

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 24, 2024

The Town Board of the Town of Conklin held a Regular Town Board Meeting at 6:30 P.M. on September 24, 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
	Code Officer	Nick Pappas
	Administrative Assistant	Mary Plonski
	Planning Board	Sandra Beam
	Zoning Board of Appeals	William Brodsky
GUESTS:	Urda Engineering, PLLC	Alex Urda Laurie Francisco Milton Martir Yvonne Baker

It was noted that the Board voted in the spring to move both meeting start times during the month to 6:00 P.M.

MINUTES: SEPTEMBER 10, 2024 WORK SESSION AND REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Town Attorney Mark Spinner stated that the September 10, 2024 Regular Town Board Meeting minutes should be amended under the discussion of donation of Melody Lane and 40 Roxbury Street on page 4 to read “Permissive Referendum” rather than “Public Referendum.”

Mr. Finch moved to approve the September 10, 2024 Work Session and Regular Town Board Meeting minutes with the above correction.

Seconded by Mr. Francisco.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Dumian stated that he had been informed a resident who owns vacant rural property for hunting purposes will be putting up a tent for hunting season but is planning on building a more permanent structure.

REPORT: HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Highway Superintendent Jeff Hayes stated that his crew graded the hill behind the Town Hall and have completed the blacktopping for the extended parking. He stated that he has 75 tons of blacktop in reserve. The Highway Department has been working on truck maintenance in preparation for winter, cutting down dead trees, and beginning leaf collection.

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REPORT: CODE OFFICE

Code Officer Nick Pappas stated that he has secured three vacant properties that are in disrepair to ensure the safety of any emergency personnel that might need to enter the buildings.

REPORT: PARKS/WATER/SEWER DEPARTMENT

Mr. Dumian stated that the Parks/Water/Sewer Department is working to finish as many projects as possible before the end of the year.

REPORT: SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

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

OLD BUSINESS:

RETIREE HEALTH INSURANCE

Mr. Dumian stated that the Town's current health insurance for retirees, Blue Cross/Blue Shield under the County's United Health Care agreement, costs \$390.24 per month per person. This same insurance for 2025 will cost \$540.00 per month per person. He stated that if the Town offers Blue Cross/Blue Shield on its own, without participation with the County, it will cost \$508.00 per month per person in 2025. He stated that the cost to the Town for Blue Cross/Blue Shield for current employees will increase by 16.7% for 2025, adding that the number of claims overall has not dropped to pre-COVID numbers and prescriptions are a large part of the cost.

2025 BUDGET

Mr. Dumian stated that the Town is in "a good spot" regarding the 2025 Budget, adding that the Town benefits greatly from shared services within departments and with other municipalities. He stated that the sales tax revenue is forecast to increase for the Fourth Quarter of the year. Mr. Dumian stated that he is always looking at "how can we do this more efficiently" and looking at "every option possible to cut costs."

TOWN HALL PARKING LOT/GRADING OF BANK

Mr. Dumian stated that the extended parking lot and graded bank, which the Highway Department completed this afternoon, "looks great."

NEW BUSINESS:

OLD DOMINION FREIGHT/PLANNING BOARD REVIEW & APPROVAL

Mr. Dumian stated that the Planning Board reviewed the application from Old Dominion Freight Line for their proposed site on Carlin Road and approved the application. Alex Urda from Urda Engineering provided a written report regarding the application.

**RESO 2024-164: DECLARE TOWN LEAD AGENCY/INITIAL SEQRA STATUS/
OLD DOMINION FREIGHT PROJECT**

At a regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Conklin, held on the 24th day of September, 2024, at the Conklin Town Hall, 1271 Conklin Road, Conklin, New York, the following resolution was offered by Mr. Farley and seconded by Mr. Finch:

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WHEREAS, the Town of Conklin is considering an application submitted by Old Dominion Freight Line, Inc. regarding the development of a 19.58 acre site that includes trucking terminal, offices, truck parking, employee parking, and all associated storm water practices; and

WHEREAS, adoption of said local law requires review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”).

NOW THEREFORE, the Town Board of the Town of Conklin hereby resolves as follows:

1. The Town Board hereby determines that the action is subject to SEQRA; and
2. The Town Board hereby makes a preliminary classification of the action as Type I action pursuant to 6 NYCRR 617.4(b)(2); and
3. The Town Board hereby determines that it intends to serve as Lead Agency with respect to the SEQRA review and, in that capacity, will determine if the proposed action will have a significant adverse impact on the environment; and
4. A copy of this Resolution, the Environmental Assessment Form, and the Application will be sent to Involved Agencies and Interested Agencies, as applicable; and
5. Involved Agencies shall be given 30 days from the mailing of the Lead Agency Notice to challenge the Town Board’s Lead Agency designation and to provide written comments on the full Environmental Assessment Form.

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 September, 2024. 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: September 24, 2024

Town of Conklin Seal

Sherrie L. Jacobs, Town Clerk

SHARED SERVICES/EQUIPMENT & NEIGHBORING TOWNS

Mr. Dumian stated that he is working on developing shared services within departments and with neighboring towns and wants to do more of this, as it is very beneficial to the Town.

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CERTIFICATIONS AND LICENSES IN 2025

Mr. Dumian pointed out that the Town Employee's Handbook does not specify that pay rate increases will be given for obtaining licenses or certifications. He added that the cost to the Town for an employee to be trained to obtain a CDL is approximately \$6,000. Mr. Dumian stated that he is "not giving standard increases in the Budget, however, an employee can be rewarded mid-year for outstanding performance."

RESO 2024-165: APPROVE INCREASE IN PAY RATE/CHRIS JOHNSON/OBTAINING GRADE B WATER CERTIFICATION

Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin approves an increase in pay rate of \$.50 per hour for Chris Johnson, effective September 14, 2024, for obtaining a Grade B Water Certification.

Seconded by Mr. Farley.

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

RESO 2024-166: APPROVE SALE OF 2017 KENWORTH

Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin approves the sale of the 2017 Kenworth truck by accepting the offer of \$55,000 from Auctions International bidder.

Seconded by Mr. Farley.

VOTE: Finch – No, Boyle – No, Farley – Yes, Francisco – Yes, Dumian – Yes. Motion carried: 3 – Yes, 2 – No.

RESO 2024-167: APPROVE INCREASE IN PAY RATE/SCOTT ZAINO/OBTAINING GRADE B AND GRADE C WATER CERTIFICATION

Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin approves an increase in pay rate of \$1.00 per hour for Scott Zaino, effective September 14, 2024, for obtaining a Grade B and Grade C Water Certification.

Seconded by Mr. Finch.

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

RESO 2024-168: APPROVE PAYMENT/MO ELECTRIC, LLC/ELECTRICAL WORK/JR SEWER STATION/NEW CHOPPER PUMPS

Mr. Finch moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin approves payment in the amount of \$5,125.00 to MO Electric, LLC, for electrical work for the JR Sewer Station's new chopper pumps.

Seconded by Mr. Farley.

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

Mr. Dumian stated that MO Electric, LLC, is the Town Electrician.

RESO 2024-169: RATIFY PAYMENT/RICOH USA, INC./RENTAL/TOWN CLERK
COPIER/09-142024 – 10-13-2024

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

Seconded by Mr. Francisco.

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

RESO 2024-170: APPROVE PAYMENT/CLAIMS #24-00928 - #24-00962/\$42,773.65

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 #24-00928 through #24-00962, which have been audited and approved for payment, in the total amount of \$42,773.65:

General	\$ 22,679.64
Highway	15,115.84
Sewer District #1	39.96
Water District	2,003.21
Non-Budgeted	<u>2,935.00</u>
Total	\$ 42,773.65

Seconded by Mr. Finch.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

FLAIL MOWER

Mr. Dumian stated that the Parks/Water/Sewer Team Leader David Kilmer would like to purchase a flail mower from Bobcat of Binghamton for a cost of \$10,524.78. Mr. Boyle asked if the machine has flail blades or mulching blades, adding that “flail blades are not useful for trees.” Mr. Dumian reminded Mr. Boyle that the Town has a brush hog. The purchase of the flail mower will be held over for discussion at the October 8 meeting.

LEGAL UPDATES

Town Attorney Mark Spinner stated that the proposed donation of property on Melody Lane and Roxbury Street would require a written donation agreement specifying no conditions or stipulations plus an abstract of the properties.

Mr. Spinner stated that his law firm, Coughlin & Gerhart, LLP, will send out notices to nearby property owners regarding the Old Dominion project.

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THANK YOU TO HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Mr. Finch thanked the Highway Department for the work they did on the extension to the parking lot and grading of the bank at the Town Hall.

UPSTATE ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS MEETING

Mr. Boyle stated that the Upstate Association of Towns will meet at 6:30 P.M. On September 30 in Candor to discuss landowners' rights and payment to EMS services.

EASEMENT FOR SEWER STATIONS

Mr. Boyle asked if documentation of easements for sewer stations could be obtained, including correct location of the property pins. Mr. Dumian stated that most issues with easements could be resolved by communicating properly.

YOUTH SPORTS

Mr. Farley stated that the SV Sabers beat the Maine-Endwell 12 and Under team. He stated that the soccer program is going well.

LEAF PICKUP

Mr. Francisco stated that when residents put their leaves out for pickup, they are putting them in the gutter and he asked that it be stressed that they should not do that. It is already on the fliers regarding leaf pickup. Mr. Dumian stated that it could be put on the lighted sign at Schnurbusch Park.

TEMPORARY LIGHT/POWERS ROAD & CONKLIN ROAD/BRIDGE WORK 2025

Mr. Francisco asked if the Town could ask that a temporary traffic light be installed at the intersection of Powers Road and Conklin Road in 2025 while work is being done on the Conklin-Kirkwood Bridge. Mr. Dumian suggested that Mr. Francisco reach out to New York State DOT and ask for a temporary light. Mr. Francisco stated that he will reach out to New York State DOT and to Broome County DOT as well.

HOMECOMING PARADE

Town Clerk Sherrie Jacobs stated that she received an email from Rachel Heslin, Student Council Advisor for Susquehanna Valley High School, asking if it would be acceptable if the Homecoming Parade is moved from Friday, October 11, to Thursday, October 10. The Board had no objection but stated that the Parks Department will put up signage directing Parade participants not to park where they obstruct the flow of traffic in and out of Schnurbusch Park.

BATTING CAGES

Mr. Dumian stated that funding for the batting cages has finally been approved.

RESO 2024-171: EXECUTIVE SESSION/PERSONNEL MATTER

Mr. Francisco moved to close the Regular Town Board Meeting and move into Executive Session at 7:18 P.M. to discuss a specific personnel issue.

Seconded by Mr. Finch.

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

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passed unanimously.

RESO 2024-172: RE-OPEN REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

Mr. Farley moved to close the Executive Session and re-open the Regular Town Board Meeting.

Seconded by Mr. Francisco.

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. Dumian moved for adjournment, seconded by Mr. Finch. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherrie L. Jacobs
Town Clerk