

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

The Town Board of the Town of Conklin held a Regular Town Board Meeting at 6:00 P.M. on September 8, 2026, at the Conklin Town Hall. 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
	Highway Superintendent	Jeff Hayes
	Secretary to the Supervisor	Teresa Bamber
	Zoning Board of Appeals	William Brodsky

GUESTS:	John Hellmers
	Laurie Francisco
	Lloyd Boyle
	Mary Boyle
	Maria Van DeWeert

MINUTES: AUGUST 11, 2026 REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

Mr. Francisco moved to approve the August 11, 2026 Regular Town Board Meeting minutes as presented.

Seconded by Mr. Farley.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

DRAINAGE ON CONKLIN FORKS ROAD

John Hellmers thanked the Town for contacting the Broome County Highway Department about remediating the drainage issues on Conklin Forks Road.

BOYLE BOULEVARD SOLAR APPLICATION/ETHICS QUESTIONS

Mr. Hellmers asked if the Town has received a decision from the Broome County Board of Ethics regarding the question of Councilman Boyle’s possible break of the Town’s Code of Ethics in regard to the solar facility application on Boyle Boulevard. Mr. Dumian replied that the County Board of Ethics has met and discussed this situation but the Town has not yet received a letter from the County Board. He added that the County Board will not make a decision about the case but rather will offer suggestions on the process the Town should use.

Mr. Hellmers asked the status of the Boyle Boulevard application and Town Attorney Mark Spinner stated that since the Town issued a Positive Declaration regarding environmental impact for the Boyle Boulevard location, Abundant Solar Power will pursue a different site for the project on Scofield Road. He added that the Town cannot accept a new application, which the Scofield Road project would be, because of the current moratorium on solar projects, so Abundant Solar Power plans to ask for a Hardship Variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Spinner stated that the Town does not have this request yet from Abundant Solar Power.

Mr. Dumian stated that the Boyle Boulevard applications was “treated as any other application.” He stated that Mr. Boyle “did not violate our (Town of Conklin) ethics policy. He should have disclosed his interest sooner but he did nothing illegal.” Mr. Spinner stated that there “must be financial benefit “ to be a violation. “Where is the line drawn?” asked Maria Van DeWeert. Mr.

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Spinner replied, “The line is financial benefits.” He added that the purpose of the solar law is to regulate solar facilities.

BRIDGE OPENING/TRAFFIC ON CONKLIN FORKS ROAD

Ms. Van DeWeert asked if the bridge between Conklin and Kirkwood will reopen on September 14 and why it was delayed from the original scheduled opening date. Mr. Dumian stated that the excessive rain has made it impossible to pour the concrete. Ms. Van DeWeert asked if there is a penalty clause for delayed opening and Mr. Dumian stated that this is a question for New York State and Broome County, since the two entities are collaborating on the bridge repair.

Ms. Van DeWeert also expressed concern about the need for a reduced speed limit near Conklin Forks Park, stating that there are many children living and playing in that area. She stated that the Broome County Sheriff’s Office has put an electronic speed sign there as a warning but wondered if a “Children at Play” sign could be installed and questioned who enforces the speed limit. Mr. Dumian stated that law enforcement (NYS Police and the Sheriff’s Department) are responsible for enforcement and suggested that she reach out to Broome County about signage as Conklin Forks Road is a County road.

SPACE AT SCHNURBUSCH PARK/SPLASH PAD

Ms. Van DeWeert stated that she has received “good public feedback” on the idea of putting a splash pad at the site of the former Conklin Pool. Mr. Dumian stated that there are safety concerns, citing the need for one to two lifeguards, probably teenagers, and the cost involved in installation and maintenance. Ms. Van DeWeert asked if there are lifeguards at other splash pads in the area. Mr. Dumian stated that the cost for installation of a splash pad would probably be between \$60,000 and \$80,000. Ms. Van DeWeert asked about funding, specifically grants, and Mr. Dumian stated that the Town has been unsuccessful in obtaining grants in the past due to the high median income in the Town.

William Brodsky of the Zoning Board of Appeals asked what a splash pad is and Mr. Dumian explained that it is basically a sprinkler system on concrete. Mr. Brodsky asked, if there is no chlorination system, if it is a one-use water usage, citing concerns with the water supply and the infrastructure.

Ms. Van DeWeert asked, “What will the Town do with that space?” Mr. Dumian stated that pickle ball courts have been considered, but added that the Town needs more baseball, softball, and soccer fields because there are more than 200 children in those programs. Ms. Van DeWeert stated, “We need something for kids that don’t play sports.” Mr. Francisco stated, “Control is the issue at a splash pad. For safety, the Town would need a legal adult to enforce the rules. Grants are difficult.” Mr. Dumian stated that the Town has not been able to develop the site at the corner of Powers Road and Conklin Road for sports fields, even though it could be developed legally, because of a lack of volunteers, adding that it is difficult to develop based on funding.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Dumian confirmed that the Town received a letter stating that the bridge between Conklin and Kirkwood will re-open at 6 AM on September 14.

Mr. Dumian stated that the Town was contacted regarding problems with flooding caused by a beaver dam at a site on Conklin Road. Highway Superintendent Jeff Hayes is working with the DEC to find someone to trap the beavers and remove the dam, but there is a shortage of personnel. It is the State’s responsibility to address this problem.

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Mr. Dumian stated that Maria Fabrizi will be present at the September 22 Board meeting to provide an update on tobacco and vape laws.

Mr. Dumian stated that he was contacted by UHC notifying the Town that they would be dropping the Town of Conklin Medicare, so the Town will go back to BlueCross/BlueShield, adding that it will not be a huge cost to the Town. He added that medical pool money is also still available.

REPORT: HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Mr. Hayes stated that the Municipal Cleanup Days will be September 11 and 12, including tires, with electronics being accepted on Friday morning only from 9 AM until noon. The postcards to send to the residents would not be delivered until this week and would cost \$1300, so they were not ordered. Information about the Cleanup Days is posted on the website, on flyers around Town, and on the electronic signboard at Schnurbusch Park.

Mr. Hayes stated that his crew has been busy with paving Stillwater Road, ditching and shoulder work, collecting leaves and mowing, repairing the blacktop at the Community Center, and helping with water main breaks.

REPORT: CODE OFFICER

Mr. Spinner stated that the Nathan Cross case will be heard by the State Supreme Court at 3:30 PM on September 14. The Town is asking for a Court Order allowing it to cleanup the site.

REPORT: PARKS/WATER/SEWER DEPARTMENT

Mr. Dumian stated that the second seasonal laborer, Dylan Corey, is resigning effective September 18, adding that there are only 6 to 8 weeks left of the season, so finding a replacement may be difficult.

REPORT: SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

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

OLD BUSINESS:

SOLAR MORATORIUM

Mr. Dumian stated that the Board needs to look at the new New York State regulations regarding solar projects and consider whether to limit solar facilities to commercially-zoned districts or to include Agricultural/Rural areas. He stated that the Board needs to "start thinking about" the necessary changes, noting that New York State has a pro-solar agenda. Ms. Spinner stated that he will send some suggestions to the Board.

TOBACCO AND VAPE LAWS

Mr. Dumian stated that there will be more discussion regarding tobacco and vape laws at the September 22 meeting.

UPDATE TO WATER & SEWER STATION CONTROLS

Mr. Dumian stated that upgrades are needed to the hardware and software for the Town water and sewer stations, adding that the Town has been "putting band aids on an old system." He added that the challenge is the water fund balance, which is not sufficient to pay for the

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upgrades. Mr. Dumian stated that the Town has been working with TCSI Solutions, adding that, if an employee familiar with the Town's controls should decide to move or take a different job, the Town would need a backup. TCSI Solutions could provide someone on call from Thursday through Sunday of each week. In addition, stated Mr. Dumian, the Town would like to hire someone who is tech-savvy and has a water operator license. He stated that significant money has been budgeted for water and sewer in 2027.

Mr. Dumian stated that it will be necessary to raise the water usage rates for next year, but not the basic fee. He noted that the Town cannot take money from the General Fund or Sewer Fund to spend on Water projects. Mr. Dumian stated that TCSI Solutions will provide rates for control panels on all water and sewer stations plus labor rates for on call services. Mr. Francisco commented that the communication between the old system and the new system must be modified so that they can "talk" to each other.

WATER LINE CONNECTION/CITY OF BINGHAMTON

Mr. Dumian stated that the water flow study is in progress and the digital mapping is done. He stated that our Town Engineer is working with the City of Binghamton to test water pressure at hydrants.

MUNICIPAL CLEANUP DAYS

Mr. Dumian reiterated that Municipal Cleanup Days will be held September 11 and 12.

NEW BUSINESS:

ZERO-TURN MOWER FOR CEMETERIES

The Board discussed purchasing a 61-inch Zero-Turn mower from Marshall Machinery at a cost of \$11,400 for use in the Town cemeteries.

PURCHASE OF NEW 2027 PARKS SERVICE TRUCK

The Town was informed that the 2026 Silverado HD truck is no longer available and the Town would need to purchase a 2027 model if it wants that truck for the Parks Department. The new model will cost approximately 3% more than the original quote for the 2026 model. Mr. Dumian stated that the Board will table the decision about the purchase until the September 22 meeting.

2027 BUDGET

Mr. Dumian stated that the 2027 Budget will see a slight increase but will be well under the tax cap. He stated that Code Officer Nick Pappas will be retiring in March 2027, with the Administrative Assistant in that office, Mary Plonski, retiring later next year. Mr. Dumian stated that there will be no shared services for Code available next year with the Town of Binghamton, so the Town would need to hire a full-time Code Officer instead of part-time, as is currently the case. He stated that salary for a full-time position would be \$60,000 to \$70,000 plus the Town would need to purchase a truck for the Code Office to use. Mr. Dumian stated that labor rates have risen significantly, adding that there is \$150,000 in the Contingency Fund. He stated that with a full-time Code Officer, the Administrative Assistant would have less Code work to do and so could work on oversight of paperwork for the Town cemeteries. Mr. Dumian stated that the Town has \$800,000 offset to the Fund Balance.

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ROOF LEAK IN CASTLE

Mr. Dumian stated that a leak developed in the roof of the Castle and mold was discovered in one of the closets. The mold was professionally tested and the Town is awaiting results. The Town insurance will not cover the cost of remediation because the appraiser noted older water stains and determined that it is a pre-existing situation. The Town has reached out to remediation companies but they are waiting for results of the testing. Mr. Dumian stated, "Historic buildings are great but they are costly."

EMERGENCY REPLACEMENT/HOT WATER TANK/TOWN HALL

Mr. Dumian stated that the hot water tank at the Town Hall needed to be replaced immediately, adding that the 5-gallon tank has been replaced with a 40-gallon tank.

**RESO 2026-89: RATIFY PURCHASE/REPLACEMENT HOT WATER TANK/
TOWN HALL**

Mr. Finch moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin ratifies the purchase of a replacement hot water tank at the Town Hall from Fancher Services for a cost of \$3,500.00.

Seconded by Mr. Farley.

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

**RESO 2026-90: ACCEPT RESIGNATION/DYLAN COREY/
SEASONAL PARKS LABORER**

Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin accepts the resignation of Dylan Corey from the position of Seasonal Parks Laborer, effective September 18, 2026.

Seconded by Mr. Finch.

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

RESO 2026-91: RATIFY PAYMENT/NATHAN JACOBS/CONCERT AUGUST 12, 2026

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 \$400.00 to Nathan Jacobs for Concert in the Park on August 12, 2026.

Seconded by Mr. Francisco.

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

**RESO 2026-92: RATIFY PAYMENT/TOM COX (THE SHAMBLES)/CONCERT
AUGUST 19, 2026**

Mr. Francisco 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 \$400.00 to Tom Cox (The Shambles) for Concert in the Park on August 19, 2026.

Seconded by Mr. Finch.

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

RESO 2026-93: RATIFY PAYMENT/PITNEY BOWES/POSTAGE METER REFILL

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 \$800.00 to Pitney Bowes for postage meter refill.

Seconded by Mr. Francisco.

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

RESO 2026-94: RATIFY PAYMENT/BINGHAMTON-JOHNSON CITY JOINT SEWAGE BOARD/3RD QUARTER 2026 WASTEWATER SERVICE

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 \$84,044.00 to the Binghamton-Johnson City Joint Sewage Board for 3rd Quarter 2026 Wastewater Service.

Seconded by Mr. Farley.

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

**RESO 2026-95: RATIFY PAYMENT/AUCTIONS INTERNATIONAL/
MB 10-FOOT STREET SWEEPER**

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 \$1,100.00 to Auctions International for an MB 10-foot Street Sweeper.

Seconded by Mr. Francisco.

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

Mr. Dumian commented that this machine would cost \$13,000.00 brand new.

RESO 2026-96: RATIFY PAYMENT/CLAIMS #26-00835 - #26-00880/\$26,183.00

Mr. Finch moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin ratifies the following Claims #26-00835 through #26-00880, which have been audited and approved for payment, in the total amount of \$26,183.00:

General	\$ 14,759.41
Highway	7,439.89

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Sewer District #1	147.97
Water District	1,031.73
Non-Budgeted	<u>2,804.00</u>
Total	\$ 26,183.00

Seconded by Mr. Farley.

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

RESO 2026-97: APPROVE PAYMENT/CLAIMS #26-00884 - #26-00921/\$57,458.75

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 #26-00884 through #26-00921, which have been audited and approved for payment, in the total amount of \$57,458.75:

General	\$ 19,339.94
Highway	20,364.45
Light Districts	1,875.64
Sewer District #1	1,933.06
Water District	4,687.32
Water District #6	<u>9,258.34</u>
Total	\$ 57,458.75

Seconded by Mr. Francisco.

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

RESO 2026-98: APPROVE PURCHASE/61-INCH ZERO-TURN
MOWER/CEMETERIES

Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin approves the purchase of one 27.0 Kaw FX850 61-inch Zero-Turn Mower from Marshall Machinery, Inc., for a cost not to exceed \$11,400.00.

Seconded by Mr. Farley.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

FLOATING SOLAR PANELS

Mr. Brodsky stated that as the Board considers changes to the solar law, to be aware that there is technology available for floating solar panels.

NATHAN CROSS CASE/STATE SUPREME COURT

Mr. Spinner stated that he will be present in court for the Nathan Cross case and will let the Town know the judgement as soon as it is given.

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UPSTATE ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS MEETING

Mr. Boyle stated that the Upstate Association of Towns will hold a meeting at noon on September 17 at Food and Fire at 560 Harry L Drive in Johnson City. He stated that he “wants the numbers for equipment so he can ask his contacts in State government for funding.”

PARKING LOT NEAR PUMPHOUSE

Mr. Finch voiced concern regarding the parking lot near the Town’s pumphouse and only water supply, calling it a “garbage dump.” Mr. Dumian stated he has contacted the property owners multiple times and will send a letter asking them to clean it up.

NEW MOWER

Mr. Finch asked where the new mower will be stored and Mr. Dumian stated that there is room to store it inside out of the elements. Mr. Francisco stated that with the increased amount of wear and tear the additional mowing at the cemeteries puts on equipment, the new mower needs to be purchased as soon as possible.

Mr. Francisco extended a thank you to the Parks and Highway Departments from the Conklin Seniors Club for the excellent work they are doing to take care of the Town.

YOUTH SPORTS

Mr. Farley stated that soccer has started, adding that some teams played at the field at JR Park and it was quite soggy from the rain.

Mr. Finch asked about putting riprap in front of the pole at the Little League Field.

FENCE AROUND THE PUMPHOUSE

Mr. Boyle suggested putting a fence for protection around the Town pumphouse. Mr. Dumian stated that the plan is to put a fence around the well heads in 2027, then a fence around the pumphouse area at a later date.

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Mr. Dumian closed the meeting by asking that officials and staff conduct themselves professionally.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Francisco moved for adjournment, seconded by Mr. Farley. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherrie L. Jacobs
Town Clerk

