

**CONKLIN TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING**  
**JUNE 10, 2025**

The Town Board of the Town of Conklin held a Regular Town Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on June 10, 2025. Supervisor William Dumian presided. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PRESENT:** Town Board Members

Boyle, Finch, Farley  
Francisco (Absent)  
Supervisor Bill Dumian

Town Counsel  
Deputy Town Clerk  
Highway Superintendent  
Secretary to the Supervisor  
Administrative Assistant  
Planning Board  
Zoning Board of Appeals

Mark Spinner, Esq.  
Elizabeth Einstein  
Jeff Hayes  
Teresa Bamber  
Mary Plonski  
Sandra Beam  
Bill Brodsky

**GUESTS:**

Mr. Bill Rogers -8 Maple Ave.

The Supervisor asked if there were any corrections to the May 13, 2025, minutes. Councilman Dell Boyle said he had two correction/clarifications. He said the pool actually lost 15,000 gallons not approximately 13,000 gallons. Under the WATER SUPPLY discussion his name has a typo with a “D” in place of a “B.”

Mr. Farley moved to approve the May 13, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes with those changes.

Seconded by Mr. Finch.

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

**BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW (BAR)**

Mr. William Brodsky, Chairman of the Board of Assessment Review, reported that the BAR had met and filed the 2025 Review with only one case coming before the Board. Supervisor Dumian thanked the BAR for its “excellent” work.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**FLOOD PREVENTION**

Mr. Bill Rogers of 8 Maple Drive said he and his wife had lived in Conklin for almost three decades now. They both have a background in weather and meteorology and Hydrology along with time in the U.S. Air Force. They have experienced all the flooding, especially 2006. He recalled that 18 years ago a meeting was held at the Castle to talk about the 2006 flood and what could be done to mitigate some of the flooding conditions. He said that at the time there were a lot of good ideas on the table, but nothing has really happened. “The concern evaporates and we sit back and cross our fingers,” said Rogers.

Having served as a flood advisor in California and Texas, he and wife, Joanne, put together a list of resources and their ideas. According to Rogers, the 2006 flood has always been referred to as a 100-year flood. Flood stage in Conklin is 11’ 5” and a major flood occurs when the river overflows at 18 ft. Using a criterion of 19 feet, the Rogers found there have been five major flood occurrences in Conklin over the last 75 years. He said rivers are like gutters and if you do not maintain them, they will overflow. He believes the river needs to be dredged and have a regular maintenance schedule. Said Rogers, “We have debris and sediment and it has decreased the amount of water flowing downstream.”

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He says a partnership with Broome County is needed. "If everybody does it, we will be able to approach the Army Corps of Engineer and adapt a flood plan that will not cost anything," said Rogers. He says that dredging is essential to flood prevention.

He presented the Board with the written comprehensive plan put together by the Rogers. The Supervisor asked, "What other areas have been successful with this type of plan?" He asked Mr. Rogers if he could show where this kind of plan has been put into action.

Mr. Rogers said their case studies were not in the report but the studies show this is a very effective means to mitigate flood-type dangers. He added that the studies say dredging needs to be done on a regular basis. He said that we see greater flooding frequency because our rivers have never been dredged-- but acknowledges that locally there are some problems not specifically related to the dredging. He pointed to a swamp and new construction by the bridge, citing the need to close off the drainage to said swamp. Rogers said his report doesn't address those concerns specific to Conklin.

Said Rogers, "We can attract people knowing that we are a proactive town. We are not just sitting and hoping that the next flood doesn't come. Businesses can know that we are doing something instead of just waiting."

Supervisor Dumian replied, "We are not just waiting. Dell and I went to a meeting about 6 years ago. A study was done in which the Army Corps/DEC and everyone was involved. The study was done with a Federal \$300 million grant to look into preventing rivers overflowing throughout Broome County. There was talk about dredging, potentially building new levees-- miles of levees. Dumian said they were told that whatever mitigation Conklin does affects others areas. If areas upstream or downstream felt flooding effects because of what Conklin did, then a portion of that cost would be the Town of Conklin's responsibility."

The Supervisor said he and Councilman Boyle have discussed getting rid of islands and gravel bars for a few years. He said, "I just want that point to be made. I have nightmares all the time about when the next flood is going to happen. To me it is not IF, it is when."

Dumian said that was why he asked before if the Rogers had any knowledge or research showing this could all be done within the scope and consequence of the Army Corps and not fall on Conklin.

Rogers replied that he believes that is possible and he and his wife have almost made the plan turnkey by including information on contacts, emails, and phone numbers to get the process going.

The Supervisor questioned again asking, "So they [Army Corps of Engineers] would be the ones responsible with no cost to the town? This would be their program, their dollars of funding. That's on them. Is that correct?"

Bill Rogers replied that he was "almost correct". He added, "They're not going to consider any proposal from us unless we list all our neighbors. Then they'll develop a flood plan that is wider than the scope of Conklin. If you look at any dredging that has been done, its been done with partner neighbors and communities." Dumian said that means the plan should go to Broome County.

Rogers said the County does not seem to be doing anything substantial and with the Rogers' calculations, it's been 19 years since the last major flood and his listing shows occurrences are between 20 and 30 years apart. "It's been 19 years since the last flood. If we get something started now, if we can get it done in the next couple years, we could avert some danger, lives lost, property damage, businesses moving out, population moving out."

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The Supervisor asked if Rogers had considered going to the County and standing in front of the Legislature and presenting this material? To which Rogers responded that he believed the plan would carry a lot more weight if the Town Board took the lead. He said he would be willing to go too, and provide any support needed.

Mr. Dumian said in his experience it is more effective when constituents approach the County Legislature and County Executive. "It holds a lot of clout," said the Supervisor. "It does have a different impact, believe it or not."

Further discussion brought out that Councilman Boyle has been looking into getting the islands dredged for years and if this is something the Army Corps would do at their expense more people should attend County meetings and voice opinions that actually drive the point home.

Mr. Rogers said the Supervisor had made him realize that he and his wife should go in with case studies and maybe even something signed by fellow citizens saying, "Hey, we want some action on this." Highlighting some of the difficulties ahead, Councilman Boyle said he finally obtained an open permit to clean out gravel bars. But first he has to find a way to prove there are no mussels living in the gravel bars and provide exact location measurements.

Rogers said that despite the hindering requirements, this was encouraging. Dumian summed up his perspective saying there were a lot of obstacles to overcome. In addition to river flooding, massive storms in 2011 resulted in the lost of materials, ditches, and sluices. He said people don't realize the damage that 10-11 inches of rain can do. "Just so you understand. This is going to be a long process. I am not saying I won't be helpful, I am not saying we won't get this to the County and at least have some long conversations to move something forward. He said it would be helpful if the Army Corps were represented at a County presentation.

Rogers replied that a small voice from a small town wasn't going to be enough, but a community approaching the Army Corps of Engineers is going to get their attention. "We need to overspill the County Legislature. The clock is ticking."

Thanking Rogers for the report, the Supervisor reiterated, "I just want everyone to be aware this is an uphill battle. Getting multiples on board. If they are willing to do that and do the maintenance and upkeep, I would love to see it happen. For clarification, I am not saying this is the county's fault. When it comes down to this-- where does all that funding come from? If it was as easy as the Army Corps standing in, I kind of think it would have been done."

Bill Rogers said he was impressed with the Town Board. "What we need is the County Executive and people like Dell Boyle, and I think things would get done. I appreciate the encouragement and stand ready to help any way I can."

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**HOBART STONE/DEC INSPECTION**

Mr. Dumian had Town of Conklin Code Officer Nick Pappas contact NYSDEC regarding a possible water quality violation. The DEC emailed Pappas that they conducted an inspection on May 13, 2025, and found no water quality violations, but the inspector "could envision sediment washing away" when raining. Conversations followed in regard to what appeared to be some type of ditch to divert stormwater away from the park. The DEC will meet with engineers who developed the SWPPP plan for Hobart Stone, and will perform quarterly inspections to keep abreast of the need for any corrective actions.

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**CONKLIN POOL**

The Supervisor said he had received a number of emails and correspondence about the Conklin Pool. He said he has tried to help people understand the facts regarding the Town Board's difficult decision to decommission the pool.

**REPORT: HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

Highway Superintendent Jeff Hayes said that between all the raindrops they were attempting to get paving done. They have been trimming along guardrails and replacing old concrete pipes with plastic corrugated pipe. They also continue to do tree work, removing broken limbs and dead trees.

**REPORT: PARKS/WATER/SEWER DEPARTMENT**

Mr. Dumian stated that the pool is requiring a lot of fill. They are making the process as safe as possible with construction equipment going in and out of the park. Mr. Dumian said "No Trespassing" signs have been posted, so no one should be entering the construction area. The pool liner has been removed and any metal has been scrapped.

Repairs on both the Stewart Road Water Tank Driveway and the SCADA system are underway. Mr. Dumian said updates to the SCADA system will make it more secure. More valve boxes have been found and raised. Electric meters have been replaced and repairs done to the wellhouse. General maintenance at the sewer stations has been done; cemeteries have been mowed, trimmed, topsoil applied where needed, and brush cut. In addition, burials have taken place in the cemeteries.

Ballfields continued to be maintained. Fields will be aerated, field conditioner applied and some new diamond mix applied for the next season. The control box for the scoreboard on the lighted field has been sent out for repairs.

**REPORT: SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE**

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**1298 CONKLIN ROAD/CROSS**

With Code Officer Nick Pappas away for training, the Supervisor said he would rather not discuss the lack of progress with cleanup at 1298 Conklin Road. He was disappointed that the owner was not willing to work with the Town on the issues. The Board will look at the next steps to be taken at the July 8, 2025, meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**LAND LINE TELEPHONE IN POOL HOUSE**

Mr. Dumian said there is a hardline telephone at the pool house. He felt with the good reception people have for cell phones in the park/pool area that it might be time to retire that phone. The cost is \$50 per month and was necessary when the pool was in operation. The Board agreed there was no longer a need for the telephone in that building and it will be disconnected.

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**RESO 2025-111: RATIFY APPROVAL OF PURCHASE OF REPLACEMENT  
BULBS FOR LIGHTS AT SCHNURBUSCH PARK**

Mr. Finch moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: That the Town board of the Town of Conklin ratifies approval of purchase of replacement bulbs for lights at Schnurbusch Park from Cooper Electric at a cost of \$12,000.00.

Discussion: Mr. Boyle asked if this kind of lighting could be adjusted for brightness. Mr. Dumian said a study had been conducted on the lights so no adjustments would be needed, and the lights should meet all expectations.

Seconded by Mr. Farley

VOTE: Boyle—Yes, Finch—Yes, Farley—Yes, Dumian—Yes; Francisco—Absent.

Motion passed unanimously.

**RESO 2025-112: RATIFY APPROVAL FOR INSTALLATION OF LED LAMPS  
AT SCHNURBUSCH PARK BY MO ELECTRIC, LLC, AT A COST OF \$7,200.00**

Mr. Finch moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: That the Town Board of the Town of Conklin ratifies approval for the installation of LED lamps at Schnurbusch park by MO Electric at a cost of \$7,200.00.

Seconded by Mr. Farley

VOTE: Boyle—Yes, Finch—Yes, Farley—Yes, Dumian—Yes; Francisco—Absent.

Motion passed unanimously.

**RESO 2025-113: RATIFY APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT TO JEREMY  
POLHAMUS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$250 FOR SCHEDULING OF YOUTH  
SPORTS FOR THE FIRST AND SECOND QUARTERS**

Mr. Farley moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: That the Town Board of the Town of Conklin ratifies payment to Jeremy Polhamus in the amount of \$250.00 for scheduling of Youth Sports for First and Second Quarters of 2025, at a pay rate of \$125.00 per quarter.

Seconded by Mr. Finch.

VOTE: Boyle—Yes, Finch—Yes, Farley—Yes, Dumian—Yes; Francisco—Absent.

Motion passed unanimously.

**RESO 2025-114: RATIFY PAYMENT TO PITNEY BOWES IN THE AMOUNT  
OF \$800.00 FOR POSTAGE METER REFILL**

Mr. Farley moved for the following resolution:

Be it Resolved: That the Town Board of the Town of Conklin ratifies payment to Pitney Bowes in the amount of \$800.00 for postage meter refill.

Seconded by Mr. Finch.

VOTE: Boyle—Yes, Finch—Yes, Farley—Yes, Dumian—Yes; Francisco—Absent.

Motion passed unanimously.

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**RESO 2025-115: RATIFY PAYMENT TO BLUE 360 MEDIA, LLC, IN THE**  
**AMOUNT OF \$38.61 FOR A VEHICLE/TRAFFIC LAW BOOK**

Mr. Finch moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: That the Town Board of the Town of Conklin ratifies payment to Blue 360 Media, LLC, in the amount of \$38.61 for a Vehicle/Traffic Law Book.

Seconded by Mr. Boyle.

VOTE: Boyle—Yes, Finch—Yes, Farley—Yes, Dumian—Yes; Francisco—Absent.

Motion passed unanimously.

**RESO 2025-116: RATIFY PAYMENT OF CLAIMS**  
**#25-00481 THROUGH #25-00522/\$147,565.54**

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 #25-00481 through #25-00522, which have been audited and approved for payment, in the total amount of \$147,565.54:

General	\$ 25,205.60
Highway	101,155.82
Light Districts	1859.25
Sewer District #1	1,047.22
Water District	<u>18,297.65</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$147,565.54</b>

Seconded by Mr. Farley.

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

**RESO 2025-117: AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF CLAIMS**  
**#25-00528 THROUGH #25-00587/\$35,480.84**

Mr. Farley moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: That the Town Board of the Town of Conklin approves payment of the following Claims #25-00528 through #25-00587, which have been audited and approved for payment, in the total amount of \$35,480.84:

General	\$ 24,171.03
Highway	6,152.06
Sewer District #1	1,352.27
Water District	<u>3,805.48</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 35,480.84</b>

Seconded by Mr. Finch

VOTE: Boyle—Yes, Finch—Yes, Farley—Yes, Dumian—Yes; Francisco—Absent.

Motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**FURTHER DISCUSSION/FLOOD PREVENTION**

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Sandra Beam, Conklin Planning Board Member, asked about the comments regarding dredging, and also Conklin's responsibility to downstream municipalities for any flood mitigation work. "Do we have to get their okay, too?" she asked.

The Supervisor replied that when he attended the meeting several years ago with Army Corps, DEC, engineers and other representatives, part of the plan they were putting together stated anything that Conklin does that could have a negative impact on any surrounding communities, we would be responsible for a portion of that cost. As far as dredging, he said that dredging makes sense but DEC reps will tell you that dredging the river, even though you are creating more volume, increases water speed, thus creating more erosion of the riverbanks and brings up more sediment. That is what we were told. She also asked if the islands could be removed. Mr. Dumian explained that involves the gravel bars that Councilman Boyle was addressing. "There are things that can be done, but where's that negative impact stretch out to, and who assumes that cost?" These are all the things this \$300 million Federal study is taking into account.

Bill Brodsky also raised questions about inner community discussion, especially in regard to compensatory storage. "How do the inner townships administrate those type of laws?" Mr. Dumian replied that "They don't." Brodsky cited work on Route 11 where fill is being used to raise flood properties. Mr. Dumian said that when multiple construction sites, that had been previously flooded, were being considered for building, the Town felt it would not be fair to neighboring businesses or residents to face the greater jeopardy of more flood water because of new construction. Thus, the compensatory fill law that requires builders to compensate for any fill used to raise the property. Conklin can't speak for what neighboring towns may do. He said he does agree that there is no real follow up discussion to the flooding. "All I know is we put a good law in place in Conklin to try and eliminate putting a burden on residents who were still here after the flood. I would hope they [other towns] are doing the right thing for their communities."

As far as follow up to the initial flooding plans, Mr. Dumian said, "It's fallen by the wayside because of all the dollars required to fund that project."

**SERAFINI LAND TRANSFER**

Town Attorney Mark Spinner said he is working on the transfer process as Mr. Serafini donates some properties to the Town. He is in the process of making sure the town will receive clean titles. When that is confirmed he will bring the land donation documents to the board for vote.

**UPSTATE NEW YORK TOWNS ASSOCIATION (UNYTA) GOES TO ALBANY**

Councilman Boyle said he was one of the 8 members of UNYTA who traveled to Albany on Friday, June 6, to visit NYS legislators and push for issues like exempting Emergency Medical Service costs from tax levy caps. He said they spoke with 9 legislators and had the opportunity to help correct the language in a bill that was moving from committees and could have been dropped when the bill language did not match for both the House and the Senate. They were also able to discuss the huge costs to towns and residents as they cope with the damage to trees from the Emerald Ash Borer, discuss EMS issues, technology issues related to areas where reliable broadband and cell service is not accessible, and the need for more education and insurance related to tick-borne illnesses. He said it was a very good, successful day.

Mr. Boyle also wanted to return to discussion about legal inability of a municipality to use monies from a sewer fund for a water fund or take money from the general fund to use for water or sewer. To fund the purchase of new hydrants, he asked if it would be possible to fund them through some type of fire district. He spoke of the need to fill a fire truck with water in the urban area of the town to fight a fire in a more rural area where there was no access to hydrants, ponds or other water sources. Attorney Spinner said

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hydrants could not be part of a fire protection fund because they are part of the town's infrastructure. But, viewing the hydrants as part of the towns overall fire protection plan might lend itself to the potential use of town funds to replace/upgrade hydrants. He said the idea could be questionable and would require further investigation. Mr. Dumian agreed that further discussion was needed.

**CONKLIN POOL**

Mr. Finch wondered if two problems could be solved by using fill from Hobart Stone's excess rock and sawdust. Mr. Dumian said if the town develops the property on the corner of Powers and Conklin Road for ball fields, there could be fill from there that needs to be transported. He said Parks Superintendent Dave Kilmer had also mentioned that idea to him. He added, "It's not a bad idea but I would just like to get a baseline of where we are with that other property and what needs to be done . . . I want to be sure we follow our compensatory storage law."

**ANOTHER YOUTH BALL SEASON COMES TO AN END**

Mr. Farley said that the youth baseball & softball seasons were coming to end and teams were presently in championship games. It was tough getting all the games in with the rainy weather. The fields were kept in good shape and now it is time for soccer season to begin.

**2025 FIELD OF HONOR FLAGS**

Given the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Conklin Business Association and Conklin Kiwanis, Deputy Town Clerk Elizabeth Einstein thanked Highway Superintendent Jeff Hayes and Mike Platt for all the hard work they put in digging holes and setting up the poles for the annual flag display over Memorial Day. She said they do a wonderful job and the display would not be possible without their help and the Board's approval of the Highway Department lending a hand. Thanks to all involved in the project that supports the Conklin Veterans Memorial.

**RESO 2025-118: EXECUTIVE SESSION/SPECIFIC PERSONNEL ISSUE**

Mr. Dumian moved to close the Regular Town Board Meeting and move into Executive Session at 6:58 P.M. to discuss a specific personnel issue.

Seconded by Mr. Farley.

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

**RESO 2025-119: RE-OPEN REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING**

Mr. Boyle moved for to close the Executive Session and re-open the Regular Town Board Meeting at 7:05 P.M.

Seconded by Mr. Finch.

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

**RESO 2025-120: INCREASE PAY RATE BY \$2.00 PER HOUR/  
CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON/EFFECTIVE APRIL 14, 2025**

Mr. Boyle moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin approves an increase in pay rate of \$2.00 per hour for a rate of \$24.50 per hour for Christopher Johnson, retroactive to April 14, 2025.



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Seconded by Mr. Farley.

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

**MONITORING OF TOWN DUMP**

Supervisor Dumian advised that documentation was located regarding the Town Dump suggesting the Town may not need to monitor to the level required in previous years. The Board with the assistance of the Town Attorney will continue to review all documentation to determine the Town's current monitoring obligation.

**RESO 2025-121: EXECUTIVE SESSION/LEGAL ADVICE**

Mr. Dumian moved to close the Regular Town Board Meeting and move into Executive Session at 7:06 P.M. to seek legal advice.

Seconded by Mr. Farley.

VOTE: Boyle—Yes, Finch—Yes, Farley—Yes, Dumian—Yes; Francisco—Absent. Motion passed unanimously.

**RESO: 2025-122: RE-OPEN REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING**

Mr. Boyle moved to close the Executive Session and re-open the Regular Town Board meeting at 7:34 P.M.

Seconded by Mr. Finch.

VOTE: Boyle—Yes, Finch—Yes, Farley—Yes, Dumian—Yes; Francisco—Absent. Motion passed unanimously..

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Dumian moved for adjournment, seconded by Mr. Finch. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Einstein  
Deputy Town Clerk