mr. Finch.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

MILLINGS FOR CONKLIN CEMETERY ROADS

Mr. Boyle stated that he contracted the Town of Kirkwood and they would be willing to sell the Town of Conklin millings to use for improving the muddy roadways in the Conklin Cemetery, if necessary. Mr. Boyle estimated the Town would need four loads of millings.

YOUTH SPORTS

Mr. Farley stated that Girls Softball evaluations are completed, with the Boys Baseball evaluations to be held later this week or early next week. He stated that there were 70 wrestlers in the program this year, adding that 10 wrestlers will go on to the New York State Tournament in Syracuse on March 24 and 25.

OPENING DAY CEREMONY

Mr. Francisco asked if the Town is returning to hosting an Opening Day ceremony for baseball and softball. Mr. Dumian stated that he would like to see that happen, with a parade around the park, and perhaps a DJ. He stated the Town would need to check with the Youth Boosters to see if they are doing a fundraiser with food before planning to serve hamburgers and hot dogs as the Town has done in the past.

NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

Mr. Francisco asked if the Town would consider expanding the playground equipment in Schnurbusch Park, perhaps adding some new pieces. Mr. Dumian asked Mr. Francisco to research options, with the intent of possibly adding it to the Budget for 2024. Mr. Farley stated that he would talk to the youth sports participants to see what their wishes might be. Mr. Dumian stated that he has requested plans from Youth Commissioner Justin Parker for batting cages.

CONCERTS IN THE PARK

Town Clerk Sherrie Jacobs stated that all of the acts for the 2023 Concerts in the Park series have been booked and the program is typed and ready to give to the printer. The first concert will be June 14, 2023.

RESO 2023-48: EXECUTIVE SESSION/SPECIFIC PERSONNEL ISSUE

Mr. Dumian moved to close the Regular Town Board Meeting and move into Executive Session at 7:09 P.M. to discuss a specific personnel issue.

Seconded by Mr. Finch.

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

RESO 2023-49: RE-OPEN REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

Mr. Finch moved to close the Executive Session and re-open the Regular Town Board Meeting at 7:31 P.M.

Seconded by Mr. Dumian.

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

There was a discussion regarding personnel matters, but the Board took no action at this time.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Francisco moved for adjournment, seconded by Mr. Boyle. The meeting adjourned at 7:36 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherrie L. Jacobs Town Clerk