

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 22, 2026

The Town Board of the Town of Conklin held a Regular Town Board Meeting at 6:00 P.M. on September 22, 2026. 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
	Administrative Assistant	Mary Plonski
	Planning Board	Sandra Beam
	Zoning Board of Appeals	William Brodsky

GUESTS:	John Hellmers
	Laurie Francisco
	Lloyd Boyle
	Kennedy Boyle
	Lincoln Boyle
	Meg Jacobs

MINUTES: SEPTEMBER 8, 2026 REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

Mr. Farley moved to approve the September 8, 2026 Regular Town Board Meeting minutes as presented.

Seconded by Mr. Francisco.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

BOYLE ETHICS CASE

John Hellmers asked if the Town had received a decision from the Broome County Board of Ethics concerning Councilman Boyle’s potential breach of ethics. Mr. Dumian stated that the Town received a letter from the Broome County Board of Ethics but no action was taken, merely suggestions given for ways the Town could form its own Ethics Board. He added that the County Board only can deal with County officials; it has no jurisdiction over municipal officials. “So there are no guardrails to keep officials from breaking the law,” stated Mr. Hellmers. Mr. Dumian disagreed saying, “Yes, there are guardrails.” Town Attorney Mark Spinner explained that Town officials fall under the Town of Conklin Code of Ethics and Public Officers Law. Mr. Dumian reiterated that he believes that although Mr. Boyle “should have declared his interests sooner, He did nothing illegal.”

Mr. Hellmers asked the status of the proposed Boyle Boulevard solar project and Mr. Spinner stated that the new plan is to move the project to Scofield Road, which would require a new application. Since the Town is under a solar moratorium, Abundant Solar Power would have to apply for a Hardship Variance to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Spinner stated that Matt McGregor of Abundant Solar Power has sent him supporting documentation for such an appeal, but the company has not yet applied for this variance. William Brodsky of the Zoning Board of Appeals asked if the ZBA approves the variance, would the project have to go through the full application process. Mr. Dumian replied that yes, the new application would have to undergo the full process.

CORRESPONDENCE:

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Mr. Dumian stated that he was informed that Town Engineer John Mastronardi will be leaving Griffiths Engineering to move to his family's business, so Griffiths Engineering will be hiring a new engineer who will cover the Town of Conklin. Mr. Dumian stated that he will make sure he meets with Mr. Mastronardi for a full update on the proposed water line to the City of Binghamton before Mr. Mastronardi leaves.

Mr. Dumian stated that he has received complaints about people living in their campers, citing a resident who is trying to sell their house but is having no luck because of the presence of campers next door. He stated that the Town needs to establish timelines for camper use.

REPORT: HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Highway Superintendent Jeff Hayes stated that the recent municipal cleanup was very successful, with four dumpsters full of trash and five truckloads of tires collected. He stated that one person brought 48 tires to the cleanup.

Mr. Hayes stated that his department has been busy with ditching, spot patching, and getting sand and salt ready for winter. He plans to patch the Community Center driveway this Thursday. Mr. Hayes stated that he and William Tozer attended a class on bridges and culverts hosted by the DEC and made several good contacts. He plans to construct the access ramp at the Court entrance on a Thursday or Friday when there is less or no traffic at the Court.

REPORT: PARKS/WATER/SEWER

The Parks/Water/Sewer Department provided a written list of recent projects which include: replacing the toilet and the broken door closer in the women's bathroom at Schnurbusch Park; installing lights at the ball field; removing batting cage nets for the season; normal mowing and trimming; painting the soccer fields and the building at JR Park; drum mulching the river bank and mowing and trimming at Sullivan Park; working on the SCADA system at Sewer Station 5 and cleaning out grease and rags; mowing and trimming the sewer stations; drum mulching at the Landfill around the 12-acre fence and mowing inside the fenced area; repairing a hydrant on Corporate Drive that was hit by an Amazon driver on September 21; and mowing and trimming the water station and the water tank sites.

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 he would like to see solar facilities restricted to only areas zoned Commercial. Mr. Spinner stated that he will send some suggestions for changes to the Board before the October 13 meeting. Mr. Francisco stated that the Board should extend the moratorium if necessary.

TOBACCO AND VAPE LAWS

Mr. Dumian stated that he would be in favor of whatever the Town can put in place to try to keep tobacco and vaping materials out of the hands of students, adding that Maria Fabrizi will be at the October 13 meeting to give an update on what her group is doing about this issue. Mr. Spinner stated that he and Ms. Fabrizi will meet to discuss other municipalities' laws regarding tobacco and vaping.

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UPGRADES TO WATER & SEWER STATION CONTROLS

Mr. Dumian stated that the Town is “waiting for numbers,” adding that the upgrades need to be done because “we are limping along with an obsolete system.”

WATER LINE CONNECTION TO CITY OF BINGHAMTON

Mr. Dumian stated that he is “putting baseline numbers together.”

PURCHASE OF NEW 2027 PARKS SERVICE TRUCK

Mr. Dumian stated that the Town has not received any new bids, adding that the supplier from whom the Town was planning to purchase the new truck has stated that 2026 models are no longer available so it must be a 2027, with a higher cost. He stated that the Town will send the bid specifications out next week.

2027 BUDGET

Mr. Francisco stated that with a new company needed to monitor water and sewer (TCIS Solutions) and the possibility of a hard winter which could cause water main breaks, he feels the water and sewer usage rates should be increased \$.25 more than the increase Mr. Dumian has already suggested for 2027 for residential and commercial users.

COURT JUDGEMENT/1298 CONKLIN ROAD

Mr. Dumian stated that the New York State Supreme Court approved the Town to clean up 1298 Conklin Road, including the interior of the building. However, he stated, it will not be Town employees doing the cleanup but rather a company that the Town hires. Mr. Dumian stated that he is concerned about the structural integrity of the building, which was flooded in 2006 and 2011 in the two major floods in the Town. He stated that maybe the building could be condemned and demolished. Mr. Spinner stated that the building will be cleaned inside, then inspected by an engineer to determine structural viability. Mr. Dumian stated that taxes on the property are in arrears, so maybe the lien-holder will foreclose on it. He added that the Code Officer can recommend demolition. Mr. Spinner stated that according to the Town Procurement Policy, if the cost will be over \$35,000, the job must go out to bid, unless it is an emergency situation, which bypasses the bid process. Mr. Dumian stated that there are fires at the site daily, as well as issues with flood water from the beaver dam behind the building.

Sandra Beam of the Planning Board asked if Nathan Cross, the property owner, will still own the property even after the Town pays to clean it up and Mr. Dumian stated that he would talk to her after the meeting and explain the process. Mr. Spinner stated that asking the State Supreme Court for an order to demolish the building, if warranted, is the quickest process. Mr. Francisco asked if Mr. Cross can be kept off the property during remediation and Mr. Dumian stated that Mr. Cross cannot obstruct the cleanup process, adding that law enforcement would be present.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESO 2026-99: RATIFY PAYMENT/PITNEY BOWES/POSTAGE METER REFILL

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 \$800.00 to Pitney Bowes for postage meter refill.

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

RESO 2026-100: APPROVE PAYMENT/CLAIMS 326-00925 - #26-00968/\$31,044.09

Mr. Finch moved for the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin approves payment of the following Claims #26-00925 through #26-00968, which have been audited and approved for payment, in the total amount of \$31,044.09:

General	\$ 23,490.74
Highway	4,270.65
Sewer District #1	250.72
Water District	325.98
Non-Budgeted	<u>2,706.00</u>
Total	\$ 31,044.09

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

PUBLIC SAFETY DURING CLEANUP OF 1298 CONKLIN ROAD

Meg Jacobs asked if hazmat would be called for the cleanup of 1298 Conklin Road, citing concern about land, air, and/or water pollution. Mr. Dumian stated that the contractor would determine the amount of protection needed, adding that it is an old building so there is probably asbestos present.

MAINTENANCE OF RIGHT-OF-WAYS

Mr. Boyle stated that there should be more money allocated the Water and Sewer Budget to allow the Parks Department to clean the Town’s right-of-way to the water and sewer systems.

PROPERTY NEAR WELLHEADS

Mr. Finch asked if the owners of the property near the Town wellheads have responded to the Town’s complaints about trash and old vehicles on their site but Mr. Dumian stated that there has been no response from the property owners.

CONDITIONS IN THE CASTLE

Mr. Francisco stated that the Conklin Seniors Club is happy to be able to use the Board Room for their monthly luncheon but wonder when they will be allowed to go back to using the Castle. He added that until the roof is repaired, there is no use repairing the closet that was damaged by leaking water. Mr. Dumian stated that he does not have numbers on the potential cost of repairing the roof, adding that “it’s not as bad as we thought. It is not black mold.” Mr. Dumian thanked Mr. Hayes and Administrative Assistant Mary Plonski for their work in cleaning up the Castle, adding that maintenance on the roof, making sure drains and gutters are free of leaves, must be maintained.

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CEMETERIES

Mr. Francisco stated that the cemeteries are in “great shape,” adding that the mowers save time in maintenance. He stated that two burials took place last week. Mr. Francisco stated that he will have a financial report on the cemeteries ready for the October 13 meeting.

YOUTH SPORTS

Mr. Farley stated that the soccer program is ongoing. Mr. Dumian asked if the Town is seeing a cost savings from the new bulbs.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Farley moved for adjournment, seconded by Mr. Francisco. The meeting adjourned at 6:37 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherrie L. Jacobs
Town Clerk