WORK SESSION MAY 14, 2024

The Town Board of the Town of Conklin held a Work Session at 6:00 P.M. on May 14, 2024, 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	
	Highway Superintendent	Jeff Hayes	
	Secretary to the Supervisor	Teresa Bamber	
	Planning Board	Sandra Beam	
	Zoning Board of Appeals	Elizabeth Einstein	
	Zoning Board of Appeals	William Brodsky	
GUESTS:	Abundant Solar	Matthew McGregor	
		Laurie Francisco	
		Logan Gorman	
		Milton Martir	
		Mary Martir	
UPDATE ON BATTING CAGES			

Mr. Dumian stated that the cost of the batting cages, even with the poles made in-house, would be more than \$10,000.00. He stated that the Town has the plans for the layout of the cages but the 12-foot nets needed are no longer being manufactured. Batting cages currently use !4-foot nets. He stated that there are mixed opinions about the direction to move forward, including discussion of portable batting cages. Mr. Dumian stated that a plan is needed by next fall, with research being conducted by the Youth Commissioner and his team.

UPDATE ON SOLAR LAW

Town Attorney Mark Spinner distributed an updated draft of the proposed local law, which incorporated comments that he had received from Board members. He stated that this is the latest version of the proposed law regulating solar facilities. Mr. Dumian suggested checking for more site restrictions. Mr. Spinner stated that solar facilities are allowable in all zoning areas currently, adding that the new proposed law must be reviewed by the Planning Board and by the Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Dumian stated that the Board "needs to do a deep dive" on the new draft, as he would like to introduce the proposed law at the June 11 meeting. The Town Board is asked to review the new draft and send any comments to Mr. Spinner by May 24.

UPDATE/NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT

Mr. Spinner spoke about the need to "tighten this part of the Code to prevent pushing boundaries of what is permitted." He stated he does not have a working list of types of vehicles that would be allowed in a Neighborhood Commercial Transportation District, but rather has listed the permitted uses of vehicles. Mr. Spinner stated that a review of the site plan will determine if a proposed use is approved. Mr. Dumian stated that this draft "leaves things very open." Mr. Spinner replied that the Planning Board can determine if the use is appropriate to the neighborhood. Mr. Dumian questioned whether the Planning Board or the Town Board would decide. Mr. Spinner stated that Code sets the Planning Board as the review agency. Mr. Dumian stated that more vehicles would be allowed in an area zoned Commercial than would be allowed in an R-12 (Residential). Mr. Spinner stated that Neighborhood Commercial is R-12. Mr. Dumian stated that no more than two vehicles should be permitted. Mr. Spinner stated that "Neighborhood Commercial" prescribes the size, scope, and intensity of permitted businesses.

WORK SESSION MAY 14, 2024

Mr. Francisco stated that the business must have adequate parking off the road. Mr. Dumian stated that the number of trips per day should also be considered. He stated that this is a "good baseline" but it needs to be refined, adding that the Board will discuss it further at the June 11 meeting.

BUILDING & CODE LAWS WITHIN FLOOD PLAIN

Mr. Spinner stated that the revised version of this section of Town Code moves the Compensatory Storage Law to an earlier place in Section 140. He stated that there is no definition of "flood plain," to which Mr. Dumian replied that FEMA defines the flood plain, including 100-year and 500-year flood plains. Mr. Dumian stated that the phrase "no new construction or substantial improvements" needs to be better defined, since the Town does not want to tell people they can't make improvements on property they already own. He stated that he will talk with Code Officer Nick Pappas, adding that further discussion is needed.

The Town Board of the Town of Conklin held a Regular Town Board Meeting at 6:30 P.M. on May 14, 2024, 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	
	Highway Superintendent	Jeff Hayes	
	Secretary to the Supervisor	Teresa Bamber	
	Planning Board	Sandra Beam	
	Zoning Board of Appeals	Elizabeth Einstein	
	Zoning Board of Appeals	William Brodsky	
GUESTS:	Abundant Solar	Matthew McGregor	
		Laurie Francisco	
		Logan Gorman	
		Milton Martir	
		Mary Martir	
MINUTES: APRIL 23, 2024 REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING			

Mr. Francisco moved to approve the April 23, 2024 Regular Town Board Meeting minutes as presented.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

WILLIAM BRODSKY/VARIOUS TOPICS

William Brodsky of the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Board of Assessment Review offered information on several topics. He recommended for the Neighborhood Commercial Transportation District that a footprint be required that equals the size of the vehicles times the number of vehicles, and that would be the amount of space required to be reserved for parking the vehicles. He stated that Grievance Day will be May 29. Mr. Brodsky distributed pictures of a storyboard that children can walk through as an idea for the town parks. Finally, Mr. Brodsky discussed the movement toward "natural cemeteries," which do not use vaults or embalming, so that everything will decay and be compostable. Mr. Francisco stated that the Town cemeteries that have wooden boxes (from very old graves) instead of metal coffins and vaults create a "washboard" effect as the wooden boxes have decayed, creating a lot of issues with cemetery maintenance.

CORRESPONDENCE:

LETTER IN SUPPORT OF DCO

In response to complaints regarding Dog Control Officer Rick Murray noted in the April 23 minutes, Michele Francisco offered her experience with Mr. Murray. She stated that she had issues with her neighbor's dogs coming onto her property for years, so she contacted Mr. Murray. Ms. Francisco stated, "Rick has been absolutely wonderful to work with and has done everything possible to keep my neighbor's dog (Pit Bull) off my property. Having a dangerous dog running around our property is not ideal and for many months now, we have not seen this

dog on our property – all thanks to Rick. His response time has been immediate, professional, and a tremendous help to my family. We are lucky to have him as Conklin's Dog Control Officer." Mr. Dumian stated that the Town of Kirkwood, which Mr. Murray also serves as Dog Control Officer, has had positive comments as well.

REPORT: HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Highway Superintendent Jeff Hayes reported that his department has been busy patching roads and clearing shoulders of roads; mowing and picking up brush; and preparing for Cleanup Days. He stated that the Town received a lot of millings from Town of Binghamton in exchange for help provided by Conklin Highway Department. Mr. Hayes stated that Cleanup Days will be May 17 and 18, with electronics drop off being May 17 from 9 AM until noon.

REPORT: CODE OFFICER

Mr. Dumian stated that Code Officer Nick Pappas has been trying to work with the owner of the property at 1282 Conklin Road, but the owner's lawyer is stalling and no progress has been made. He stated that there was a small fire on the property which allowed personnel to see how bad it really is. Mr. Dumian stated that Mr. Pappas should placard the building as it is a danger to emergency personnel. Mr. Dumian stated that the Town will be taking this case to the State Supreme Court. He added that the property owner was caught on camera taking metal from the Town metal dumpster at the Highway Garage and bringing it to the property in question. Mr. Spinner stated that the Town can set a timeline and deadline for progress on cleanup to be made. Mr. Finch stated that the Board needs to move forward with this to stop others from doing the same thing.

Mr. Dumian reminded everyone that tires for Cleanup Days were limited to 6 tires per person at a cost of \$2.00 each.

REPORT: PARKS/WATER/SEWER DEPARTMENT

Parks/Water/Sewer Department Team Leader David Kilmer provided a written report of his department's activities. These include: mulching at Town Hall; repair of a water main break on JR Boulevard; working on opening the Town Pool; installing a driveway at sewer station 2 on Terrace Drive and unhooking the old generator; repairing roofing and trim on dugouts; installing more radio reads; markouts for DigSafe; taking water samples; working on the driveway for the Ahern Road water tank; and working on the baseball fields.

REPORT: SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

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

OLD BUSINESS:

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT

Mr. Dumian stated that the Board and Mr. Spinner will keep working on refining these guidelines for a Neighborhood Commercial Transportation District. Mr. Spinner thanked Mr. Brodsky for his suggestion for a footprint for parking vehicles.

BUILDING & CODE LAWS WITHIN FLOOD PLAIN

Mr. Dumian stated that the Board and Mr. Spinner will keep working on refining the language in this section of the Code, particularly in regard to what can be done by people who own property in the flood plain.

NEW BUSINESS:

INCIDENT AT THE DOG PARK

Mr. Dumian stated that there was an incident at the Dog Park recently in which an aggressive dog attacked a smaller dog, with the victim requiring surgery and needing to be transported to Cornell Veterinary Hospital. The owner of the aggressive dog was banned from the Dog Park. The incident was caught on the cameras at the Dog Park. Mr. Dumian stated that incidents like these are a good reason for registration and insurance of current rabies vaccination for dogs using the park.

RESO 2024-88: RATIFY PAYMENT/RICOH USA, INC./RENTAL OF TOWN CLERK COPIER/05-14-2-24 – 06-13-2024

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 \$67.91 to RICOH USA, Inc., for rental of the Town Clerk copier for the period of May 14 through June 13, 2024.

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

RESO 2024-89: RATIFY PAYMENT/RICOH USA, INC./ TOWN CLERK PRINTS/ 02-01-2024 – 04-30-2024

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 \$32.38 to RICOH USA, Inc., for Town Clerk prints for the period of February 1 through April 30, 2024.

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

RESO 2024-90: RATIFY PAYMENT/PITNEY BOWES/POSTAGE METER REFILL

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 \$500.00 to Pitney Bowes for postage meter refill.

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

RESO 2024-91: RATIFY PAYMENT/PITNEY BOWES/INK FOR POSTAGE MACHINE

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 \$100.19 to Pitney Bowes for ink for the postage machine.

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

RESO 2024-92: AUTHORIZE PAYMENT/CLAIMS #24-0398 - #24-0478/\$74,608.60

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 #24-0398 through #24-0478, which have been audited and approved for payment, in the total amount of \$74,608.60:

General	\$ 36,882.36
Highway	4,141.85
Light Districts	1,729.13
Sewer District	1,881.31
Water District	20,757.83
Water District #6	4,953.12
Non-Budgeted	4,263.00
Total	\$ 74,608.60

Seconded by Mr. Finch.

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

RESO 2024-93: RATIFY TRANSFER OF FUNDS/USE ARPA FUNDS FOR 81 SENSUS RADIO READERS

Mr. Farley moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin ratifies the transfer of funds, effective May 6, 2024, to use ARPA Funds for 81 Sensus Radio Readers (see attached).

Seconded by Mr. Francisco.

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

RESO 2024-94: RATIFY MODIFICATION TO 2024 BUDGET

Mr. Finch moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin ratifies modification to the 2024 Budget, effective May 6, 2024 (see attached).

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

RESO 2024-95: RATIFY CLOSING REMAINING CASH FROM ACCOUNTS & TRANSFERRING TO SS1 CASH ACCOUNTS

Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin ratifies closing the remaining cash from Account SS12, SS14, and SS15, totaling \$247.38, transferring from SS12, SS14, and SS15 to SS1 cash accounts due to pay off.

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

RESO 2024-96: CLOSE ACCOUNTS SS12-2215

Mr. Farley moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin closes Accounts SS12 – SS15 914 Assigned Appropriated Fund Balance to SS12-SS15 915, effective April 19, 2024, to pre-close funds due to pay off (see attached).

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

RESO 2024-97: DECLARE 2002 VOLVO SURPLUS EQUIPMENT & AUTHORIZE SALE

Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin declares the 2002 Volvo surplus equipment and authorizes the sale of such vehicle, including for scrap metal.

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

RESO 2024-98: AUTHORIZE HIRING/MICHAEL PLATT/SEASONAL EMPLOYEE

Mr. Farley moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin authorizes the hiring of Michael Platt to the position of Seasonal Employee, effective May 28, 2024, through September 1, 2024, at a pay rate of \$20.00 per hour.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

SOLAR COMPANIES APPLYING IN CONKLIN

Logan Gorman asked which solar companies have applied to build a facility in Conklin. Mr. Dumian stated that Abundant Solar wishes to build a facility on Hardie Road and Solar Liberty wishes to build one on the area on Conklin Road over the Town wellhead.

RESO 2024-99: AUTHORIZE ADVERTISEMENT/AUCTIONS INTERNATIONAL/ ONE ONAN 1987 GENSET GENERATOR

Mr. Farley moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin authorizes advertisement on Auctions International of one Onan 1987 GenSet generator.

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

DAWN TO DUSK LIGHTS/SCHNURBUSCH PARK

Mr. Finch suggested installing "dusk to dawn" lights at Pavilions 1 and 2 at Schnurbusch Park to deter the teens/young adults that are there after the park is closed.

WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

Mr. Farley stated that the Wrestling Program produced one national wrestling champion, two second-place winners and one fifth-place winner.

SAFE SWIM

Mr. Francisco stated that Governor Hochul announced that the State has earmarked \$150,000,000 for Safe Swim, with \$50,000.00 to \$1,000,000.00 for swimming facilities. He is pursuing application for the grant.

Speaking of the Conklin Pool, Mr. Dumian stated that the pool will be inspected on June 7, but we only have two people who have applied for the position of Lifeguard so far.

OPENING DAY

Mr. Dumian stated that Opening Day for Baseball and Softball was "awesome," with 25 teams participating. He stated that the rain has made field maintenance difficult, but with tournaments in mid-June, the Town has to stay to the timeline for games as much as possible. Mr. Dumian stated that the Parks Department has done an "awesome job" of taking care of the fields, adding that there have also been a lot of volunteers stepping up to help out.

RESO 2024-100: EXECUTIVE SESSION/LEGAL & SPECIFIC PERSONNEL ISSUE

Mr. Farley moved to close the Regular Town Board Meeting and move into Executive Session at 7:11 P.M. to discuss legal advice and a specific personnel issue.

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

RESO 2024-101: RE-OPEN REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

Mr. Francisco moved to close the Executive Session and re-open the Regular Town Board Meeting at 8:00 P.M.

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

RESO 2024-102: AUTHORIZE INCREASE IN PAY RATE/CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON

Mr. Dumian moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin authorizes an increase in pay rate from \$20.00 per hour to \$22.00 per hour for Christopher Johnson, Parks and Water Laborer, effective June 1, 2024.

Seconded by Mr. Finch.

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

RESO 2024-103: AUTHORIZE AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLES 2, 10, AND 11/TOWN OF CONKLIN EMPLOYEE MANUAL/VACATION & SICK LEAVE POLICIES/APPOINTED HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT OR SUPERVISOR

Mr. Dumian moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin authorizes amendments to Articles "2," "10," and "11" of the Town of Conklin Employee Manual to clarify vacation and sick leave policies for persons and/or employees appointed Highway Superintendent or Supervisor.

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

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Finch moved for adjournment, seconded by Mr. Francisco. The meeting adjourned at 8:02 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherrie L. Jacobs Town Clerk