

ATON SEPTIC & DRAINAGE



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Watkins Glen State Park

Watkins Glen State Park is the most famous of the Finger Lakes State Parks, with a reputation for leaving visitors spellbound. Within two miles, the glen's stream descends 400 feet past 200-foot cliffs, generating 19 waterfalls along its course. The gorge path winds over and under waterfalls and through the spray of Cavern Cascade. Rim trails overlook the gorge. Campers and day-visitors can enjoy the Olympic-size pool, scheduled summer tours through the gorge, tent and trailer campsites, picnic facilities and excellent fishing in nearby Seneca Lake or Catherine Creek, which is renowned for its annual spring run of rainbow trout.

In 2015, the park was chosen from more than 6,000 state parks across the nation as a nominee in the USA TODAY Readers' Choice Poll for Best State Park in the United States, and won third place!

Pavilion Information-Watkins Glen has two pavilions. Prices range from \$75 to \$150 and can accommodate up to 122 people. Check availability at ReserveAmerica.com. **Shuttle & Trail Updates** - Please contact the park to confirm conditions before traveling

Pet Policy: A maximum of two pets are allowed in campsites and day use areas unless prohibited by sign or directive (not allowed on Gorge Trail). Pets are to be supervised at all times and either be crated or on a leash not more than 6-feet in length. Proof of rabies inoculation shall be produced if requested by staff. Pets are not permitted in playgrounds, buildings, pools and spray-grounds or guarded beaches (this does not apply to service animals). The main Gorge Trail is currently closed for the season and will reopen toward the end of May 2024.

There are currently miles of trails that are open and accessible for hikers and walkers. The temperatures this time of year can vary widely whether walking/hiking in the sun or in the shade. About a mile further North is Seneca lake which is also a beautiful and picturesque destination.

Seneca Lake below, more Watkins Glen State Park pictures on page 4 & 5



Local Calendars
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Conklin Cemetery
Cleanups Apr. 1
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**VETERANS
CORNER**
Page 8

Announcement
Section
Obituaries

**New York State
Burn Ban
Between
March 15 – May 15**



Join Conklin
Kiwanis
Wed. 7:30
Janes's
Diner



Calendar

Kirkwood

Town Board Meeting

Wednesday, 4/3/24 – 6 PM

Planning Board Meeting

(warehouse addition – 47 Pine Camp Drive)

Monday, 4/8/24 – 7 PM

Zoning Board Meeting

(Variance—Garage in front of house, 173 Burts Rd)

(Variance – Sell as a suitable building lot, 197

Stratmill Rd)

Monday, 4/15/24 – 7 PM

KIRKWOOD TOWN COURT HOURS

Monday – Friday 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Town of Binghamton

April 2, 2024 – Work Session 4:00 P.M.

April 16, 2024 – Town Board Meeting 6:00 P.M.

TOB Coleman Rd.

Community Ctr. IS CLOSED.

Town of Conklin

Regular Town Board Meeting

April 9th, 2024 Conklin

6pm

Conklin Town Hall, 1271 Conklin Road,

Conklin, New York.

DMV AT CONKLIN TOWN HALL

WEDNESDAY – 9 A.M. until 1 P.M.

Conklin Town Court Hours

Monday, Wed, & Fri 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

1st Friday of the Month 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

BROOME COUNTY LEGISLATORS

Kelly F. Wildoner

District 3
(Town of Binghamton,
Conklin & Vestal)
kelly.wildoner@broome-
countyny.gov

Stephen J. Flagg

District 1 (City of Binghamton,
Towns of Colesville,
Fenton &
Kirkwood)
stephen.flagg@broome-
countyny.gov

Scott D. Baker

District 2 (Towns of Kirkwood,
Sanford & Windsor)
scott.baker@broomecountyny.gov

Chairman-Daniel J.

Reynolds

(Dist 5)
daniel.j.reynolds@
broomecountyny.gov

Maj. Leader-Matthew J. Pasquale

Dist 7 matthew.pasquale@
broomecountyny.gov

Min.w Leader Robert

Weslar

(Dist 13)
bob.weslar@broomecountyny.gov

Health & Human Services
Committee
(OVER VETERANS)

Jason Shaw

jason.shaw@broomecountyny.gov

Louis Augustini

louis.augostini@broomecountyny.gov

Matthew Hilderbrant

matt.hilderbrant@broomecountyny.gov

Kim Myers kim.myers@
broomecountyny.gov

Mark Whalen mark.whalen@
broomecountyny.gov

EDITORIAL NOTES

Dear Editor:

We have been receiving letters and reviews of the changes to the Country Courier, we will post them here without names listed. The absence of names has a long history in American Reporting, up until the early to mid 1970's.

WE APPRECIATE ALL STORY TIPS
AS WELL

EMAIL TO: News@TiersNews.com

FOURTH ESTATE
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Free Vaccines for Dogs and Cats

The Broome County Humane Society is hosting free, monthly vaccine clinics for dogs and cats in need of updated Rabies and Distemper vaccines in our community on the following dates (*dates are subject to change):



Tuesday, April 2, 2024

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Clinics will be held at The Broome County Humane Society located at 167 Conklin Ave in Binghamton from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. A \$5 donation is requested, but not required for each vaccination given. Pets need to be at least three months old and restrained. Bring previous rabies vaccination certificate (if applicable) First come, first served. A \$10 donation per pet is suggested but not required. For additional information, visit the Broome County Humane Society website.

Kirkwood Senior Group

Officers:

Blanche Birtch, President

Jeanie Ditch, Vice-Pres.

Linda Yonchuk, Secretary

Linda Buffle, Treasurer

Jeanie Ditch & June

Fedish, Trip Coordinator

Ellie Grubham, Sunshine Committee

Scheduled Meetings:

First Wednesday of each month, at Noon, at the Kirkwood Fire Station, Main Street, Kirkwood, unless otherwise noted.

Activities:

Meetings: Monthly @ Noon the First Wednesday of each month, at the Kirkwood Fire Station, Main Street, Kirkwood, unless otherwise noted. Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish, coffee and tea are provided. The meeting takes place after lunch, with Bingo to follow if anyone cares to stay October and November meetings are catered and will be at Elks Club at 12 noon.

Bus Trips:

Trips are usually 3 per year. Members pay for expenses for show tickets and meals, bus



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The Country Courier

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YOUR PHOTOS ARE WELCOME

Email to: editor2@TiersNews.com

NEWS/ADVERTISING DEADLINE

The Country Courier goes to press on Wednesdays. Deadline for news and advertising is the Friday before the desired week of publication.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

Subscription rates to *The Country Courier* are \$35 a year in Broome County, \$100 outside Broome County and papers are mailed every Thursday from Conklin.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

The Country Courier welcomes letters to the editor. All letters must be signed and include the phone number of the writer, to be used for verification of authenticity, not for publication. The editor reserves the right to refuse to publish letters which contain potentially libelous or erroneous statements. Also, letters endorsing political candidates are considered advertisements and should be prepaid as is all political advertising. No letters to the editor regarding political candidates will be accepted.



Lap Swim

Open Swim at SV
Just because it's getting colder doesn't mean you have to stop swimming! Come to our beautiful, heated pool at Susquehanna Valley for Lap Swim and Open Swim sessions every Monday! Lap Swim is 6:30-7:00 p.m., followed by Open Swim from 7:00-8:00 p.m. every Monday Night.

Broome County Landfill's 2024 Electronics & Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Dates

Broome County Landfill accepts hazardous waste (household and auto batteries, propane tanks, fluorescent bulbs, driveway sealers, paints, solvents, stains, cleaners, pesticides, pool & photography chemicals) Old electronics (computers, printers, stereos, TVs, copiers, fax machines, mobile phones, etc.) You can drop these off, **FREE OF CHARGE**, at the landfill on the following days from 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 April 3, 6, & 20th

KIWANIS FOOD VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Once a month, couple hours to help free food distribution at the Community Center. Third Monday of month, volunteers NEEDED to help, or the Town is in danger of losing this program. Contact Mr. Krasowsky, millertoncard@aol.

The Susquehanna Valley Spirit Shop is now open!

Hey Sabers Fans - there's a great place to go to stock up on Sabers gear! It's the Susquehanna Valley Spirit Shop. Access at SVSABERS.org



Is there a **FIRE** in you?



Become a volunteer firefighter today.

Find volunteer firefighter opportunities with fire departments in Broome County, New York. Just reach out, or stop into a local fire department and a recruitment team member will be in touch.

BECOME AN EVERYDAY HERO

Conklin Cemetery Shawsville Cemetery SPRING CLEANUP

PLEASE REMOVE ALL WINTER WREATHS AND WINTER DECORATIONS FROM CEMETERY GRAVES BY APRIL 1, 2024

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Conklin PA: Bircardville • Lenox
Montrose • New Milford • O'Dell • Wysox

Rock Products — Sand & Gravel

New York State DOT & PennDOT Approved Materials

CRUSHED STONE: NY- #1a, #1, #2, #3, Crusher Run, Screenings, Landscape Red Rock. PA- AASHTO #8, #57, #1, #3, #2A Modified. **RIP RAP / LANDSCAPE BOULDERS:** NY- Fine, Light, Med., Heavy Stone Fill, Stackable Laid Rock. PA- R-3, R-4, R-5, R-6, R-7, R-8. **SCREENED:** Topsoil, Sand, Mound Sand, Washed Crushed Gravel

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KIRKWOOD BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE PRESENTS

YOUR COMMUNITY CLEANUP DAY

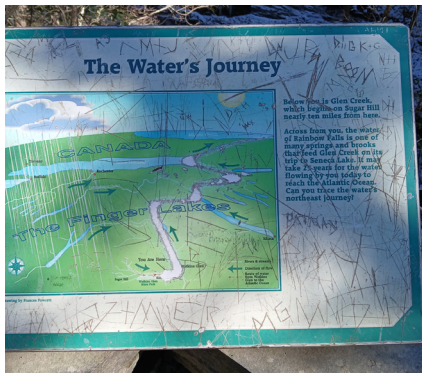
SATURDAY, APRIL 20 | ALL DAY

Calling all residents to come out and help clean trash from the streets of our neighborhoods.

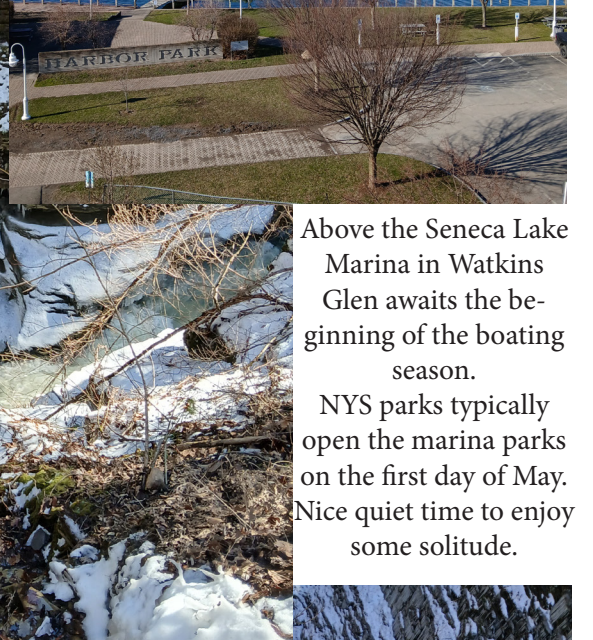


TRASH BAGS CAN BE PICKED UP FRIDAY, APRIL 19 FROM 9-3 PM AT THE TOWN GARAGE AND SATURDAY, APRIL 20 FROM 9:30 -10 AM AT THE TOWN HALL. A DUMPSTER WILL BE PROVIDED AT TOWN GARAGE TO DISPOSE OF GARBAGE

WATKINS GLEN STATE PARK THAWS



WATKINS GLEN STATE PARK THAWS



Watkins Glen State Park is a wonderful hiking destination though the trail options offer many more miles to venture during the later spring and summer seasons. Even now there are miles of trails to venture and to observe the wonderful offering that resides so close to our area.

Above the Seneca Lake Marina in Watkins Glen awaits the beginning of the boating season.

NYS parks typically open the marina parks on the first day of May. Nice quiet time to enjoy some solitude.



The park offers an opportunity for families to explore and discover the outdoors and understand the unique geologic formations that are such an interesting part of New York State. Whether just passing by and stopping for a short walk, or deciding to spend the day and shop in the park gift shop, the park is a natural resource in every sense.



CONKLIN TOWN WORK SESSION MARCH 12, 2024

EDITED MINUTES

SENSUS RADIO READER BOXES/ARPA FUNDS Mr. Dumian stated that the Town is still waiting for the 147 Sensus Radio Reader Boxes that were previously ordered, adding that ARPA funds will be used to pay for the readers. The Town needs to order an additional 150 readers. He added that the old meters need two different readers.

NEW WATER METER INSTALLS & BILLING Town Attorney Mark Spinner researched options for dealing with property owners whose water meters do not function properly and so are paying much less than they should for their water bills, but who refuse to let Town personnel into their properties to change the water meters and install new ones. Mr. Spinner stated that the Town has three options: 1) Pursue a State Supreme Court action to force the owners to let Town employees in to change the meter; 2) Shut off water service to the property; and 3) pass a local law assessing a fee on each quarterly water bill for those not in compliance. He added that option 3, which Mr. Dumian favors, would be an addition to the Town Code. Mr. Spinner noted that all three options have requirements to provide notice to the property owners. He added that the Town Board would be able to update the fee by Board resolution. Mr. Boyle stated that he prefers option 2, shutting off water service to the property, adding that it "is not fair to the people who do pay their bills." Mr. Farley stated that "a fee would get their attention." Mr. Spinner stated that the shut off option, already part of the Town Code, would remain as part of the Code, and suggested a fee of three times the average amount. He distributed a draft local law to the Board, which will be discussed at the March 26 meeting.

SPRING CLEANUP Mr. Dumian stated that Highway Superintendent Jeff Hayes, Code Officer Nick Pappas, and Parks/Water/Sewer Team Leader David Kilmer will coordinate drop off dates for the spring cleanup. The dates are due to Broome County by March 31. Mr. Dumian stated, "We will try it and see how it goes."

NEW PAVING PROCESS Chris Martinichio of Suit-Kote discussed a new paving method for potential use at Schnurbusch Park and at the Community Center parking lot. He stated that it is a fog seal single surface treatment that is applied right after the hot mix. Mr. Martinichio explained that it protects the Town's investment in paving, much like sealing a driveway, and is done by locking the aggregate into the emulsion. Mr. Dumian asked about the smoothness of the surface and Mr. Martinichio stated that it was as smooth as blacktop when finished. He added that Schnurbusch Park would need to be closed overnight if the process is performed on the park roads, as the surface takes two days to set. Mr. Martinichio stated that this process would add five to eight years to the longevity of the paving, adding that the paving season begins in April.

EDITED MINUTES-CONKLIN REGULAR TOWN

BOARD MEETING MARCH 12, 2024

PRESENT: Town Board Members Finch, Boyle, Farley, Francisco, Dumian Town Counsel Mark Spinner Town Clerk Sherrie L. Jacobs Secretary to the Supervisor Teresa Bamber Code Officer Nick Pappas Administrative Assistant Mary Plonski Highway Superintendent Jeff Hayes Parks/Water/Sewer Team Leader David Kilmer Planning Board Sandra Beam Zoning Board of Appeals William Brodsky

GUESTS: NY Citizens Audit Linda Burghardt Laurie Francisco Derek Birtch Dan Depue
PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE INPUT REGARDING PROPOSED LOCAL LAW 1, 2024 "A LOCAL LAW AFFECTING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM WITHIN THE TOWN OF CONKLIN ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OF SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS"

Notice of Public Hearing having been duly advertised, Mr. Dumian declared the Public Hearing open at 6:31 P.M. and asked those present to speak either for, or in opposition to, proposed Local Law 1, 2024, "A Local Law Affecting a Temporary Moratorium Within the Town of Conklin on the Development and Construction of Solar Energy Systems." Mr. Dumian explained that the moratorium is to give the Town Board time to craft a local law governing the development and construction of solar energy systems within the Town, as currently no such law exists. Dan Depue asked what the time frame of the moratorium will be and Mr. Dumian stated that the plan is for it to run for 90 days. There being no further questions or public comments, Mr. Dumian closed the Public Hearing at 6:34 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: CONKLIN FORKS PARK Mr. William Brodsky asked why the gates are locked at Conklin Forks Park and Mr. Dumian replied that all of the Town parks are currently closed.

WATER METER BILLING ISSUE Mr. Brodsky stated that the Town could address the issue of dysfunctional water meters by changing the formula to estimate the bill, rather than changing the Code or adding a surcharge. Mr. Spinner stated that a local law would provide the Board with the opportunity to set a surcharge, adding that without the local law, a property owner could say that the surcharge is arbitrary. Mr. Dumian asked Mr. Spinner to research why the Town uses its current process for estimating water bills. Administrative Assistant Mary Plonski stated that this is probably the way the Edmunds software has it set up. Mr. Kilmer asked how long the Town will let the bills be estimated and Mr. Dumian replied one to two quarters. Mr. Kilmer stated that there are many ramifications with waiting too long to remediate the problem, citing various government agencies that require an accounting for the amount of water used. Mr. Dumian replied, "It's been a long-term Band-Aid." Mr. Boyle reiterated that the Town should give the property owner a 24-hour notice, then shut off the water if the property owner will not comply. Mr. Dumian is strongly opposed to this option. Planning Board member Sandra Beam asked how many meters are dysfunctional, and Mr. Kilmer replied, "Sixty - down from 140." She asked if that is a big improvement and Mr. Dumian replied that it is a "significant improvement."

NY CITIZENS AUDIT Linda Burghardt of NY Citizens Audit did a follow up to an earlier visit from the group. She presented a summary of a Maryland court case involving inaccurate voter rolls. Her group presented an updated resolution asking for a "legally valid 2024 Election. She discussed irregularities in the voter registration for the 2022 Election in New York State, stating that there were "more votes counted than voters who voted." She stated, "The voter database is flawed."

DEVELOPMENT AT 949 CONKLIN ROAD David Birtch, owner of Birtchy's Joint, stated that he owns a parcel of land at 949 Conklin Road, in the vicinity of River Boulevard and Lawrence Avenue. It is currently zoned Residential and Mr. Birtch would like it to be rezoned Commercial, with the hope of building a restaurant in that area. The property is surrounded by FEMA properties, which can never be used for building. Mr. Dumian replied that the Town cannot spot zone, and there is no Commercial property touching Mr. Birtch's property. He added that Mr. Birtch can apply for a variance to the Zoning Board of Appeals, but would have to meet that Board's four criteria. Mr. Birtch asked if he could lease the FEMA property for parking purposes, and Mr. Dumian replied that FEMA properties can only be leased to mow and maintain. He told Mr. Birtch that an elevation study would be required, and the compensatory storage requirements would need to be met. Mr. Dumian noted that the property is in the floodway of the river and asked what is allowed in that area. Ms. Plonski, who works in the Code Office, stated that building in the floodway is not allowed. Mr. Dumian and Code Officer Nick Pappas will look at the situation and get back to Mr. Birtch.

CORRESPONDENCE: JOIN WATER DISTRICT Mr. Dumian stated that a resident wishes to be added to the Town water system but theirs is the only house on a road not owned by the Town, so the project would be too expensive.

REPORT: HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT Highway Superintendent Jeff Hayes stated that his crew has been taking advantage of the nicer weather to work on shoulders of roads, broom the roads, and fill potholes with cold patch. He stated that the garbage along roadways has been picked up in about half of the Town. Mr. Hayes stated that the new truck for his department has been ordered. He stated that he has been looking at the same sealing process that was described earlier by Mr. Martinichio of Suit-Kote.

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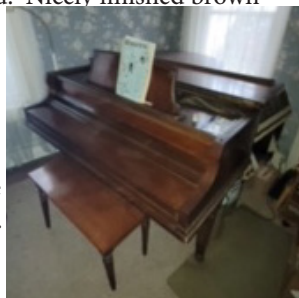


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REPORT: CODE OFFICER Mr. Dumian asked Mr. Pappas about the status of the property at 1298 Conklin Road. A history of the property, which has multiple Code violations, was given dating from 2016, when the first letter was sent from the Town, receiving no response, to the current date. Mr. Dumian stated that the Town Justice is researching possible legal repercussions for non-compliance with the Town Code. Mr. Pappas stated that there is no electrical or water service on the property, but added that he cannot placard the building because the owner stays there at night. Mr. Dumian stated he will call an Executive Session to seek legal advice on the matter. Mr. Dumian asked about the multi-family structure on Conklin Road that has a habitual issue of throwing garbage in the brush near the building. Mr. Pappas will check on this situation. Mr. Pappas stated that he has completed two more fire inspections. He will work with Mr. Hayes and Mr. Kilmer to set dates for the Spring Cleanup.

REPORT: PARKS/WATER/SEWER DEPARTMENT Mr. Kilmer stated that the old generator will be listed on Auctions International March 13. He stated that the work at the Carlin Road sewer station has been completed, and two water main breaks were repaired. Mr. Kilmer stated that the old wellhouse near Johnson Outdoor was removed, adding that the scrap metal has been collected into a pile and needs to be removed. He stated that the fence is still up until the metal is removed. Mr. Kilmer stated that his department is preparing the baseball field at Schnurbusch Park for the school teams to use, since a new field is being installed at Susquehanna Valley and their field is therefore not useable. He stated that the new park equipment at Schnurbusch Park was installed. Mr. Kilmer stated that he is working on well abandonment paperwork for Conklin Forks Park, adding that repairs are being made to the pavilion at that park. He stated that the new trailer and decked system have been delivered, adding that a new truck will be purchased in 2025. Mr. Kilmer stated that he has a possible solution for the problem of standing water at Schnurbusch Park. Mr. Dumian stated that parking is needed closer to the field. It was suggested that a parking lot be added using crusher run stone with barriers. Mr. Hayes stated the Town could also use millings and use the paver to finish the surface, adding that this project should be done before Suit-Kote does the surface treatment of the park roads. Four security cameras were purchased for the Community Center, holding one terabyte of storage, at a cost of approximately \$150.

REPORT: SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE The Supervisor's Report is on file in the office of the Town Clerk.

OLD BUSINESS: NEW DCO VEHICLE DELIVERED Mr. Dumian stated that the new vehicle for the Dog Control Officer has been delivered and the old vehicle is listed on Auctions International, along with the Kenworth truck from the Highway Department.

POSSIBLE RE-LOCATION/MEALS ON WHEELS Mr. Dumian stated that the Broome County Meals on Wheels program may move from the Community Center to the Town Hall, if the County approves the change. Sandra L'Ainhart, director of the program at the Community Center, approves of the move.

NEW BUSINESS: NEW WATER METERS FOR BUSINESSES Mr. Kilmer stated that he is waiting to address new water meters for businesses until after the needed new meters in residences are all installed. He added that the cost of the new meter will be the responsibility of the business.

GRANTS/PAVING/SCHNURBUSCH PARK & COMMUNITY CENTER Mr. Dumian stated that there are grants available from Broome County utilizing the hotel/

motel tax that might be appropriate for paving the Community Center parking lot and the roads in Schnurbusch Park. Mr. Dumian asked if the Town can get reimbursed through the grants after the work is completed. Mr. Spinner will look at the language of the grant.

GRANT/KIRKWOOD-CONKLIN WATER LINE CONNECTION Mr. Dumian stated that our Broome County Legislator had provided information regarding a possible grant for the Conklin-Kirkwood water line connection. Town Engineer John Mastronardi and Mr. Kilmer will meet to discuss some concerns Mr. Kilmer has about the water line connection.

INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT/BROOME-TIOGA STORMWATER COALITION Mr. Dumian stated that Mr. Mastronardi is the Town's representative to the Broome-Tioga Stormwater Coalition, as the MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems) system crosses boundaries. The Coalition is addressing the federal Phase II. There would be an annual fee of \$4500, which would not be charged to the Town if it was not included in the 2024 Budget. The Town can opt out with 60 days' notice. Mr. Boyle stated that there are "changes coming to Code regarding drainage to the river." Mr. Dumian suggested that Mr. Mastronardi come to either the March 26 or April 9 meeting to discuss this further, adding that he thinks it is important to "keep a seat at the table."

RESO 2024-51: AUTHORIZE PURCHASE/150 SENSUS RADIO READER BOXES Mr. Boyle moved for the following resolution: Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin authorizes the purchase of 150 Sensus Radio Reader Boxes from Core & Main, utilizing ARPA funds, for an amount not to exceed \$28,000.00. Motion passed unanimously.

RESO 2024-52: RATIFY PAYMENT/J & J TRAILER AND AUTO, LLC/2024 HOMESTEADER TRAILER 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 \$8,009.00 to J & J Trailer and Auto, LLC, for purchase of a 2024 Homesteader Trailer. Seconded by Mr. Farley. VOTE: Finch – Yes, Boyle – Yes, Farley – Yes, Francisco – Yes, Dumian – Yes. Motion passed unanimously.

RESO 2024-53: RATIFY PAYMENT/RICOH USA, INC./ RENTAL/TOWN CLERK COPIER/03-14-2024 – 04-13-2024 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 \$67.91 to RICOH USA, Inc., for rental of Town Clerk copier for the period of March 14 through April 13, 2024. Motion passed unanimously.

RESO 2024-54: AUTHORIZE PAYMENT/CLAIMS #24-00182 - #24-00233/\$105,752.13 Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution: Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin authorizes payment of the following Claims #24-00182 through #24-00233, which have been audited and approved for payment, in the total amount of \$105,752.13: General \$ 23,005.01 Highway 40,129.05 Light Districts 1,883.06 Sewer District 6,095.42 Water District 32,124.64 Water District #6 487.95 Non-Budgeted 2,027.00 Total \$105,752.13 Motion passed unanimously.

RESO 2024-55: AMEND RESO 2024-33/RATIFY PURCHASE & INSTALLATION/HYDRANT/629 CONKLIN ROAD Mr. Farley moved for the following resolution: Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin amends RESO 2024-33 ratifying the purchase and installation of a hydrant from Core & Main to be installed at 629 Conklin Road for a cost of \$8,945.00. The original resolution approved an amount not to exceed \$7,300.00. Motion passed unanimously.

RESO 2024-56: APPROVE LOCAL LAW 1, 2024/ "A

LOCAL LAW AFFECTING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM WITH IN THE TOWN OF CONKLIN ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OF SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS" At a regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Conklin, held at Conklin Town Hall, 1271 Conklin Road, Conklin, New York on the 12th day of March, 2024, the following resolution was offered by Mr. Farley and seconded by Mr. Francisco: WHEREAS, the Town Board scheduled a public hearing for March 12, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. for Local Law No. 1 of the Year 2024 entitled "A LOCAL LAW AFFECTING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM WITHIN THE TOWN OF CONKLIN ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OF SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS"; and WHEREAS, notice of said public hearing was duly advertised in the official newspaper of the Town and posted on the Town Clerk's signboard; and WHEREAS, said public hearing was duly held on the 12th day of March, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. and all parties in attendance were permitted an opportunity to speak on behalf of or in opposition to said proposed Local Law, or any part thereof; and WHEREAS, pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act, it has been determined by the Town Board that adoption of the proposed Local Law constitutes a Type II action as defined under 6 NYCRR 617.5(33) and (36); and WHEREAS, the Town Board, after due deliberation, finds it in the best interest of the Town to adopt said Local Law. NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin hereby adopts said Local Law as Law No. 1 of the Year 2024 entitled "A LOCAL LAW AFFECTING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM WITHIN THE TOWN OF CONKLIN ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OF SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS", a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof; and further RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be and hereby is directed to enter said Local Law in the minutes of this meeting and give due notice of the adoption of said Local Law to the Secretary of State; and further RESOLVED that this resolution will take effect immediately upon filing with the Department of State. CERTIFICATION I, Sherrie L. Jacobs, duly adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Conklin on March 12, 2024.

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

PARKING LOT BEHIND TOWN HALL Mr. Boyle suggested that the Highway Department use the soil removed from Schnurbusch Park to expand the parking lot behind the Town Hall. **YOUTH SPORTS** Mr. Farley reported that the Town sent 12 wrestlers to the New York State Tournament, and they brought home 4 2nd place wins and 1 3rd place win. He stated that the Girls 12 and Under Basketball team is playing in the State Tournament. Mr. Farley will contact Youth Commissioner Justin Parker about the batting cages.

TRANSFER OF CEMETERY DEEDS Mr. Francisco stated that, according to Joseph Mihalko, Broome County Clerk, cemetery deeds that are transferred from one party to another are not filed with Broome County, nor are newly purchased plot deeds.

RESO 2024-57: EXECUTIVE SESSION/LEGAL COUNSEL Mr. Farley moved to close the Regular Town Board Meeting and move into Executive Session at 8:07 P.M. for legal advice. Motion passed unanimously.

RESO 2024-58: RE-OPEN REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING at 9:15 P.M. There being no further business Mr. Dumian moved for adjournment, at 9:15 P.M. Respectfully submitted, Sherrie L. Jacobs, Town Clerk

Military pay overhaul could mean huge pay boosts for enlisted troops

The most junior servicemembers would see their pay raised from \$23,000 annually to more than \$31,000.

By Leo Shane III

Comments came following lawmakers' presentations for military quality of life improvements during a hearing this week.

Among the speakers was Rep. Mike Garcia, R-Calif., who has been lobbying fellow members of the House Appropriations Committee since last summer to enact a major overhaul of the military's pay tables which would boost some younger enlisted troops' pay by 35%. "Right now, it's not until troops are promoted basically two or three times and serve at least four years that they get the same salary as a fast-food worker making \$15 an hour," he told panel members. "We've got to raise that." Garcia's proposal — which could still be approved as part of the fiscal 2024 defense appropriations bill pending in the House — would guarantee that even the lowest-ranking service members would make at least \$31,000 annually in base pay. In addition, an E-3 with three years service would see his or her annual salary jump from just under \$31,000 to more than \$35,000 under the plan. An E-4 with six years in service would see annual pay go from about \$36,500 to \$38,500. Garcia's plan would not change other financial compen-

sation that military personnel are eligible for, including housing stipends, free health care coverage and food allowances. White House and Pentagon officials have already voiced concerns about the costs and impact of a military pay table rewrite, however. They have pushed for delaying any such moves until a military review of servicemember compensation is completed early next year.

But neither Garcia nor Bacon said they plan to wait that long. If the junior enlisted boost is not included in a final fiscal 2024 budget plan (which is now five months overdue), Bacon vowed to include some parts of the plan in the upcoming fiscal 2025 defense authorization bill debate.



VETERANS CORNER



retention efforts.

But Honea said he is not sure if historic models for salary comparisons fully reflect the demands of military service. He suggested that future models focus more on jobs like first responders, who can receive higher pay for more dangerous work.

Rep. John Rutherford, R-Fla., expressed similar concerns and backed Honea's remarks.

"As a former Navy dependent and enlisted man, I can tell you I've heard all these discussions at the kitchen table," he said. "So, I'm glad to hear that you are concerned about what to do with this."

Whether those concerns will translate into concrete changes for troops remains unclear. Rep. Don Bacon, R-Neb., and head of a special congressional panel on military quality of life issues, said that defense budget limits adopted by Congress last summer could limit planned reforms for military pay.

The White House has proposed a 4.5% pay raise for all troops in 2025 as part of their federal budget request for next year.

Key House lawmakers renewed their promise to dramatically boost junior enlisted pay in the near future but warned that other budget limits may complicate hopes for a quick fix.

Those include other priorities like restoring full military housing stipends to all troops and boosting child care options across the services. Rep. Don Bacon, R-Neb. and chairman of the House Armed Services Committee's special quality of life panel, said getting all of that work done may require a multi-year plan. "We've got to look at our top lines for next year, build out a plan and get it done as fast as we can," he told Military Times. "If we

Both House and Senate lawmakers want to pass targeted pay raises for junior enlisted troops, but budget caps may complicate those plans.

By Leo Shane III

Members of the appropriations committee have already proposed targeted pay raises for junior enlisted troops in coming years as a way to combat low basic pay and food insecurity for some of the youngest military members and families.

Under current military pay tables, the newest enlisted troops can earn as little as \$23,000 in annual base pay, not including housing allowances and free medical coverage. House plans could raise all service member base pay to \$31,000 annually, and are expected to be included in lawmakers' annual defense authorization bill proposals later this spring.

Senate lawmakers have voiced support for the idea, but the White House has opposed any dramatic pay table overhauls until after the Defense Department completes its quadrennial military compensation review sometime next year.

Senior enlisted officials from each of the services told lawmakers that pay issues remain key for recruiting and

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