

REGULAR CONKLIN TOWN BOARD MEETING
APRIL 25, 2023

The Town Board of the Town of Conklin held a Regular Town Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on April 25, 2023, at the Conklin Town Hall. Supervisor William Dumian, Jr., presided. The meeting opened at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Supervisor William Dumian, Jr.
Councilman Charles Francisco
Councilman Dell Boyle
Councilman William Farley
Councilman Jim Finch
Town Attorney Mark Spinner
Deputy Town Clerk Elizabeth Einstein
Parks/Water/Sewer Team Leader Dave Kilmer
Administrative Assistant to the Supervisor Teresa Bamber
Code Officer Nick Pappas
Planning Board Member Sandra Beam
Zoning Board Member Bill Brodsky

GUESTS: Laurie Francisco
George Frailey, Conklin Fair Committee Vice President

MINUTES: APRIL 11, 2023, REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

Mr. Farley moved to approve the April 11, 2023, Regular Town Board Meeting minutes as presented.

Seconded by Mr. Finch.

VOTE: Finch - Yes, Boyle -Yes, Farley – Yes, Francisco – Yes, Dumian – Abstain

Motion approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. George Frailey of Leslie Avenue, Conklin, introduced himself and said he is representing the Conklin Fair Committee. He has done the electrical work and layout for the Conklin Fair for many years. He said he would like to add a second electric panel to allow for a permanent service for the field used for the Town Fair, and eliminate the large cable that crosses over the grounds during the fair. He said his plan would require installation of three new poles. The Fair Committee would pay for the poles but would need help from the town to dig the holes and set the poles.

Supervisor Dumian asked why Frailey did not consider burying the lines and Frailey replied that would be his first choice, but it would require digging a trench, plus the electric would need to go under the blacktopped area at the front of the pavilion, and he did not think the Town would be interested in doing that.

The Supervisor said that he did not want to see more poles on that field, and more maintenance would be required to mow and trim around the poles. He favored the underground wiring. Frailey agreed, saying the electric service could go underground on the right side of the pavilion and he would worry about electric expansion on the other side at a future time. He said to put all the wiring underground a trench would come out 20 feet from the pavilion, going toward the Community Center driveway. He had initially planned to install the permanent panel on a post, but later said placing it on the side of the pavilion would work just as well.

The Supervisor cautioned that time and labor was a concern right now for the Parks Department, especially now that they are maintaining two cemeteries with one cemetery recently taking a day

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and a half to get all the work done. Dumian said, "I am not saying no. I am just saying not right now. If we are going to run power lines, they should be underground."

There was more discussion and Parks Team Leader Dave Kilmer lent his support to the project saying the trench could be dug with the new excavator. Frailey said he did not have a problem with waiting until the fall, if necessary.

Mr. Francisco had questions about the amperage and the number of panels and there was more discussion. After answering more questions, Frailey said, "If you are good with digging the trench, I will go get prices for the electrical supplies and go back to the Fair Committee with a plan for their approval."

Dumian said if the Fair Committee was covering the cost of materials, he was good with that. "I would just like to see it out of the way, 100 percent." He added that he will discuss it further with Kilmer and see what kind of schedule the parks team has. The Board members were all in favor of the plan and all agreed that perhaps things would fall into place in time for the fair, but, if not, the project could wait until the fall season. Frailey again said waiting until fall was fine with him.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Dumian said he had received an email from a person in Buffalo regarding the fact that we are approaching the date of the Buffalo Tops massacre that occurred May 14, 2022. "There is some concern about the person that committed that heinous crime. I tried to assure that is not our community." Dumian said that in Gendron's confession, he clearly states that during COVID he got connected with some group online where he learned all that hatred.

Dumian said his message to this person is that this is a loving, caring community that does not condone these racial attacks or any kind of racism. He said he has been asked why he will not speak to the media. "It's very simple. I don't trust the media. The media will take anything that I say, twist it, and turn it."

Dumian said he has also been asked what the community is doing to help. He knows that multiple local churches have reached out to the Buffalo community to show their love and concern for victims, their families, and friends. The school district has also reached out, and diversity and inclusion programs are a part of the curriculum for Susquehanna Valley students. He emphatically stated, "This was not our community. This was a deranged individual who committed an individual act, not because this community in any way would ever allow that. . . Again our hearts and prayers go out families, victims, friends, and coworkers. This is not us."

The Supervisor said to the Board, "I am letting you know; I am trying to do the best job I can letting others know this person does not speak of who we are. He speaks of an individual who is mentally ill, deranged, and committed a heinous act."

He expects that he will continue to get more correspondence. He has been invited to speak in Buffalo but will not be participating primarily because of the media.

REPORT: HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Highway Department- Mr. Coddington was not present to give a report.

REPORT: CODE ENFORCEMENT

Code Enforcement Officer Nick Pappas said the debris in front of the Dollar General is all cleaned up and it was still clean when he checked just prior to the meeting. While some of the trash was probably courtesy of those driving by, it is hoped the Dollar General supervisor will continue to keep it clean.

Mr. Pappas said the Triolo trial is April 26. Town Counsel Mark Spinner said Mr. Triolo was personally served, but he had seen no indication of a response. He said an order from the Judge should be issued shortly after the trial.

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The Supervisor said he had been told that the Stillwater Road resident had posted some untruths on Facebook. “You can post a lot on Facebook and social media that has no truth or merit,” and contrary to Mr. Triolo’s statement, he was not ordered by the Conklin Court to take an IQ test and all that stuff,” said Dumian. He is hopeful that the Supreme Court will only allow a 30-day period to clean up the property.

Mr. Pappas reported that all the fire inspections have been completed. He is only waiting to hear back from some businesses where some work was necessary before he could sign off. Once the repair is made, he will go back and do a recheck.

REPORT: PARKS/WATER/SEWER

Mr. Kilmer said he spoke to Broome Bituminous and they expect to be able to pave the Maines Community Center lot at the end of next week. He also heard from KB Services and they will start the work on the Town Hall roof next Thursday or Friday. He has said before that many of the gravestones in Shawsville Cemetery need attention. He spent three hours on Monday resetting two gravestones for the Lawrence Family. He said they were very happy with the end results. The regular mowing at Carlin Road required two of his team working from 7:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. to get mowing and trimming required completed. He is also still working with SCADA to get the well system up to date.

When it comes to parks, Mr. Kilmer showed the Board a picture of the broken slide at Schnurbusch park. He said he was willing to attempt the repair, but could not guarantee it would hold up. The other option would be to have the slide company do the repair at a cost of \$1200. Mr. Dumian said he believed it should be repaired by the company. Mr. Boyle asked what a new slide would cost. He asked if insurance would cover any of the cost. The Board agreed to draft a resolution to cover the cost of the repair, but asked Mr. Kilmer to find out the full cost of a replacement slide. There was more discussion of the merits of a new slide.

Returning to cemeteries, Kilmer asked the Board what they wished to do about the new fence for Shawsville Cemetery. Kilmer has suggested fencing with concrete piers. He had given the Board pictures of the fencing at a previous meeting. Mr. Francisco said the maintenance on this type of fence should be a lot less than what is now required. Kilmer said the length of fence would be 700 feet, gate to gate, with a cost of \$5,865.00 for the pillars plus the freight/delivery cost. He thinks the pillars weigh around 700 pounds apiece. Kilmer said there was no pressing need as two maple trees and the stumps need to be removed by the highway department before the fencing is installed. The Supervisor asked Kilmer to get a cost for delivery of the piers. No decision was made to purchase the fencing at this time.

Mr. Kilmer commented on vandalism in Schnurbusch Park. He said it takes the Parks team one hour every morning to clean the park of garbage, broken bottles, and other items. This has been happening every day for a month. Stones have been put in the bathroom toilets and someone has driven across the baseball diamond and dumped garbage there. Cameras have been ordered and will be put up in the park along with signage listing park rules. Supervisor Dumian suggested law enforcement also be requested to check the park more often.

The Supervisor commended the Parks team on how nice the ballfields look and said they are doing a great job. He knows spring is a busy time but asked if, when the weather affects the ballfields, could someone on the Parks team stick around after regular hours and make sure the fields are back in order.

BATTING CAGES FOR FIELDS AT SCHNURBUSCH PARK

Supervisor Dumian said he did not have an update on the batting cages. Councilman Farley said he didn’t have anything either. They have been told that the poles needed for the cages will be donated. The Supervisor emphasized that once the batting cages are a reality, volunteers must be responsible for taking care of the nets, so they are not destroyed by the weather.

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Because they have no more information, the Supervisor believes this may be a fall project. He is looking for ways to cut the cost that he estimates to be around \$13,000 for two batting cages. He said donated poles and pressure treated 6X6s will help lower the cost. "Until we have solid numbers, it's really difficult to make a decision," said Dumian. He likes the idea of taking down the wall board, that needs major repairs, and using the blacktop for one of the batting cages.

CROSS TRAINING FOR HIGHWAY
AND PARKS/WATER/SEWER EMPLOYEES

The Supervisor said cross training of Highway Department and Water/Sewer/Parks employees began some time ago, but more is needed. There are Highway Department employees who are willing to get their water certification so they can be put into the rotation. This will take pressure off the limited employees now covering it all. "It just makes us stronger," said Dumian. "It's the right thing to do, the smart thing to do."

RESPONSIBILITIES & TIME ALLOCATION –
PARKS & WATER/SEWER EMPLOYEES

The Supervisor asked the Board to remember that with bringing Dave [Kilmer] on Board, that, yes, with Dave's knowledge and skill set they have taken a lot of steps to move forward, but when the suggestion of more and more projects with what is already on the docket, there are only so many hours in the day. Until everyone in the Highway Department has their CDL, and more cross training takes effect, Mr. Kilmer only has a small labor force, and he has been in the trenches working right alongside his team. They have "played quite a bit of catchup, completing a lot of projects but until the labor force gets more cross training, just keep in mind that spring is extremely busy. There may be some time in the summer when we can do more.

PROPERTY ACROSS FROM BIG DIPPER – PARK EXPANSION
& POSSIBLE WELL SITE

The Supervisor is waiting to hear back from a firm that contacted him on water testing. New York State is looking at clean drinking water and checking out sites that have been considered a dumping site. At one time a permit was issued for a business to dump clean fill at this site on the corner of Powers and Conklin Roads. They are testing water a certain number of feet. If something is found, the testing will go deeper. They are looking for two different contaminants that are common for dump sites. The Supervisor said he doesn't think there is anything there, but the testing must be done and for now, the Town's hands are tied.

NEW BUSINESS:

OPENING DAY ACTIVITIES – MAY 6 - 2023 BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

Opening Day will be May 6. Councilman Farley said he has not made arrangements for the CVFD to bring a firetruck, but he will follow up on that. There is a schedule already in place with T-Ball starting at 10:30 a.m. In between the major and minor games, team pictures will be taken. The Supervisor would like the Booster Club to reap the benefits from the sale of hotdogs, burgers, and concessions. The cost of everything involved with the sports teams is so much greater that it is important that these fundraisers take place. So, the Town Board will graciously bow out of doing the usual free hotdogs and burgers for Opening Day. The Supervisor asked Councilman Boyle, a member of the Fire Department, to follow up on getting a fire truck to Schnurbusch Park for the Opening Day Parade around the park. The Supervisor will say a few

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words, and someone else will announce the opening “First Pitch.” He said if anyone has suggestions for who should be given the honor of throwing the opening ball, they should give the name(s) to Councilman Farley.

RESO 2023-67: RATIFY PAYMENT TO PITNEY BOWES
FOR POSTAGE METER REFILL.

Mr. Finch 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 a postage meter refill.

Seconded by Mr. Francisco.

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

RESO 2023-68: APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS,
EFFECTIVE APRIL 20, 2023, TO USE ARPA FUNDS

Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin ratifies the Transfer of Funds, effective April 20, 2023, to use ARPA Funds for 180 Sensus Radio Readers.

A691-000	Deferred Revenues-ARPA	Db \$26,907.00
A 980	Revenues	Cr \$26,907.00
A4089	Federal Aid, Other	
A 9901.9	Transfer to Other Funds	Db \$26,907.00
A 200-0002	Cash-Deferred Revenue ARPA	Cr \$26,907.00
SW 200-0001	Cash-PSBT Checking	Db \$26,907.00
SW-5031	Interfund Transfers In	Cr \$26,907.00

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

RESO 2023-69: RATIFYING MODIFICATION TO THE 2023 BUDGET, EFFECTIVE
APRIL 20, 2023

Mr. Farley moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin ratifies modification to the 2023 Budget, effective April 20, 2023, as follows:

510 Estimated Revenues		\$85,577.00
SW5031	Interfund Transfers In	\$10,090.00 Correction to Reso 2023-
31		
A-4089	Federal Aid, ARPA	\$10,090.00 To Use ARPA Funds for Cross County
Trailer		
A-4089	Federal Aid, ARPA	\$26,907.00 To Use ARPA Funds for Sensus Radio
Readers		
SW-2680	Insurance recoveries	\$11,583.00 Fire Hydrants

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VANDALISM/MISUSE AT PARK/COMMUNITY CENTER

Mr. Boyle reported that the previous night, Monday, April 24, around 9:30-10:00 p.m., he was at Schnurbusch Park and kicked four vehicles out of the park, and then checked the Community Center where he asked the owner of one vehicle, parked up on the grass not far from the building, to leave at 10:00 p.m. He was able to get two license plate numbers.

Mr. Dumian said it will be necessary to lock the park gates again. He will talk to Youth Commissioner Justin Parker about making sure the gates are locked by volunteers when youth sports are done for the evening. Mr. Finch suggested that whoever oversees shutting off the lights, also lock the gates. Mr. Dumian said it is a shame that early morning walkers will find the gates locked. Mr. Farley said the walkers could park over by the Little League Field and enter the park there.

Mr. Kilmer said that the cameras will help. Mr. Pappas said the Town of Binghamton only unlocks bathrooms when there are games. Mr. Dumian said he thought Conklin may have to do the same.

SPRING YOUTH SPORTS HAVE BEGUN

Mr. Farley said that while Opening Day for youth sports is officially May 6, games started this week. He also reported on the youth wrestling competitions. He said they competed in Bloomsburg, PA, the previous weekend and had one Eastern Region champion, Nialah Hawkins, and two others placed- Trey Parker took a 3rd place win, and Tristan Farley came in 4th. These young athletes now go on to Ocean City, MD, on May 6, to wrestle in the Eastern Nationals.

Two pitching machines were found in storage at the park. One is electric and looks brand new.

WELCOME TO CONKLIN BUSINESS FLAGS

Mr. Francisco said he was in the Park a few days ago and was reminded of the time when we had Town buildings and business recognition custom flags. They were along the road and welcomed people to the town while naming the location or business. He believed that was done when Jim Finch was Supervisor. Each business paid for cost of the special flags that had “Welcome to Conklin” and the business name, but the Town coordinated the flag purchase and had them designed by Robbins Sign Company. The Supervisor thought it was a nice idea and said the flags could be hung at the same time the Parks Department puts up the American flags around Memorial Day. Mr. Francisco agreed to look into the project. He remembered that Town Board members purchased some of the roadside American flags, too.

MEMORIAL DAY FLAGS FOR DECEASED VETERANS BURIED IN CONKLIN CEMETERIES

Mr. Francisco said the Town would need 141 flags for veterans in the Conklin Cemetery and 40 more flags for the Shawsville Cemetery. He will talk to Willis Platt and see if Mr. Platt is going to take care of planting the veterans’ flags for both cemeteries, otherwise he will coordinate getting the flags for the Conklin Cemetery. He said when the thorough cleanup was done at Conklin Cemetery, the dilapidated flags were removed, so it will take a little more effort to ensure that every veteran’s grave has a flag. He said there are some flag standards already in place and that will help. He will also coordinate that process.

MOVING RECOGNITION PLAQUE AT SCHNURBUSCH PARK

Mr. Kilmer asked if a recognition plaque could be moved to a better spot at Schnurbusch Park. He said the way it is set up now, it looks like someone is buried at the spot. Mr. Dumian said he had heard that from a lot of people. Board members agreed moving the plaque to a better spot was a good idea—perhaps on the side of the concession stand.

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There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Farley made the motion to adjourn at 7:40 p.m., seconded by Mr. Finch. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Einstein
Deputy Town Clerk