

WORK SESSION
SEPTEMBER 5, 2023

The Town Board of the Town of Conklin held a Work Session at 6:00 P.M. on September 5, 2023, at the Conklin Town Hall. Mr. Dumian, Supervisor, presided.

PRESENT:	Town Board Members	Finch, Boyle, Francisco, Dumian Farley – Excused
	Town Counsel	Mark Spinner
	Town Clerk	Sherrie L. Jacobs
	Secretary to the Supervisor	Teresa Bamber
	Code Officer	Nick Pappas
	Parks/Water/Sewer Team Leader	David Kilmer
	Planning Department	Sandra Beam
GUESTS:	Country Courier	Elizabeth Einstein
	New York Citizens Audit	Linda Burghardt
	New York Citizens Audit	Holly D. Gruskay
	New York Citizens Audit	Elaine A. Benjamin
		Laurie Francisco
		Randy Schuster

NEW YORK CITIZENS AUDIT

Elaine Benjamin was the first of three members of the New York Citizens Audit group, founded in 2021, to give a presentation to the Board regarding their organization. Ms. Benjamin stated that the group studies anomalies in the New York State voting system, adding that the group is comprised of some 2,000 people, all volunteers, as part of a non-partisan 501c3 organization. She stated that her organization has three goals: 1) that votes are accurately counted; 2) that only qualified electors can vote; and 3) that the number of votes equals the number of electors. The New York Citizens Audit is requesting that the Town Board adopt a resolution calling for an end-to-end audit of the 2022 Election. Ms. Benjamin stated that to date 36 towns in 15 counties in New York State have passed this resolution.

Holly Gruskay spoke next, stating that some people have multiple voter IDs in the system, with issues being at the State level. She stated that the Post Office and DMV register voters when addresses are changed. The New York Citizens Audit believes there are one million counterfeit registrations within the voting system. Ms. Gruskay stated that this means votes are diluted and often multiple absentee ballots are issued. She stated that her organization's research team has found a number of anomalies in the system, using public information obtained from the State. Ms. Gruskay stated that Homeland Security has stated that the New York State voters' database has been breached and is no longer reliable. Mr. Finch asked if the political party of voters remained the same if they have multiple voter IDs, and Ms. Gruskay stated that her political affiliation remained the same when she discovered she had multiple IDs.

Linda Burghardt was the last to speak. She stated that a Summary Sheet shows that an undated purged ID can still be used to vote, and sometimes people have IDs in both their maiden and married names, as well as fictitious people who have been issued a voter ID. Ms. Burghardt stated that although the 2022 Election was certified, the number of voters was inaccurate. She added that algorithms on the backside of the database can be used to find counterfeit IDs to commit voter fraud.

The proposed resolution requires the following five processes to ensure operational integrity of elections: 1) rigorous verification of voter identity; 2) proven ballot security and intact chain of custody; 3) voting systems certified to be secure from operational, physical, and cyber threats; 4) meets all FISMA (Federal Information Security Modernization Act) and State operational and

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risk assessment requirements; and 5) meets auditability and traceability requirements and operational policy.

2024 BUDGET

Mr. Dumian stated that the proposed 2024 Budget would be discussed later in the meeting, with an Executive Session called to discuss Schedule A (personnel). He noted that there have been many improvements to the Town water system.

POOL REPAIRS

Mr. Dumian stated that the proposed costs to repair the Conklin Pool are “astronomical,” adding that one idea under consideration is making the pool a “Conklin Community Pool,” meaning it would only be open to Town residents.

NEW DOG CONTROL VEHICLE

Mr. Dumian stated that the current DCO vehicle is getting “tired,” adding that the proposed new vehicle needs to be one easily accessed by the Dog Control Officer for loading and unloading dogs.

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 5, 2023

The Town Board of the Town of Conklin held a Regular Town Board Meeting at 6:30 P.M. on September 5, 2023, at the Conklin Town Hall. Mr. Dumian, Supervisor, presided. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Town Counsel	Mark Spinner
Town Clerk	Sherrie L. Jacobs
Secretary to the Supervisor	Teresa Bamber
Code Officer	Nick Pappas
Parks/Water/Sewer Team Leader	David Kilmer
Planning Department	Sandra Beam

GUESTS: Country Courier Elizabeth Einstein
Laurie Francisco
Randy Schuster

MINUTES: AUGUST 8, 2023 REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING & WORK SESSION

Mr. Finch stated that the August 8, 2023 Regular Town Board Meeting minutes should be changed to describe the concrete and chain enclosure of the Shawsville Cemetery as a “barrier” rather than a “fence.” Mr. Francisco stated that Resolution 2023-133, on the same page, regarding the CDL Education Assistance Program stated that it is for Highway Employees, which has been changed to include all employees. Mr. Dumian stated that he read the resolution that way into the minutes, but as a clarification, the actual agreement states that it is for all employees, not just Highway Department employees.

Mr. Francisco moved to approve the August 8, 2023 Regular Town Board Meeting and Work Session minutes with the above-mentioned changes and clarifications.

Seconded by Mr. Finch.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

CORRESPONDENCE:

ABUNDANT SOLAR PROPOSAL

Mr. Dumian stated that he has gotten several inquiries regarding the proposed solar farm on Hardie Road, but added that there is no new information or application from Abundant Solar. He added that no one on the Board is in favor of moving forward with the proposal. Mr. Dumian stated that the Town Board needs to look at its zoning laws with regard to solar farms.

REPORT: HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Mr. Dumian stated that Jeff Hayes, Deputy Highway Superintendent, reports that things are going well at the Highway Department, adding that the department now has a new paver.

REPORT: CODE OFFICER

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Code Officer Nick Pappas stated that the trailer park on Stillwater Road has been completely cleaned out, and the locks changed on the trailer. He will do a walk-through inspection of the trailer.

REPORT: PARKS/WATER/SEWER TEAM LEADER

Mr. Dumian stated that the Town will need to look at replacing valve clusters in 2024, which cost approximately \$60,000 to replace.

Parks/Water/Sewer Team Leader David Kilmer stated that the current trade-in value of the Jacobsen mower is \$22,500, adding that he would like to trade it in toward a new 10-foot John Deere mower, which costs approximately \$69,000. Mr. Finch asked about the availability of the new mower and Mr. Kilmer stated that there is currently one at the dealership and more will be arriving.

Mr. Dumian stated that it is taking too long for the new truck ordered for Parks/Water/Sewer to arrive, but there is a white truck available within 30-45 days.

Mr. Kilmer stated that the Town needs to seal the Community Center parking lot and Schnurbusch Park. Randy Schuster commented that Broome Bituminous uses slurry for roads.

Mr. Kilmer reported that small repairs have been made at the sewer stations and repairs completed at the wellhouse, as well as repairs and replacements of water meters. He stated that he oversaw a burial at Conklin Cemetery. Mr. Kilmer stated that the new key code system installation began today, September 5. He stated that Sentry Alarms is suggesting installation of a six to eight-foot fence at the Dog Park before installing a key code system, so that project is currently at a standstill. Mr. Dumian stated that he and Mr. Kilmer had discussed putting a 45-foot black chain link fence around the new condensers at the Town Hall, although he prefers a privacy fence. Mr. Dumian stated that this will be discussed further at the September 26 meeting.

Mr. Pappas stated that people from the “tent city” on Gee Street have broken into the old pump house in that vicinity, adding that if the Town posts “Private Property/No Trespassing” signs and has the area around the pump house fenced in, the people staying in the tent city can be removed. Mr. Dumian stated that there have been needles indicative of drug use found in the area.

REPORT: SUPERVISOR’S OFFICE

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

OLD BUSINESS:

2024 BUDGET

Mr. Dumian stated that the tax rate in 2023 was \$349.47 per \$100,000 assessed value, but the proposed 2024 tax rate will be only \$311.09 per \$100,000 assessed value, for a decrease of \$38.38 per \$100,000. He stated that this will be the second time in five years that the tax rate will be decreased.

UPDATE/116 STILLWATER ROAD

Mr. Dumian stated that the exterior of the property at 116 Stillwater Road has been cleaned up, adding that the question is whether or not the Town moves forward with the next legal step, which is to work with the Health Department and have the building condemned and demolished. He stated that this will cost at least \$20,000 more dollars of taxpayer money. Although there has

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been some interest shown in purchasing the property, Mr. Dumian stated that the liens against it make the property difficult to sell. When asked if the property could be taken by Broome County for delinquent taxes, Mr. Dumian stated “not this year.” Mr. Dumian stressed that this case is not the Town setting a precedent for the way in which other properties will be cleaned up in the Town.

DOG PARK KEY CODE

The Board decided to get a price quote for a six-foot fence and to get a quote for the total cost of the Dog Park key code system. He stated that users of the Dog Park seem to be in agreement that the key code system would be a good idea.

NEW BUSINESS:

**RESO 2023-137: RATIFY APPROVAL/CELL PHONE REIMBURSEMENT/
SCOTT ZAINO**

Mr. Finch moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin ratifies approval of cell phone reimbursement in the amount of \$50.00 per month to Scott Zaino, retroactive to July 1, 2023.

Seconded by Mr. Francisco.

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

**RESO 2023-138: RATIFY PAYMENT/JEREMY
POLHAMUS/SCHEDULING/CONKLIN YOUTH SPORTS**

Mr. Dumian 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 Jeremy Polhamus for scheduling for Conklin Youth Sports.

Seconded by Mr. Finch.

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

**RESO 2023-139: RATIFY PAYMENT/ROCKY GLEN CONSTRUCTION/
LEEBOY ASPHALT PAVER**

Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin ratifies payment in the amount of \$16,000.00 to Rocky Glen Construction for Leeboy Asphalt Paver.

Seconded by Mr. Finch.

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

RESO 2023-140: RATIFY PAYMENT/TOM COX/CONCERT IN THE PARK/08-09-2023

Mr. Boyle moved for the following resolution:

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Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin ratifies payment in the amount of \$400.00 to Tom Cox for Concert in the Park on August 9, 2023.

Seconded by Mr. Francisco.

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

RESO 2023-141: RATIFY PAYMENT/CLAIMS #23-00837 - #23-879/\$44,105.18

Mr. Finch moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin ratifies payment of the following Claims #23-00837 through #23-00879, which have been audited and approved for payment, in the total amount of \$44,105.18:

General	\$ 23,353.70
Highway	10,554.67
Sewer District #1	386.74
Water District	3,223.67
Non-Budgeted	<u>6,586.40</u>
Total	\$ 44,105.18

Seconded by Mr. Boyle.

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

RESO 2023-142: APPROVE PAYMENT/CLAIMS #23-00881 - #23-00929/\$170,340.78

Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin approves payment of the following Claims #23-00881 through #23-00929, which have been audited and approved for payment, in the total amount of \$170,340.78:

General	\$ 102,937.37
Highway	47,329.51
Light Districts	1,268.26
Sewer District #1	2,121.58
Water District	13,728.06
Non-Budgeted	<u>2,956.00</u>
Total	\$170,340.78

Seconded by Mr. Finch.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

EASEMENT/STILLWATER ROAD

Town Attorney Mark Spinner stated that he is working on the easement for drainage on Stillwater Road.

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CAMPERS & ZONING ISSUES

Mr. Pappas stated that the tents on Conklin Road are no longer there. A discussion ensued regarding Code and Zoning issues and campers, whether they should be allowed seasonally vs. long-term. The idea of permits and seasonal usage was discussed. Mr. Dumian stated that if people camping are disturbing the peace, law enforcement should be notified. Mr. Boyle stated that the campers must be road-worthy (registered and insured). Planning Board member Sandra Beam stated, "Owning property doesn't mean you can do anything you want. Rules and regulations are needed."

SCHNURBUSCH PARK

Mr. Finch asked if a speed bump could be installed near the Little League field to slow down drivers. Mr. Kilmer stated he would look into a temporary rubber speed bump.

Mr. Boyle addressed the issue of people driving into the park after it is closed, stating that he had to chase some people out of the park at 1 or 2 A.M. He suggested that the gate to the park be locked every night. Mr. Dumian asked who would lock the gate. Mr. Kilmer suggested getting an automatic gate that opens from 7 A.M. until 9 P.M. Zoning Board member Elizabeth Einstein suggested keeping the park lights on later at night. The Board discussed installation of video surveillance cameras with signage that the cameras were in place.

PARKING AT COMMUNITY CENTER FOR SENIOR CITIZENS TRIP

Mr. Francisco asked if the Community Center is rented November 9 and 10, and asked if 20 or 25 cars could be parked in the Community Center parking lot so that the Conklin Seniors Club could go on a bus trip. Mr. Dumian asked if the Fair lot that is used for overflow parking could be used if there is a conflict. It was noted that the Town owns the entire parking lot by the Community Center.

WELFARE BURIAL

Mr. Francisco stated that he worked with Mary Plonski remotely while he was on vacation to arrange a burial for a welfare recipient, since it is necessary that the person be buried within three days of their death. Mr. Kilmer dug the grave. Mr. Francisco stated he has been working with Ms. Plonski to provide more information regarding layout of Conklin Cemetery and plots that are available for sale.

CONDENSERS & AIR CONDITIONING

Mr. Dumian stated that the Town would need to purchase a control system for the HVAC system because the boiler system doesn't "talk" to the Trane system, with an approximate cost of \$14,632.08. The card that would allow communication is missing but the new control system would complete the HVAC system. Mr. Francisco asked if this is a one-time charge or an annual license. Mr. Kilmer stated that the technicians can fix any issues remotely or advise him of needed repairs or adjustments. Mr. Dumian will call Cody at Trane to discuss this further.

RESO 2023-143: EXECUTIVE SESSION/PERSONNEL ISSUE

Mr. Dumian moved to close the Regular Town Board Meeting and move into Executive Session at 7:45 P.M. to discuss a specific personnel issue.

Seconded by Mr. Finch.

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

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RESO 2023-144: RE-OPEN REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

Mr. Finch moved to close the Executive Session and re-open the Regular Town Board Meeting at 8:20 P.M.

Seconded by Mr. Francisco.

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

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Dumian moved for adjournment, seconded by Mr. Francisco. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherrie L. Jacobs
Town Clerk