

**REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING**

**JUNE 12, 2018**

The Town Board of the Town of Conklin held a Regular Town Board Meeting at 6:30 P.M. on June 12, 2018, at the Conklin Town Hall. Mr. Dumian, Supervisor, presided. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

<b>PRESENT:</b> Town Board Members	Boyle, Platt, Francisco, Dumian (Mr. Farley – Excused)
Town Attorney	Cheryl Sacco
Town Clerk	Sherrie L. Jacobs
Secretary to the Supervisor	Lisa Houston
Parks & Water Laborer	Nick Platt
Code Officer/Dog Control Officer	Nick Vascello
General Laborer	Kevin Coates

<b>GUESTS:</b> Country Courier	Elizabeth Einstein John Colley Laurie Francisco Sandi Beam Cheryl Williams LeRoy Jenkins Tom Kelly Andrew Mosher Eric Naro
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**MINUTES: MAY 9, 2018 REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING**

Mr. Platt moved to approve the May 9, 2018 Regular Town Board Meeting minutes as presented.

Seconded by Mr. Boyle.

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

**MINUTES: MAY 22, 2018 REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING & WORK SESSION**

Mr. Dumian stated that the May 22, 2018 Work Session minutes should be clarified on page 2, under “Summer Fun Program,” to state that 16 applications for the position of counselor had been received from the Liberty Partnership, and it is hoped that 8 to 10 of these applications will be approved.

Mr. Francisco moved to approve the May 22, 2018 Regular Town Board Meeting and Work Session minutes with the above clarification.

Seconded by Mr. Platt.

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**CONKLIN CEMETERY/CARLIN ROAD**

Mr. Dumian stated that he received numerous complaints regarding the fact that Conklin Cemetery was not mowed just prior to Memorial Day, leaving the grass longer than usual. This

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cemetery is not owned by the Town of Conklin, but rather by a private cemetery association. The only cemetery owned by the Town is Shawsville Cemetery on Shaw Road.

Mr. Francisco, who is President of the Conklin Cemetery Association, addressed the concerns regarding the grass. He explained that the agreement the Association has with its lawn care service is that the cemetery will be mowed once per month in May and October, and twice per month in June, July, August, and September. Mr. Francisco stated that the three inches of rain the area received in May made the grass grow faster than normal, adding that he tried to hire someone to cut it before the holiday but all the lawn care services were booked already. He stated that, moving forward, he will speak to the Association about having the cemetery mowed twice in May.

### **BROOME COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE/MAINES TRUCK TRAFFIC**

Mr. Dumian stated that he received complaints from Meier Supply, Ardaugh, and others regarding the tractor-trailers from Maines Paper and Food Service that park along Corporate Drive and block traffic, creating a safety issue. He stated that he contacted Broome County Executive Jason Garnar, who in turn contacted the Broome County Sheriff's Department. Mr. Dumian stated that the Undersheriff contacted Maines representatives and they are "working to resolve" this "very dangerous" situation. He added that tickets will be issued if violations continue to occur.

### **POSSIBLE GRANT FUNDING/STREET LIGHT REPLACEMENT**

Mr. Dumian stated that New York State Senator Fred Akshar's office is researching possible grant funding to upgrade street lights, a project that the Town Board has been considering. This potential funding is not through the New York State Power Authority. Mr. Francisco stated that he reached out to the Power Authority, with no response. He also contacted NYSEG (New York State Electric and Gas Corporation), and a representative from NYSEG is willing to meet with Board members to discuss options for upgrading the street lights.

### **REPORT: PARKS/WATER & SEWER**

Parks/Water & Sewer Laborer Nick Platt reported that there was an issue at the Town Pool with the safety cover on the drain. He stated that the seal was gone and the drain needed a hardware upgrade, so the pool had to be drained and dried before the repairs could be made. The repairs have been completed and the pool had to sit empty for 24 hours. Mr. Platt stated that the Parks Department will begin filling the pool June 13, with the seasonal opening of the pool scheduled for June 16.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

#### **HIGH VOLTAGE ELECTRIC FENCE**

Cheryl Williams of Conklin Road stated that her next door neighbors keep bee hives and recently had an incident with a bear attacking the hives. In response, the owners of the bee hives installed an electric fence with voltage so high that they claim it "blew up a skunk," which she stated created a "smelly mess." Ms. Williams stated that she is worried about the danger this high voltage presents to wildlife, feral and domestic cats, dogs, and possibly children. She stated that she spoke with Code Officer Nick Vascello and he found that there is nothing in either Town Code or New York State Code limiting the voltage allowed. Ms. Williams asked that the Town

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implement guidelines as to the amount of voltage that would be allowed. Mr. Vascello stated that he looked at DEC (New York State Department of Environmental Conservation), New York State Code, and at Agriculture and Markets regulations, and could find no limitations. Kevin Coates, a former Code Officer, stated that there “must be regulations” of some sort. Town Attorney Cheryl Sacco will research this situation further.

### **PROPERTY MAINTENANCE**

Sandi Beam asked about the vacant properties in town that seem to be abandoned, especially the site of the former Progressive Dental building and another building on JR Boulevard. She asked who follows up on either clean up or demolition of these buildings. Code Officer Nick Vascello stated that he has been working with the owner of the building on JR Boulevard and some of the safety issues at that site have been addressed. He is also trying to work with the current owner of the former Progressive Dental building. Mr. Dumian stated that the Town has applied to the Broome County Land Bank for possible removal of that building, as well as the one that formerly housed Dino’s on the Susquehanna. Ms. Beam asked about the dust created by Hobart Stone and asked if they would dampen the road to keep the dust down. Mr. Dumian stated that the Town will follow up on this issue.

### **REPORT: SUPERVISOR’S OFFICE**

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

### **REPORT: CODE OFFICER/DOG CONTROL OFFICER**

Code Officer Nick Vascello stated that he has been working with the owner of the above mentioned house on JR Boulevard, and reiterated that some safety issues, including removal of a chimney that was falling down, have been resolved, and some interior work is being done to the building. He stated that he will check on the progress being made, noting that the owner was given an Order to Remedy, which gives a property owner 30 days to at least begin to address a Code violation.

Mr. Vascello read a list of properties with Code violations and the status of the violations. Many of these were unmown grass and other issues that were readily resolved, so many of the situations have already been resolved. Mr. Dumian stated that Nick Pappas will be helping Mr. Vascello with property maintenance cases, as well as fire inspections.

Mr. Dumian stated that one option the Town has for mowing vacant properties is for the Town to mow the properties then charge the owners on their tax bills. He stated that there are limits on the process of enforcing Code, as legal fees add up.

Mr. Boyle asked what the majority of the issues were on Mr. Vascello’s violations list. Mr. Vascello replied that many dealt with grass, mostly on vacant properties. He stated that he usually sends out violation letters in response to complaints from the residents. Mr. Dumian stated that the Town has a grass law in place but it does not provide a definition of space that must be maintained around a building. Ms. Beam stated that she has seen the Sheriff’s Department overseeing mowing of vacant lots and asked if taxpayer money is being spent on this. Mr. Dumian stated that some FEMA acquired lots can be allowed to go back to the wild state, but the Town Board decided that those lots that are near homes should be maintained.

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**SYRACUSE FIRE ALARM**

Mr. Dumian stated that Syracuse Fire Alarm replaced a panel in the fire alarm system at the Town Hall and checked the lines. They reported that the fire alarm panel is on the same circuit as the security cameras and phones at the Town Hall and stated that it should have its own breaker. Mr. Dumian stated that the Town will contact A.C. Spear to correct this situation.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**NYS DOT/ROUTE 7 SPEED LIMIT**

Mr. Dumian stated that he met with representatives from the NYS DOT (New York State Department of Transportation) to discuss potential speed limit changes on Route 7. The DOT is considering reducing the speed limit from 55 to 40 miles per hour on Route 7 from Conklin Forks Road to the dry bridge near Dick's Warehouse Outlet. Mr. Dumian stated that the State is unwilling to change the 55 mile per hour speed limit on Route 7A, in spite of numerous arguments raised by the Town in support of reducing the speed limit on that road. "Even 45 miles per hour would be better," stated Mr. Dumian.

In discussion of reducing the speed limit on Corporate Drive, at least on the hill coming down to the intersection of Corporate Drive and Route 7, the DOT stated that it did a traffic study in that area and does not want to change the speed limit, even though the area is traversed by an increased number of tractor-trailers. The DOT representative stated, "Bad accidents can happen at 30 miles per hour."

**2018 SUMMER FUN PROGRAM**

Mr. Dumian reported that this program is "moving forward nicely." He stated that directors Tracy Parker and Sarah Masters are doing a "wonderful job," noting that there will be 70 to 80 children in the program this year. Mr. Dumian stated that he has asked the Town of Binghamton and Town of Kirkwood to contribute to the cost of the program.

**RISING COMMUNITY GRANT PROJECTS**

Mr. Dumian stated that Lisa Houston, Secretary to the Supervisor, is completing the required quarterly report for both the Stillwater Road Drainage Project and the Community Center/Day Care Center project. He stated that the Town is waiting for the revised drainage plan so that it can move forward with obtaining the needed easements for the project. Mr. Dumian stated that GOSR (Governor's Office for Storm Recovery) will review both projects in September, after which the Town can move forward with implementation.

**TIME WARNER CABLE**

Mr. Dumian stated that Time Warner Cable representatives stated that the company is now open to expanding services to rural areas.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

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**NYSEG ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROPOSAL**

Mr. Dumian stated that he received a proposal from NYSEG (New York State Electric and Gas Corporation) to increase energy efficiency at the Town Hall utilizing Lime Energy Services. The proposal states that the Town would experience “82% savings,” with energy costs dropping from \$7,520.62 per year to \$1,372.98 per year. Mr. Dumian stated that the cost of the upgrade would be \$14,845.71, of which NYSEG would pay \$8,140.91, leaving the Town’s cost at \$6,704.80. Mr. Dumian stated that if the savings estimate is accurate, this investment by the Town would pay for itself in 13.1 months.

Mr. Francisco stated that the operating hours were estimated at 11 hours per day, 365 days per year, which he stated is more than the actual usage. He stated that the Town would experience “significant savings if it converts to LED (Light Emitting Diode) lighting,” as well as “significant savings on maintenance.” Mr. Dumian and Mr. Francisco will meet with representatives from Lime Energy Services to adjust the numbers. Mr. Dumian stated, “If the numbers are good, we want to move ahead.”

**RESO 2018-76: ACCEPT PROPOSAL/ENERGY EFFICIENCY/TOWN HALL/  
LIME ENERGY SERVICES**

Mr. Boyle moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin accepts the Energy Efficiency Proposal for the Conklin Town Hall from Lime Energy Services, subject to the Supervisor’s confirmation of certain particulars, and authorizes the Supervisor to execute the Customer Authorization Form.

Seconded by Mr. Francisco.

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

**RESO 2018-77: AUTHORIZE CONTRACT/DELTA ENGINEERING/  
DESIGN WORK/COMMUNITY CENTER-DAY CARE CENTER**

Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin authorizes the Town Officials to execute a contract with Delta Engineering for Architect Services for the Community Center/Day Care Center Project as per the RFP/RFQ, subject to GOSR approval.

Seconded by Mr. Platt.

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

**RESO 2018-78: AUTHORIZE TOWN OFFICIALS/UPDATE OFFICE OF  
COMMUNITY RENEWAL/STATUS OF CDBG GRANT PROGRAMS**

Mr. Boyle moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin authorizes Town Officials to take those actions necessary to update the Office of Community Renewal (OCR) on the status of the Town’s open New York State Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs.

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Seconded by Mr. Francisco.

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

**RESO 2018-79: AUTHORIZE MODIFICATION/BUDGET LINES**

Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin authorizes modification of the stated From and To Budget lines as of June 12, 2018 (see attached).

Seconded by Mr. Platt.

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

**RESO 2018-80: APPROVE TOWN SUPERVISOR/ENTER CONTRACT WITH SHUMAKER/ENGINEERING LANDFILL SITE INSPECTION AND ANNUAL REPORT/EPA 5-YEAR INSPECTION ASSISTANCE**

Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin approves the Town Supervisor, William Dumian, Jr., to enter into Shumaker Contract #SCE No. R09357.10, for an amount not to exceed \$7,950.00, for Engineering Landfill Site Inspection and Annual Report, and EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) 5-Year Inspection Assistance.

Seconded by Mr. Platt.

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

**RESO 2018-81: APPROVE HIRING/SARAH MASTERS & TRACY PARKER/ RECREATION LEADERS/SUMMER FUN PROGRAM**

Mr. Boyle moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin approves hiring Sarah Masters and Tracy Parker to the position of Recreation Leaders for the Town of Conklin Summer Fun Program, at a pay rate of \$1,500.00 each.

Seconded by Mr. Francisco.

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

**RESO 2018-82: RATIFY PAYMENT/TOWN POOL PETTY CASH/START-UP CASH FOR 2018 SEASON**

Mr. Boyle moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin ratifies payment of check #13922, account code ZNON-A-211, in the amount of \$50.00 to Town of Conklin Pool Petty Cash for start-up petty cash for the 2018 pool season.

Seconded by Mr. Platt.

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

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**RESO 2018-83: APPROVING HIRING/2018 LIFEGUARDS & 2018 SEASONAL**  
**LABORERS/EFFECTIVE JUNE 9, 2018**

Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin approves hiring the following Lifeguards and Seasonal Laborers for the 2018 summer season, effective June 9, 2018:

**2018 LIFEGUARDS:**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>2018 RATE</u></b>	
Richard Bedosky	\$10.40	
Evelyn Bennedum	\$10.40	
Madelyn Blackman	\$12.40	Manager
Maene Donnelly	\$10.40	
Tannerrose Maynard	\$10.40	
Melissa Petryszyn	\$10.40	
Samantha Reifler	\$10.40	
Hope Savercool	\$10.40	NEW
Amy Storti	\$11.40	Assistant Manager
Tori Zurn	\$11.40	Assistant Manager
Brooke Holmburg	\$10.40	NEW

**2018 SEASONAL LABORER:**

Nicholas Miller	\$10.40	Laborer
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Seconded by Mr. Boyle.

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

**RESO 2018-84: ACCEPT DONATION/KIWANIS CLUB OF CONKLIN/\$500/SUMMER**  
**FUN PROGRAM**

Mr. Boyle moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin accepts a donation in the amount of \$500.00, account code A2705-1, from the Kiwanis Club of Conklin to be used for the Town of Conklin 2018 Summer Fun Program.

Seconded by Mr. Platt.

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

**RESO 2018-85: APPROVE HIRING/KEVIN COATES/TEMPORARY PART-TIME**  
**GENERAL LABORER/PAY RATE OF \$15.00 PER HOUR**

Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin approves hiring Kevin Coates to the position of Temporary Part-Time General Laborer at a pay rate of \$15.00 per hour.

Seconded by Mr. Boyle.

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

It was noted that this would be for a period of 89 days. The Board agreed that Mr. Coates is doing a “great job” making improvements to Town buildings.

**RESO 2018-86: AUTHORIZE PAYMENT/BILL LIST/\$99,808.33**

Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin authorizes payment of the following Bill List in the total amount of \$99,808.33:

General	\$ 24,252.38
Highway	74,639.87
Sewer Districts	16.98
Water District	<u>899.10</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 99,808.33</b>

Seconded by Mr. Platt.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**ABANDONED FOUNDATION/LOTUS AVENUE**

Mr. LeRoy Jenkins stated that there is a foundation on Lotus Avenue that has been abandoned for decades and is a safety hazard. He stated that he recently noticed a “For Sale” sign on the property and wondered what the owner’s obligations are to make the site safe. Mr. Dumian stated that he will work with Mr. Vascello and Ms. Sacco on a solution.

**BUILDING MAINTENANCE ISSUES**

Mr. Coates stated that the faucets for the Schnurbusch Park bathrooms and the Community Center are automatic faucets that will cost \$151.38 each. He stated that the Town will need six of them. He stated that the low-voltage, automatic hand dryers for the same areas will cost \$377 each plus the cost of installation, adding that the Town needs an installation cost estimate from A.C. Spear. Mr. Francisco stated that there are two extra electrical circuits available at the Community Center. Mr. Dumian stated that the Town wants to move ahead on replacing the six faucets, as well as a damaged sink in one of the buildings.

**UPSTATE ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS MEETING**

Mr. Boyle reminded the Board that the Upstate Association of Towns will meet at 2 P.M. on June 14 at Animal Adventure in Harpursville.

**QUESTIONS FOR THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

Mr. Platt wondered whether the Highway Department’s work on the bridge at Schnurbusch Park will be completed by the first Concert in the Park on June 20 and Mr. Dumian replied that this was the original plan, but the rain has delayed progress so the work will not be completed by June 20.

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Mr. Platt asked about the blue site designation signs, noting that the “Welcome to Conklin” sign by the former Dino’s on the Susquehanna is upside down and needs to be fixed. Mr. Dumian stated that the Parks Department takes care of these signs and would address the issue.

Mr. Platt asked that the bamboo along JR Boulevard be cut back as it is blocking the speed limit sign.

## **ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING**

Mr. Platt, liaison to the Zoning Board of Appeals, brought the Town Board an update from the last ZBA meeting. He stated that ZBA members asked about the status of the “chicken law,” to which Mr. Dumian replied that Mr. Vascello has handled all of the cases that involved complaints so the issue is on the “back burner,” as there are more pressing issues in the Town.

Mr. Platt also reported that the ZBA questioned why zoning changes on properties go to the Planning Board then to the Town Board before coming to the ZBA. Ms. Sacco, in response to a question from resident Sandi Beam, explained that a change in zoning of a property goes first to the Code Officer, then to the Town Board, who must by law send it to the Planning Board for its recommendation, then the Town Board makes the final decision regarding the zoning change. She explained that it takes about three months and there are specific criteria to be met. Ms. Sacco explained that the duties of the ZBA are to hear appeals to the Code Officer’s decisions regarding zoning and to grant area and use variances. The Town Board makes decisions regarding any changes to zoning. Mr. Platt stated that the ZBA requested that the Code Officer notify the ZBA if he makes any interpretations of the Code, which he must do frequently. Ms. Sacco will call ZBA Chairperson William Northwood to discuss these matters with him.

## **VETERANS DEDICATION CEREMONY**

Several people mentioned how beautiful the Veterans Dedication Ceremony was, including Mr. Francisco, Town Clerk Sherrie Jacobs, and Mr. Dumian. Mr. Francisco thanked the Beautification Corps for its work in making the Community Center and the area near the Conklin Veterans Memorial look nice for the Dedication, as well as their work beautifying other parts of the Town. Mr. Dumian stated that he was honored to be asked to read some of the names of the veterans listed on the Memorial, adding that the event went very well.

## **CONKLIN SENIORS CLUB**

Mr. Francisco, liaison to the Conklin Seniors Club, reported that the Club is doing well and is planning to possibly hold a Pancake Breakfast in the fall.

## **LIGHTED SIGN/SCHNURBUSCH PARK**

Mr. Dumian reported that A.C. Spear will begin installation of the lighted sign at Schnurbusch Park June 13 or 14.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Francisco moved for adjournment, seconded by Mr. Platt. The meeting adjourned at 8:18 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherrie L. Jacobs, Town Clerk

