

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 24, 2023

Mr. Dumian declared the Public Hearing open at 6:32 P.M. and asked those present to speak either for, or in opposition to, the proposed 2024 Municipal Water and Sewer Billing Rates. He stated that there will be a small increase to cover anticipated repairs to the aging infrastructure.

There being no further questions or public comments, Mr. Dumian declared the Public Hearing closed at 6:33 P.M.

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ABUNDANT SOLAR

Mr. Dumian stated that William Brodsky, of the Zoning Board of Appeals, wrote a summary addressing the gaps in information provided by Abundant Solar regarding their proposed solar farm on Hardie Road, adding that Mr. Brodsky was “very thorough.” The Town is awaiting a response from Abundant Solar.

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PUBLIC HEARING
TO RECEIVE INPUT REGARDING THE PROPOSED 2024 GENERAL & HIGHWAY
BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF CONKLIN

PRESENT: Same as on page one.

Mr. Dumian declared the Public Hearing open at 6:35 P.M. and asked those present to speak either for, or in opposition to, the proposed 2024 General and Highway Budget for the Town of Conklin.

Mr. Finch asked if extra money had been budgeted for the Town Pool in 2024 and Mr. Dumian stated that no extra money was budgeted, adding that the pool can be “band aided” for 2024, with no decision about its future having been made. Mr. Brodsky asked if the removal of dead ash trees throughout the Town has had an impact on the Highway Budget and Mr. Dumian stated that two of the Highway Laborers have experience with tree removal and can do the work in house with the bucket truck.

There being no further questions or public comments, Mr. Dumian declared the Public Hearing closed at 6:37 P.M.

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PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

REPORT: HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Mr. Dumian reported that the Highway Department has been busy with the annual leaf pickup, adding that they are cleaning the catch basins with a borrowed vacuum truck.

REPORT: CODE OFFICER

Mr. Dumian reported that two property owners are being sent back to Court for violations.

REPORT: PARKS/WATER/SEWER DEPARTMENT

Parks/Water/Sewer Team Leader David Kilmer provided Mr. Dumian with a list of projects that his department has been working on. The Parks/Water/Sewer Department has: installed the new

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slide at Schnurbusch Park; filled in holes at the park; pulled stumps at Shawsville Cemetery; put gravel on the Ahern Road water tower access road; removed the pipe and filled the space at Schnurbusch Park; fixed a water main break on Conklin Road; replaced a hydrant on Corporate Drive; moved piles at the boat launch; painted the bathrooms at Schnurbusch Park; and handled a cremation burial at Shawsville Cemetery. Mr. Kilmer also reported that the utility locator is broken, with a replacement cost being \$3,460.00.

REPORT: SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

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

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW MOWER FOR JOHN DEERE

Mr. Dumian stated that the new mower is still not working so the Town has not yet paid the bill for the mower.

SALE OF STAND-ON MOWER

Mr. Dumian suggested that the Town pursue sale of the stand-on mower as it is no longer needed by the Town, with advertising on Auctions International being mentioned as a possibility.

PURCHASE OF TRAK MATS

Mr. Kilmer would like to purchase 14 Trak mats to use to protect the ground when using heavy equipment to dig graves, and other such work. He found some mats from J.C. Smith that he likes and finds easy to handle. Mr. Boyle found some mats in Syracuse that are cheaper but heavier. Mr. Dumian stated that these 3/4 –inch mats weigh 93 pounds each and are harder to handle and store, where as Mr. Kilmer can move the 3/8-inch mats by himself. Mr. Kilmer also got the price of the lighter mats reduced to \$210 each, instead of \$230 each, if the Town purchases 20 mats. Mr. Francisco stated that the Town is “saving hundreds of dollars to buy mats and protect the grounds” from being torn up. Previously, the Town has had to rent these mats whenever there was a burial.

KIRKWOOD/CONKLIN WATER LINE CONNECTION

Mr. Dumian stated that Mr. Boyle had talked with John Finch, Jr., of the Town of Kirkwood about a new proposed location to connect the water supplies between the two towns. The new location at Lawrence Boulevard in Conklin would offer a straight line across the Susquehanna River and would require significantly less pipe, and there would be no need for a booster station. Prior quotes for connecting with the Town of Kirkwood or the City of Binghamton were approximately \$400,000.00. Town Engineer John Mastronardi is working with the Town of Kirkwood on this project.

ABUNDANT SOLAR

Returning to the topic of the Abundant Solar proposed solar farm on Hardie Road, Mr. Dumian stated that the company would like to start construction in the spring of 2024. He reiterated that Mr. Brodsky had prepared a summary addressing gaps in the information presented by Abundant Solar. Mr. Dumian sent this summary to Abundant Solar and is awaiting a response. Mr. Brodsky explained that a solar farm has two owners – the solar farm owners and the utility purchasing the electricity, and so ownership of the equipment is divided. He stated that this would put the Town in the position of arbiter between the two entities. Mr. Dumian emphasized

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that the Town has not yet received an application, adding that he is concerned that the company could sell the property and facility at a later date. Town Attorney Mark Spinner stated that the Town needs to look at its fee schedule. Mr. Dumian will invite representatives from Abundant Solar to a question and answer session at one of the November Board meetings. He added that the Town is “just gathering data” and emphasized that no decisions have yet been made. Gary Huntley of Hardie Road stated that the Town electrical grid cannot handle much more power.

NEW BUSINESS:

HALLOWEEN CURFEW/SHERIFF’S PATROLS

Mr. Dumian reminded those present that the Halloween curfew is in effect October 30 and 31 and November 1, per local law. Additional Sheriff’s patrols have been requested.

EMERGENCY PHONE MESSAGE SYSTEM

Mr. Dumian stated that in the case of emergencies, such as a water main break, the first message a caller to the Town should receive is news about the emergency. He stated that his assistant, Teresa Bamber, is researching and being trained on setting up this message system and the process to change a pre-recorded message. There is no additional fee to the Town to add this feature. Mr. Dumian stated that the new system will be tested with the hydrant flushing set to occur October 26 and 27.

RESO 2023-181: AUTHORIZE TOWN SUPERVISOR/SIGN 2024 FIRE PROTECTION CONTRACT/CONKLIN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.

PRESENT: Supervisor William Dumian, Jr.
Councilman Dell Boyle
Councilman William Farley
Councilman Charles Francisco
Councilman James E. Finch

ABSENT: None

Offered By: Councilman Farley **Seconded By:** Councilman Francisco

The Town Board of the Town of Conklin, duly convened in regular session, does hereby resolve as follows:

WHEREAS, the Town Board scheduled a public hearing at Conklin Town Hall, 1271 Conklin Road, Conklin, New York, for October 24, 2023, at 6:30 P.M. on the 2024 Fire Protection District costs; and

WHEREAS, notice of said public hearing was duly advertised in the official newspaper of the Town, and posted on the Town Clerk’s signboard; and

WHEREAS, said public hearing was duly held on October 24, 2023, at 6:30 P.M. and all parties in attendance were permitted an opportunity to be heard, and the matter of the said costs for the Town for such fiscal year was fully discussed and considered by the Town Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Town Board of the Town of Conklin, duly convened in regular session, does hereby resolve as follows:

Section 1. The Supervisor of the Town of Conklin is hereby authorized and empowered to sign and deliver on behalf of the Town of Conklin the Fire Protection Agreement for Fire Protection District No. 1 for the year 2024 between Town of Conklin and Conklin Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

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Section 2. Said Agreement shall be substantially in accordance with the version thereof which is now on file in the office of the Town Clerk of the Town of Conklin, and shall be subject to the approval of the Attorney for the Town of Conklin; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

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 at Conklin Town Hall, 1271 Conklin Road, Conklin, New York, on the 24th day of October, 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: October 24, 2023

Town of Conklin Seal

Sherrie L. Jacobs, Town Clerk

Town of Conklin

RESO 2023-182: APPROVE 2024 MUNICIPAL WATER AND SEWER BILLING
RATES

PRESENT: Supervisor William Dumian, Jr.
Councilman Dell Boyle
Councilman William Farley
Councilman Charles Francisco
Councilman James E. Finch

ABSENT: None

Offered By: Councilman Francisco

Seconded By: Councilman Finch

The Town Board of the Town of Conklin, duly convened in regular session, does hereby resolve as follows:

WHEREAS, the Town Board scheduled a public hearing at Conklin Town Hall, 1271 Conklin Road, Conklin, New York, for October 24, 2023, at 6:32 P.M. on the proposed 2024 Water and Sewer Billing Rates; and

WHEREAS, notice of said public hearing was duly advertised in the official newspaper of the Town, and posted on the Town Clerk's signboard; and

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WHEREAS, said public hearing was duly held on October 24, 2023, at 6:32 P.M. and all parties in attendance were permitted an opportunity to be heard, and the matter of the said billing rates for the Town for such fiscal year was fully discussed and considered by the Town Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Town Board of the Town of Conklin, duly convened in regular session, does hereby resolves and adopt the 2024 Municipal Water and Sewer Billing Rates as follows:

SEWER RESIDENTIAL

Quarterly Basic Fee:	\$15.00
Unit Charge not to exceed	\$10.25 per Thousand Gallons

SEWER SMALL BUSINESS (Non-Mfg)

Quarterly Basic Fee:	\$15.00
Unit Charge not to exceed	\$12.20 per Thousand Gallons

SEWER CORP PARK and MFG Companies

Quarterly Basic Fee:	\$35.00
Unit Charge not to exceed	\$17.00 per Thousand Gallons

UNMETERED \$132.00/Qtr.

WATER RESIDENTIAL

Quarterly Basic Fee:	\$15.00
Unit Charge not to exceed	\$ 3.75 per Thousand Gallons

WATER SMALL BUSINESS Non-Mfg.

Quarterly Basic Fee:	\$15.00
Unit Charge not to exceed	\$ 4.00 per Thousand Gallons

WATER CORP PARK and MFG Companies

Quarterly Basic Fee	\$35.00
Unit charge not to exceed	\$ 4.75 per Thousand Gallons

This billing change becomes effective November 1, 2023, and will be billed starting the first billing cycle in 2024: February 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately

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 at Conklin Town Hall, 1271 Conklin Road, Conklin, New York, on the 24th day of October, 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: October 24, 2023

Town of Conklin Seal

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OCTOBER 24, 2023

Sherrie L. Jacobs, Town Clerk
Town of Conklin

RESO 2023-183: ADOPT 2024 GENERAL AND HIGHWAY BUDGET FOR THE
TOWN OF CONKLIN

PRESENT: Supervisor William Dumian, Jr.
Councilman Dell Boyle
Councilman William Farley
Councilman Charles Francisco
Councilman James E. Finch

ABSENT: None

Offered By: Councilman Finch

Seconded By: Councilman Farley

The Town Board of the Town of Conklin, duly convened in regular session, does hereby resolve as follows:

WHEREAS, the Town Board scheduled a public hearing at Conklin Town Hall, 1271 Conklin Road, Conklin, New York, for October 24, 2023, at 6:35 P.M. on the 2024 Preliminary Budget submitted and approved by the Town Board and filed with the Town Clerk for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2024; and

WHEREAS, notice of said public hearing was duly advertised in the official newspaper of the Town, and posted on the Town Clerk's signboard; and

WHEREAS, said public hearing was duly held on October 24, 2023, at 6:35 P.M. and all parties in attendance were permitted an opportunity to be heard, and the matter of the said budget for the Town for such fiscal year was fully discussed and considered by the Town Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Town Board of the Town of Conklin, duly convened in regular session, does hereby resolve as follows:

Section 1. The 2024 Preliminary Budget submitted, approved, and filed as aforesaid, be and the same is hereby adopted and established as the Year 2024 Annual Budget for the Town of Conklin for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2024. Said Annual Budget as so adopted and established shall be entered in detail in the minutes of the proceedings of the Town Board.

Section 2. The Town Clerk is hereby directed to attach to said Annual Budget an exemption report in compliance with the requirements of Chapter 258 of the Laws of 2008. Said report shall show how much of the total assessed value on the final assessment roll of the Town of Conklin used in the Town's budgetary process is exempt from taxation.

Section 3. The Town Clerk shall prepare and certify, as provided by law, duplicate copies of said Annual Budget hereby adopted and established, and shall deliver one of such copies to the Supervisor of the Town, and the Supervisor shall present such copy to the Board of Legislators of the County of Broome, as required by law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately

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 at Conklin Town Hall, 1271 Conklin Road, Conklin, New York, on the 24th day of October, 2023. Said resolution was adopted by the following roll call vote:

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Supervisor William Dumian, Jr	YES
Councilman Dell Boyle	YES
Councilman William Farley	YES
Councilman Charles Francisco	YES
Councilman James E. Finch	YES

Dated: October 24, 2023

Town of Conklin Seal

Sherrie L. Jacobs, Town Clerk

Town of Conklin

Mr. Dumian commented that the 2024 Budget shows a small tax decrease for the residents, adding that the Town has added a lot of efficiency to its day-to-day operations.

**RESO 2023-184: AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR/ENTER AGREEMENT/ALLOW DMV
TO OPERATE MOBILE UNIT/CONKLIN TOWN HALL/2024**

Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin authorizes the Supervisor to enter into an agreement with Broome County allowing the DMV to operate a mobile unit in the Conklin Town Hall in 2024.

Seconded by Mr. Finch.

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

RESO 2023-185: RATIFY PAYMENT/PITNEY BOWES/POSTAGE INK

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 \$100.19 to Pitney Bowes, Inc., for purchase of postage ink.

Seconded by Mr. Finch.

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

**RESO 2023-186: RATIFY PAYMENT/JEREMY POLHAMUS/SCHEDULING YOUTH
SPORTS**

Mr. Farley 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 Youth Sports.

Seconded by Mr. Francisco.

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

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RESO 2023-187: AUTHORIZE PAYMENT/CLAIMS #23-01051 - #23-01097/\$53,321.92

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 #23-01051 through #23-01097, which have been audited and approved for payment, in the total amount of \$53,321.92:

General	\$ 12,720.82
Highway	5,029.90
Sewer District	32,071.20
Water District	368.00
Non-Budgeted	<u>3,132.00</u>
Total	\$ 53,321.92

Seconded by Mr. Finch.

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

RESO 2023-188: AUTHORIZE PURSUIT OF SALE/STAND-ON MOWER

Mr. Finch moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin authorizes the pursuit of the sale of a stand-on mower no longer needed by the Town in the manner determined to yield the greatest financial benefit to the Town, whether by auction or negotiated sale.

Seconded by Mr. Farley.

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

Mr. Dumian stated that the minimum acceptable bid would be \$8,000.

RESO 2023-189: AUTHORIZE PURCHASE/20 TRAK MATS/JC SMITH, INC.

Mr. Farley moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin authorizes the purchase of 20 Trak Mats, Item No. SVECTM4838, at a cost of \$210.00 per mat, from JC Smith, Inc.

Seconded by Mr. Francisco.

VOTE: Finch – Yes, Boyle – No, Farley – Yes, Francisco – Yes, Dumian – Yes. Motion carried: 4 – Yes, 1 – No.

NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT/SCHNURBUSCH PARK

Mr. Francisco distributed pictures of playground equipment he has researched for 5 to 12-year - old children. He stated that the cost would be between \$3,000 and \$5,000, with the equipment made from heavy duty plastic. Mr. Dumian asked if the Town personnel could install it and Mr. Francisco stated that he had no information about that. Mr. Francisco stated he would like to see one new piece of equipment installed in 2024, and a second piece installed in 2025. The topic will be discussed more at the November 14 Work Session.

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REPAIR/CONKLIN CEMETERY FENCE

Mr. Kilmer obtained a quote from Budget Fence to repair the damaged fence at Conklin Cemetery for a cost of \$1,100.00, which is less than the insurance deductible of \$2,500.00. Mr. Finch asked if this would be taken from the cemetery budget and Mr. Dumian confirmed that it will be taken from those funds.

RESO 2023-190: AUTHORIZE PAYMENT/BUDGET FENCE/REPAIR DAMAGED FENCE AT CONKLIN CEMETERY

Mr. Farley moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin authorizes payment, in an amount not to exceed \$1,200.00, to Budget Fence for the repair of the damaged fence at Conklin Cemetery.

Seconded by Mr. Francisco.

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

Mr. Kilmer also received various quotes and shed options from NuHaus Outdoors to replace the damaged shed at the Conklin Cemetery, but the Board wants to look at the possibility of repairing the existing shed, including the roof.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

HALLOWEEN CURFEW

John Colley of Millburn Drive asked about the details of the Halloween curfew. The local law states that persons under the age of 18 may not be on the streets between the hours of 8 P.M. and 6 A.M., October 30 and 31 and November 1, unless accompanied by an adult over the age of 21 years.

It was noted that large numbers of trick-or-treaters visit the area across from the High School every year. The Community Christian Church of Conklin will hold a Trunk or Treat on October 28 and the Conklin Fire Auxiliary will hold its annual Safe Trick or Treating at Fire Station 1 on October 31.

DOG PARK

Milton Martir of Ahern Road asked if progress has been made on the installation of a key card system at the Dog Park. Mr. Dumian replied that no progress has been made on that project because the Town is experiencing difficulties with the new entry system at the Community Center so he is “reluctant to take on the Dog Park,” at a cost of approximately \$6,000. “I’m not sure it’s feasible,” stated Mr. Dumian. Mr. Martir stated that some dog parks do not allow children under the age of 10 or 12 to be in a dog park unaccompanied by an adult. “But what will really work?” asked Mr. Farley. Mr. Martir asked if there is a timeline for the Town to deliver dirt to the Dog Park to use to fill in the holes and Mr. Dumian stated that this is a project for next spring.

YOUTH SPORTS

Mr. Farley reported that the Championship Soccer Game will be held on October 25. Signups for wrestling and basketball are occurring. Mr. Farley stated that the poles are done for the batting cages. Mr. Dumian commented that portable batting cages are not a good option, and emphasized that the Youth Commission is responsible for putting the nets up and taking them down. Mr. Kilmer needs the layout and dimensions for the batting cages in order to move forward with the project.

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DELIVERY TIME ON PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

Mr. Francisco stated that the delivery time for the proposed playground equipment is three to five weeks, adding that a forklift would be required to help unload it.

FIRE AUXILIARY SAFE TRICK-OR-TREATING

Town Clerk Sherrie Jacobs, a member of the Conklin Fire Auxiliary, stated that the annual Safe Trick or Treating will be held at Conklin Fire Station #1 on October 31 from 5:00 to 7:30 P.M.

YOUTH BASKETBALL

Mr. Dumian stated that he will probably be coaching 5th and 6th grade basketball again this year. He added that there is a new coach at Susquehanna Valley who will be more involved with the Youth Program and who will offer Youth Program Training.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Finch moved for adjournment, seconded by Mr. Francisco. The meeting adjourned at 7:56 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherrie L. Jacobs
Town Clerk