

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
JULY 8, 2025

The Town Board of the Town of Conklin held a Regular Town Board Meeting at 6:00 P.M. on July 8, 2025. Mr. Dumian, Supervisor, presided. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT:	Town Board Members	Boyle, Finch, Francisco, Farley, Dumian
	Town Counsel	Mark Spinner
	Town Clerk	Sherrie L. Jacobs
	Administrative Assistant	Mary Plonski
	Planning Board	Sandra Beam
	Zoning Board of Appeals	Elizabeth Einstein
	Zoning Board of Appeals	William Brodsky
GUESTS:	Delaware Solar	Marty Meriwether
	Delaware Solar	Jeremy Long
	Delaware Solar	James Armstrong
	Delaware Solar	Mollie Messenger
	Delaware Solar	Barbara Alcantora
		Laurie Francisco
		Tony Marascia

MINUTES: JUNE 10, 2025 REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

Mr. Finch moved to approve the June 10, 2025 Regular Town Board Meeting minutes as presented.

Seconded by Mr. Farley.

VOTE: Boyle – Yes, Finch – Yes, Francisco – Abstain, Farley – Yes, Dumian – Yes. Motion carried: 4 – Yes, 1 – Abstain.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

NOISE/INTERNATIONAL PAPER

Tony Marascia of Conklin Road stated that he is disturbed by the ongoing noise from steam being released from boilers at nearby International Paper, which is located in a mostly residential area on Conklin Road. Mr. Marascia stated that, upon inquiring of the manager, he discovered that the permit and public comment he had been assured the company had, is issued by the DEC and not the Town of Conklin. He stated that the decibel level, which he stated has been ongoing since April, exceeds what is allowed by the Town Code. Mr. Marascia asked why this renovation to the exhaust system does not require a permit from the Town. Mr. Dumian explained that changes to the site plan require a permit, but this procedure may not require a permit from the Town. He added that the DEC permit controls contaminants. Mr. Marascia stated that the noise ordinance allows for ambient noise plus 5 decibels during the day and ambient noise plus 3 decibels at night. He stated that the release of steam exceeds the limits of the noise ordinance, as does the “cyclone” on top of the International Paper building. Mr. Dumian stated that it will take five weeks for the silencers for the steam valves to arrive.

OTHER CONCERNS

Mr. Marascia voiced several other concerns. He observed that the meeting notices are posted online and asked if the Town would consider sending emails, texts, or a newsletter informing residents.

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Mr. Marascia stated that he has been calling New York State about the bumps on Route 7 and wondered if the Town had reached out to the State. Mr. Dumian stated that he has called New York State many times regarding this issue.

Mr. Marascia asked if there is an alert system to warn of impending flooding of the river. Mr. Dumian stated that there is a County-based alert system which issues many media alerts. Mr. Marascia asked if the fire department alarms sound if there is an impending flood and Mr. Dumian stated that they do not sound for flood alerts.

Planning Board member Sandra Beam asked if the Town is picking up trees after the recent severe storm. Mr. Dumian stated that the Town is helping with cleanup but cannot go onto personal property.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Dumian stated that he had received correspondence from Mr. Marascia regarding the noise from International Paper prior to tonight's meeting.

REPORT: HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Mr. Dumian reported that the Highway Department has been busy with paving, mowing, ditch work, storm damage cleanup, and the new truck build.

REPORT: CODE OFFICE

Mr. Dumian stated that there were two fires over the weekend – one on JR Boulevard and one on State Line Road, and a house on Midway Drive on which a tree fell during the storm. Mr. Dumian stated that Nathan Cross, owner of 1298 Conklin Road, missed his Court date but states he is “working on cleanup” but still faces financial difficulties. Mr. Dumian stated that Code Officer Nick Pappas will inspect the property and take pictures.

REPORT: PARKS/WATER/SEWER DEPARTMENT

Mr. Dumian stated that the Parks/Water/Sewer Department has been busy with the following: trucking loads of fill to the decommissioned pool; finishing up a baseball tournament; cleaning up storm debris; having the Stewart Road water tank inspection completed; having the well house generator serviced by CAT; locating more services and mark outs; working on upgrades for the SCADA system; having the well pumps in the building serviced by W2O and the electrical tested for safety; chasing power outages from the storm around the clock Thursday through Sunday to maintain tank levels; having all four sewer station generators serviced by CAT; having all were pumps pulled and serviced and electrical tested for safety; staking out roads at Conklin Cemetery; handling full and cremation burials. The department reported that there are millings at the Highway Garage but they will need to be screened for use on cemetery roadways, or the Town could consider purchasing crusher run. Mapping will begin at Conklin Cemetery on July 27.

REPORT: SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

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

OLD BUSINESS:

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SOLAR ENERGY PARTNERS

Mr. Dumian stated that he met with representatives of Solar Energy Partners, which is interested in installing a solar facility on Conklin Road near the former sports park. He explained what is and is not allowed in the flood way and flood plain to the representatives. Any solar construction would be limited to the back of the property farthest away from the Susquehanna River.

DELAWARE SOLAR

Mr. Dumian stated that the Town has received a complete application from Delaware Solar for the facility proposed for Fallbrook Road. He stated that follow up action items from Town Engineer John Mastronardi include addressing visual and noise issues, adding more foliage at the sight lines, the StormWater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), roads, and driveways. Town Attorney Mark Spinner stated that the Town will be declared Lead Agency for SEQR (State Environmental Quality Review) and a Public Hearing will be set.

NEW BUSINESS:

TREES & BRUSH AT INTERSECTIONS

Mr. Dumian will contact Broome County regarding the trees and brush that block vision at several intersections in the Town: Ketchum and Murphy Roads, Hardie and Wilcox Roads, Kabanek and Pierce Creek Roads, and Hardie and Shaw Roads.

RESO 2025-123: AMEND RESO 2025-120/REFLECT PAY RATE INCREASE OF \$1.50 PER HOUR RATHER THAN \$2.00 PER HOUR/JOHNSON

Mr. Farley moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin amends Resolution 2025-120 to reflect a pay rate increase of \$1.50 per hour, rather than \$2.00 per hour, for Christopher Johnson.

Seconded by Mr. Finch.

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

RESO 2025-124: RATIFY PAYMENT/DARRELL DENNISON (SHORT CHANGE BAND)/JUNE 18, 2025

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 \$400.00 to Darrell Dennison (Short Change Band) for Concert in the Park on June 18, 2025.

Seconded by Mr. Finch.

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

RESO 2025-125: RATIFY PAYMENT/RICHARD KAUFFMAN (BLUE VELVET BIG BAND)/JUNE 25, 2025

Mr. Farley moved for the following resolution:

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Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin ratifies payment in the amount of \$450.00 to Richard Kauffman (Blue Velvet Big Band) for Concert in the Park on June 25, 2025.

Seconded by Mr. Francisco.

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

RESO 2025-126: RATIFY PAYMENT/CLAIMS #25-00591 - #25-00640/\$218,932.99

Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin ratifies payment of the following Claims #25-00591 through #25-00640, which have been audited and approved for payment, in the total amount of \$218,932.99:

General	\$ 12,043.46
Highway	202,504.30
Sewer District #1	438.62
Water District	1,565.61
Non-Budgeted	<u>2,381.00</u>
Total	\$218,932.99

Seconded by Mr. Finch.

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

RESO 2025-127: APPROVE PAYMENT/CLAIMS #25-00646 - #25-00697/\$126,018.85

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 #25-00636 through #25-00697, which have been audited and approved for payment, in the total amount of \$126,018.85:

General	\$ 20,428.03
Highway	16,810.72
Light Districts	2,019.85
Sewer District 1	82,519.09
Water District	<u>4,241.15</u>
Total	\$126,018.85

Seconded by Mr. Finch.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

TREES OVERHANGING ROAD/SADDLEMIRE ROAD

Zoning Board of Appeals member William Brodsky noted that there are trees overhanging Saddlemire Road, of which the County should be made aware.

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DELAWARE SOLAR

Mr. Boyle asked how well Delaware Solar will work with the neighbors on Fallbrook Road and Mollie Messenger of Delaware Solar stated that her company has already talked to the neighbors about their concerns.

BOARDING UP HOUSE ON JR BOULEVARD

Mr. Finch asked who will be responsible to board up the house on JR Boulevard that was damaged in the fire over the weekend. Mr. Dumian stated that he will check with Code Officer Nick Pappas to make sure that gets done.

ROADS IN CONKLIN CEMETERY

Mr. Francisco thanked Parks/Water/Sewer Department members David Kilmer and Scott Zaino for their work in staking the new roads to be created in Conklin Cemetery.

SMOKING AT THE CONKLIN FAIR

Mr. Francisco expressed concerns about smoking, which is prohibited, at the Conklin Fair. Town Clerk Sherrie Jacobs, a member of the Conklin Fair Committee, stated that the Fair announcer regularly announces that smoking is illegal at the Fair per NYS law prohibiting smoking in public areas in the vicinity of children.

YOUTH SPORTS

Mr. Farley reported that a wrestling camp was held at Susquehanna Valley School District last week, with 30 youth in attendance. He stated that baseball and softball seasons are over, adding that the fields have been in great shape this year. Mr. Farley stated that soccer signups have begun.

SUMMER EVENTS

Ms. Jacobs stated that the Concerts in the Park series is in full swing and it appears the Summer Fun program is getting ready to start. She reminded those present that the Conklin Fair will be held July 10, 11, and 12, urging people to support the local vendors and charitable groups that fundraise at the Fair.

Mr. Dumian expressed concerns about the traditional Concert Finale, at which Town officials have cooked and served hamburgers and hot dogs. Concert goers usually bring a dish to pass. He stated that he does not have enough help and feels he cannot do this any more. Ms. Jacobs stated that the Fair Committee is willing to cook and serve the food this year.

PAVING

Mr. Dumian stated that the paving of the parking lot at the Town Hall is progressing. He added that he had received correspondence asking why all of the streets behind the Family Dollar were not paved this year and had explained that the remaining streets are on the schedule for re-paving in 2026.

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RESO 2025-128: A RESOLUTION OF INITIAL SEQRA CLASSIFICATION
AND INTENT TO DECLARE LEAD AGENCY STATUS

At a regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Conklin, held on the 8th day of July, 2025, at Conklin Town Hall, 1271 Conklin Road, Conklin, New York, the following resolution was offered by Mr. Dumian and seconded by Mr. Finch:

WHEREAS, the Town of Conklin is considering an application submitted by Delaware River Solar (NY Conklin I, LLC & NY Conklin III, LLC) regarding the proposed development, installation, and operation of a solar photovoltaic electrical energy generation facility (“Solar Facility”) including an interconnection line to interconnect the Solar Facility to the Utility electrical grid located at 1410 Conklin Road in the Town of Conklin; 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 8th day of July 2025. 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: July 8, 2025

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Town of Conklin Seal

Sherrie L. Jacobs, Town Clerk

RESO 2025-129: SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING/AUGUST 12, 2025/
6:03 P.M./DELAWARE SOLAR POWER APPLICATION

At a regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Conklin, held on the 8th day of July, 2025, at the Conklin Town Hall, 1271 Conklin Road, Conklin, New York, the following resolution was offered by Mr. Francisco and seconded by Mr. Farley:

WHEREAS, the Town Board is considering an application submitted by Delaware River Solar (NY Conklin I, LLC & NY Conklin III, LLC) regarding the proposed development, installation, and operation of a solar photovoltaic electrical energy generation facility (“Solar Facility”) including an interconnection line to interconnect the Solar Facility to the Utility electrical grid located at 1410 Conklin Road in the Town of Conklin; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board desires to hold a public hearing to consider said application.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a Public Hearing will be held by the Town Board of the Town of Conklin with respect to the aforesaid application on August 12, 2025, at 6:03 P.M.; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause public notice of said hearing to be given as provided by law.

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 8th day of July 2025. 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: July 8, 2025

Town of Conklin Seal

Sherrie L. Jacobs, Town Clerk

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Francisco moved for adjournment, seconded by Mr. Farley. The meeting adjourned at 6:49 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherrie L. Jacobs, Town Clerk

