



# The Country Courier

Your Hometown News for Over 49 Years



Vol. 49, No. 38    NEWSTAND PRICE \$1.00    Friday, April 19, 2024    SUBSCRIBE at [www.TiersNews.com](http://www.TiersNews.com)

## 1298 CONKLIN ROAD COURT HEARING POSTPONED

As shown in the photos below the Conklin Code Officer has raised concerns. The property according to Broome County Tax records belongs to Nathan Cross of Friendsville PA. According to records the property was purchased in March of 2009 for \$18,000 and is currently reported to have a market value of \$64,220. Last week during the Conklin Town Board Work Session Conklin Code Officer Dumian stated that the Court hearing regarding the property located at 1298 Conklin Road has been postponed, as the property owner has recently acquired an attorney to represent him. Newspaper Publishers attempted to contact Mr. Cross in Friendsville but was unable to make contact with Mr. Cross.



## LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS MURDERED IN SYRACUSE AMBUSH



Lt. Michael Hoosick



Off. Michael Jensen

Hoosock and Syracuse Police Officer Michael Jensen were murdered in Salina Sunday night, officials said, during a gun battle. Christopher R. Murphy, 33, was killed by police. Hoosock, 37, of Clay, has a wife and three children. He was a 16-year veteran who was decorated by Onondaga County Sheriff's Office and a volunteer firefighter, Battalion chief with Moyers Corners FD.

At a press briefing officials described Jensen as an ambitious young officer with an "infectiously charming" personality who lived in and worked hard to protect his beloved community, the city of Syracuse. Jensen joined the Syracuse Police force in 2022 and served there for a little over two years. He earned the Officer of the Month award in December 2023.

Jensen, 29, was a Rome area native, locals honored him Tuesday as his body was returned to his hometown.

"These officers were our brothers in blue and will forever be remembered for giving the ultimate sacrifice," said Rome Mayor Jeffrey M. Lanigan in a statement.



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Announcement  
Section

Obituaries

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





# Calendar

## Kirkwood

### Town Board Meeting

April 30, 2024 - Work Session - 6 PM

### Planning Board Meeting

### Zoning Board Meeting

### KIRKWOOD TOWN COURT HOURS

Monday – Friday 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM

## Town of Binghamton

May 7, 2024 – Work Session 4:00 P.M.

May 21, 2024 – Town Board Meeting 6:00 P.M

TOB Coleman Rd.

Community Ctr. IS CLOSED.

## Town of Conklin

### Regular Town Board Meeting

April 23rd 7 pm Town Hall

### Planning Board

May 20th 7 pm

### 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** louie.  
augostini@broomecountyny.gov

**Matthew Hilderbrant**  
matt.hilderbrant@broome-  
countyny.gov

**Kim Myers** kim.myers@  
broomecountyny.gov

**Mark Whalen** mark.wha-  
len@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

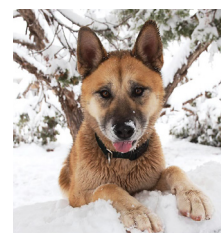
EMAIL TO: News@TiersNews.com

**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 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



# The Country Courier

An Independent Weekly Newspaper

*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 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



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Take Out & Catering Available

KIRKWOOD BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE PRESENTS

## YOUR COMMUNITY CLEANUP DAY

SATURDAY, APRIL 20 | ALL DAY

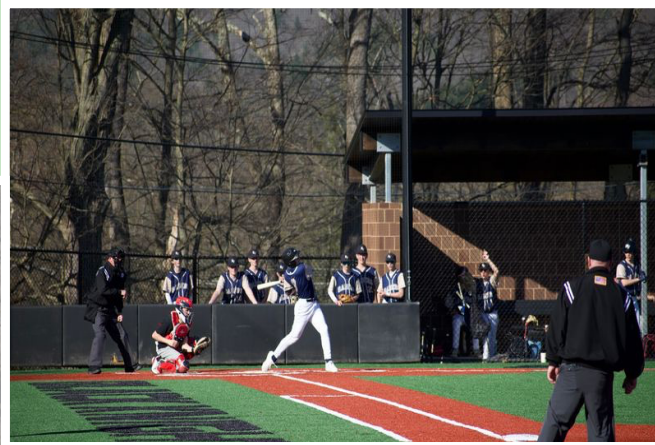
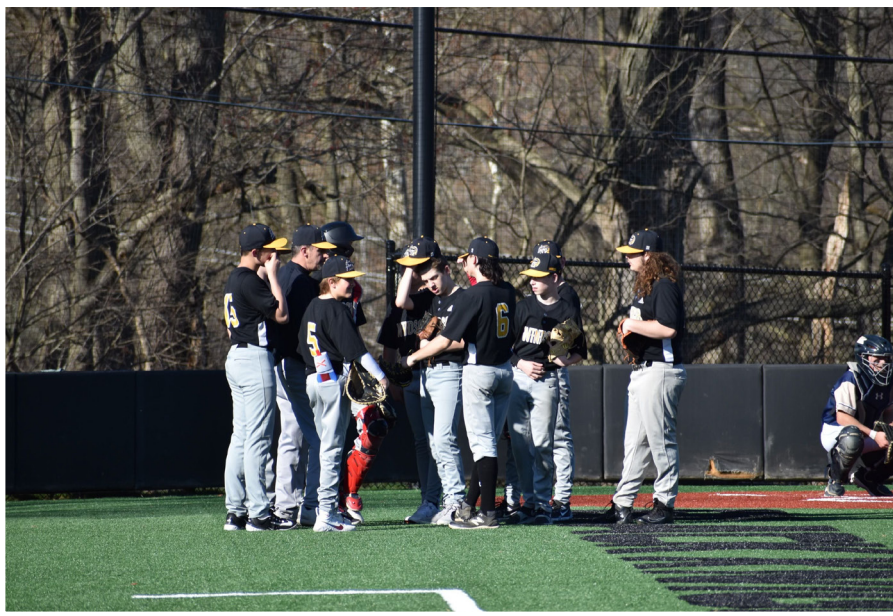
Calling all residents to come out and help clean trash from the streets of our neighborhoods.



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

# Baseball Windsor Vs. SV

Photos by Chandelle Loren



**SAVAGE**  
D E M A R C O



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**ATON SEPTIC & DRAINAGE**

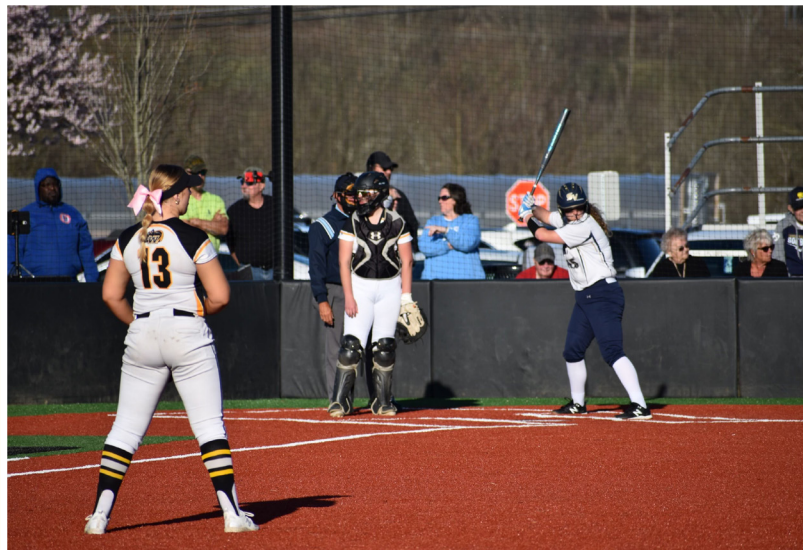
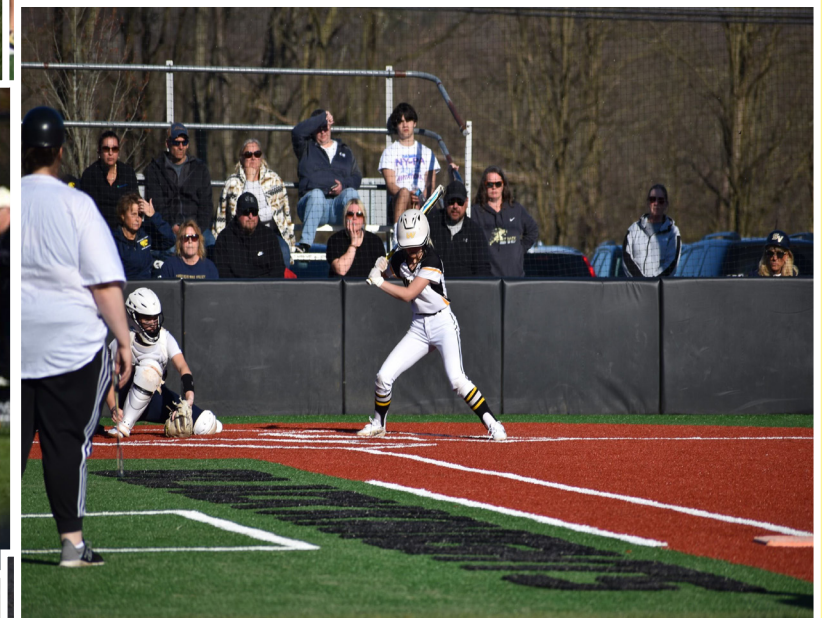
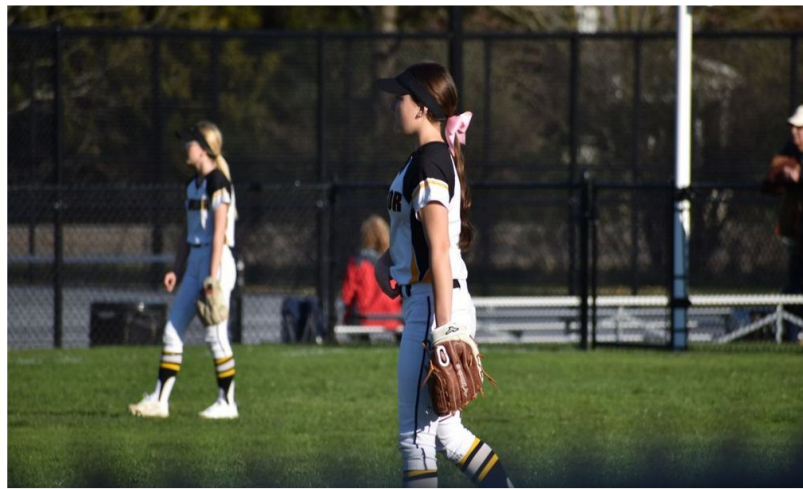
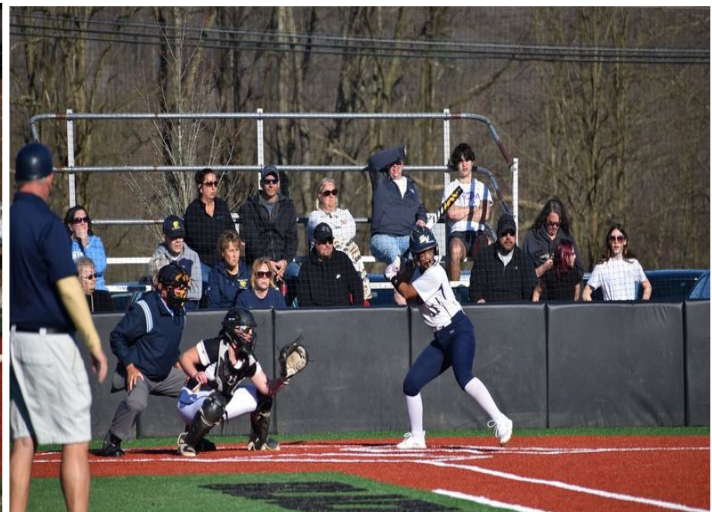
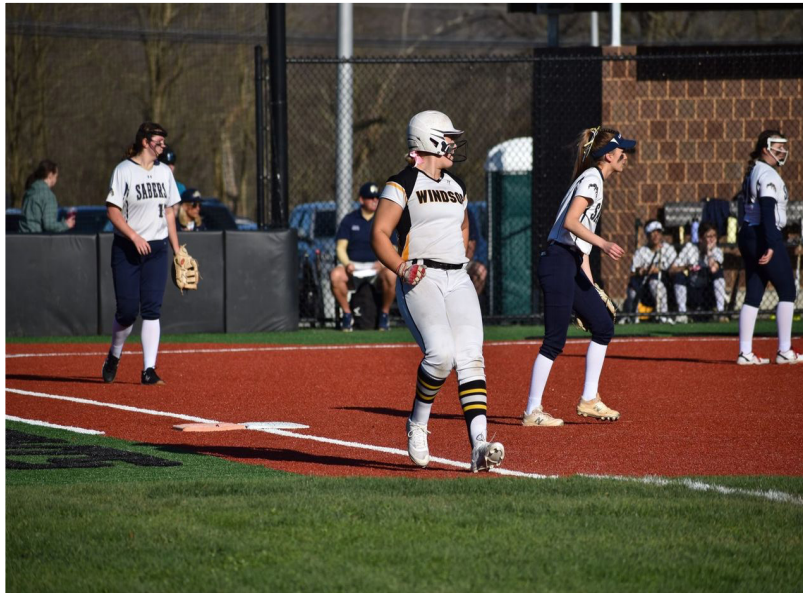
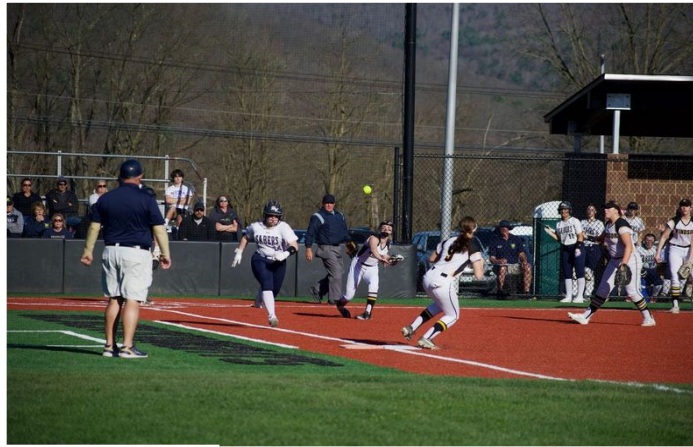
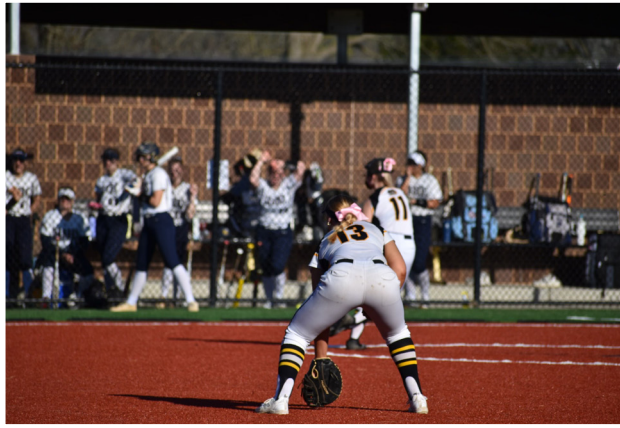
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Water and Sewer Lines

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607-343-6349    607-725-6028

**Ron Aton Construction**



*Softball Windsor Vs. SV*  
*Photos by Chandelle Loren*



# MINUTES TOWN OF CONKLIN BOARD

## WORK SESSION April 9, 2024

WORK SESSION APRIL 9, 2024 The Town Board of the Town of Conklin held a Work Session at 6:00 P.M. on April 9, 2024, at the Conklin Town Hall. Mr. Dumian, Supervisor, presided. PRESENT: Town Board Members Boyle, Farley, Francisco, Dumian Finch (Excused) Town Counsel Mark Spinner Town Clerk Sherrie L. Jacobs Town Engineer John Mastronardi Secretary to the Supervisor Teresa Bamber Administrative Assistant Mary Plonski Planning Board Sandra Beam Zoning Board of Appeals Elizabeth Einstein Zoning Board of Appeals William Brodsky GUESTS: ST8 Ashley Seyfried Abundant Solar Matt McGregor Laurie Francisco

**STORMWATER COALITION** Town Engineer John Mastronardi, the Town's representative to the Broome-Tioga Stormwater Coalition, and Ashley Seyfried of ST8, which supports the Coalition, came to the meeting to discuss the newest requirements from the state and federal governments and the Coalition's role in meeting those requirements. Mr. Dumian commented that the fee to belong to the Coalition has increased and asked what the benefits are to the Town in belonging to the Coalition. Mr. Mastronardi explained that the MS4 (Municipal Sanitary Sewer Stormwater System) plan is required. He added that the State currently has six goals, the first two of which are outreach to the public and public participation, noting that these are minimum control goals. Mr. Mastronardi stated that a new permit went into effect on January 3, 2024, which has new regulations and requires more stringent mapping. One of the requirements is the mapping of outfalls, the end of culverts or pipes. He stated that outfalls must also be inspected, adding that the Town of Conklin has at least 12. Mapping must include the size of the pipe, where stormwater is collected, etc., and the Coalition will help with the mapping. Mr. Mastronardi stated that the DEC wants the whole boundary of the Town and all the watershed and stormwater systems mapped, adding that the goal is to control and reduce pollutants and contamination. With the mapping, if pollutants are present, it would be easier to determine the source of the contamination. The Town must identify any illicit pollutants, stated Mr. Mastronardi, adding that local laws require the Town to meet MS4 requirements. He added that the Town has been audited by the DEC (State) but not by the EPA (federal), as of yet, but he is aware of two towns in Broome County that were audited by the

EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) and were fined heavily for being out of compliance. Ashley Seyfried of ST8 stated that the increase in dues from \$2,200 to \$3,000 will maintain the current system and implement new mapping software. She added that the Town has five years to meet the mapping requirements, and if it is not a member of the Coalition, then it is responsible on its own to meet the DEC requirements. Mr. Dumian asked who would be doing testing and Mr. Mastronardi replied that the Coalition would take care of testing, adding that it will test 25% of the outfalls each year. Mr. Mastronardi and Code Officer Nick Pappas will do the inspections. Ms. Seyfried stated that the Coalition will pursue grants from the DEC, adding that the Coalition is more favorable to receive these grants than a single municipality. Mr. Francisco asked about retention of historical documentation and Mr. Mastronardi stated that the information for the audit resets annually, and the DEC will be adding the requirement of a semi-annual report. Mr. Dumian stated that the Board will discuss this further at the April 23 meeting.

### REPAIRS/SOFTBALL DUGOUTS

Mr. Dumian stated that the Town received an estimate of \$9,400.00 from K.B. Materials to repair the softball dugouts, which he stated he thought is too high. He will reach out to an independent contractor in the area to obtain a second estimate.

**SOLAR MORATORIUM** Mr. Dumian stated that the Town is working on the new law for development of solar facilities. Town Attorney Mark Spinner explained that the law will cover the entire process. He stated that the Board has the first working draft of the law, adding that he has a second draft to distribute to them this evening. Mr. Spinner stated that the new draft provides a few more details, adding that the proposed law is "90% done." The Board is asked to email Mr. Spinner with any comments or questions by April 16 at the latest. The Board will discuss this further at the April 23 meeting.



# MINUTES TOWN OF CONKLIN BOARD

## MEETING APRIL 9, 2024

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING APRIL 9, 2024 The Town Board of the Town of Conklin held a Regular Town Board Meeting at 6:30 P.M. on April 9, 2024, at the Conklin Town Hall. Mr. Dumian, Supervisor, presided. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. PRESENT: Town Board Members Boyle, Farley, Francisco, Dumian Finch (Excused) Town Counsel Mark Spinner Town Clerk Sherrie L. Jacobs Secretary to the Supervisor Teresa Bamber Administrative Assistant Mary Plonski Planning Board Sandra Beam Zoning Board of Appeals Elizabeth Einstein Zoning Board of Appeals William Brodsky GUESTS: Abundant Solar Matt McGregor Laurie Francisco MINUTES: MARCH 26, 2024 REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING Mr. Francisco moved to approve the March 26, 2024 Regular Town Board Meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Mr. Farley. VOTE: Boyle – Yes, Farley – Yes, Francisco – Yes, Dumian – Yes. Motion passed unanimously. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

CORRESPONDENCE: COMPLAINTS/BRIDGE ON ROUTE 7 Mr. Dumian stated that he continues to receive complaints regarding the roughness of the road on the bridge on Route 7. New York State DOT has promised to look at this situation, but to date no changes have occurred.

REPORT: HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT Highway Superintendent Jeff Hayes sent a written report stating that his crew has been working on several projects, including painting and storing the plows for summer, ditch work, cutting and cleaning up dead trees, picking up trash on the roadsides, and cold patching the roads.

REPORT: CODE OFFICER Mr. Dumian stated that the Court hearing regarding the property located at 1298 Conklin Road has been postponed, as the property owner has recently acquired an attorney to represent him. Mr. Dumian stated that Municipal Cleanup Days will be held May 17 and 18, 2024.

REPORT: PARKS/WATER/SEWER DEPARTMENT Parks/Water/Sewer Team Leader David Kilmer provided a written report detailing the projects he and his department have been working on. These include installing a parking area in front of the Little League fields; cleaning, painting, and repairs to the Little League concession stand; preparing ball fields for upcoming season; report of vandalism at Schnurbusch Park and need for more cameras; repairs to ceiling heater at JR Park; installation of cameras at Community Center; 35 markouts done for the gas company; installation of meters and radios; continuation of SCADA project; backup generator on Carlin Road sewer station installed; and all truck maintenance done in preparation for summer. Mr. Dumian stated that the Town has \$75,000.00 in ARPA funds that must be allocated by December 31, 2024, and spent by December 31, 2026. He stated that the Board will make plans in June and July as how best to utilize these funds. REPORT: SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE The Supervisor's Report is on file in the office of the Town Clerk.

# CONTINUED MINUTES TOWN OF CONKLIN BOARD MEETING APRIL 9, 2024

## OLD BUSINESS:

**NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS** Mr. Dumian stated that he is especially concerned with the issue of Neighborhood Commercial Transportation Systems in the area of Conklin between the railroad tracks and the Susquehanna River, adding that there is commercial property available in the Town of Conklin if people want to pursue having a business here. He stated that the law is currently open to interpretation, so he believes the Board needs to define the terms more clearly. Mr. Dumian stated that one consideration for the transportation systems would be the size of the vehicles being used.

**BUILDING/CODE LAWS WITHIN FLOOD PLAIN** Mr. Dumian stated that the Compensatory Storage Law should be the first item in Section 76, adding that the entire section could be clarified and simplified. He will meet with Administrative Assistant Mary Plonski, Mr. Pappas, and Mr. Spinner at 9 AM on April 12 to discuss proposed changes. Mr. Dumian asked the other Board members to get their comments to Ms. Plonski before the meeting, adding that the Neighborhood Commercial Transportation Systems issue will also be discussed at this meeting. Mr. Dumian reiterated that the Board's "homework" included submitting comments regarding the solar law, the Neighborhood Commercial Transportation Systems issue, and the Section 76 Flood Plain Code discussion.

## NEW BUSINESS:

**RESO 2024-69: AUTHORIZE PURCHASE/AKUVOX DOOR INTERCOM & INSTALLATION/MYERS SECURITY** Mr. Farley moved for the following resolution: Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin authorizes the purchase of an Akuvox Door Intercom and Installation from Myers Security for a cost of \$2,252.00, per Quote #Waterdoor1, dated March 21, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Francisco. VOTE: Boyle – Yes, Farley – Yes, Francisco – Yes, Dumian – Yes. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Dumian clarified that this is the entrance by the Water/Parks Department.

**REGULAR TOWN BOARD RESO 2024-70: AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF DOUBLE DOOR CRATE/DOG CONTROL OFFICER VEHICLE** Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution: Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin authorizes the purchase of a Double Door Crate, 40" Wide x 44" Deep x 30" High, for the Dog Control Officer vehicle, from TransK9 USA for a purchase price of \$1,580.00, Quote #1237. Seconded by Mr. Farley. VOTE: Boyle – Yes, Farley – Yes, Francisco – Yes, Dumian – Yes. Motion passed unanimously.

**RESO 2024-71: RATIFY PAYMENT/THE HARTFORD/2024 DISABILITY INSURANCE** Mr. Boyle moved for the following resolution: Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin ratifies payment in the amount of \$149.94 to The Hartford for 2024 disability Insurance. Seconded by Mr. Francisco. VOTE: Boyle – Yes, Farley – Yes, Francisco – Yes, Dumian – Yes. Motion passed unanimously.

**RESO 2024-72: RATIFY PAYMENT/CONKLIN SENIOR CITIZENS/SENIOR BUS TRIP/11-08-2023 – 11-10-2023/LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA** Mr. Boyle moved for the following resolution: Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin ratifies payment in the amount of \$1,000.00 to the Conklin Senior Citizens for a Conklin Senior Citizens Bus Trip November 8, 2023, through November 10, 2023, for a two-night trip to Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Seconded by Mr. Farley. VOTE: Boyle – Yes, Farley – Yes, Francisco – Yes, Dumian – Yes. Motion passed unanimously.

**RESO 2024-73: RATIFY PAYMENT/RICOH USA, INC./RENTAL/TOWN CLERK COPIER/04-14-2024 – 05-13-2024** 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 \$67.91 to RICOH USA, Inc., for rental of the Town Clerk copier for the period of April 14 through May 13, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Boyle. VOTE: Boyle – Yes, Farley – Yes, Francisco – Yes, Dumian – Yes. Motion passed unanimously.

**RESO 2024-74: ACCEPT RESIGNATION/JENNIFER GRIFFIS/ASSESSOR CLERK** Mr. Farley moved for the following resolution: Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin accepts the resignation of Jennifer Griffis from the position of Assessor Clerk, effective April 17, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Francisco. VOTE: Boyle – Yes, Farley – Yes, Francisco – Yes, Dumian – Yes. Motion passed unanimously.

**RESO 2024-75: APPROVE PAYMENT/CLAIMS #24-00289 - #24-00333/\$67,415.58**

Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution: Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin approves payment of the following Claims #24-00289 through #24-00333, which have been audited and approved for payment, in the total amount of \$67,415.58: General \$ 13,209.25 Highway 2,836.80 Sewer District #1 1,539.33 Sewer District #1, Ext. 2 3,267.44 Sewer

District #1, Ext. 4 6,741.68 Sewer District #1, Ext. 5 15,840.88 Water District 23,980.20 **Total \$ 67,415.58**

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

**RESO 2024-76: RATIFY TRANSFER OF FUNDS/TO USE ARPA FUNDS FOR SENSUS RADIO READERS** Mr. Farley moved for the following resolution: Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin ratifies the transfer of funds, effective April 4, 2024, to use ARPA Funds for 142 Sensus Radio Readers (see attached). Seconded by Mr. Francisco. VOTE: Boyle – Yes, Farley – Yes, Francisco – Yes, Dumian – Yes. Motion passed unanimously.

**RESO 2024-77: RATIFY MODIFICATION TO 2024 BUDGET/EFFECTIVE 04-04-2024** Mr. Francisco moved for the following resolution: Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin ratifies the modification of the 2024 Budget, effective April 4, 2024 (see attached). Seconded by Mr. Boyle. VOTE: Boyle – Yes, Farley – Yes, Francisco – Yes, Dumian – Yes. Motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

**PICKLEBALL COURT/JR PARK** Mr. Boyle stated that he gave a layout for a pickleball court at Julius Rogers Park to Mr. Kilmer.

**CONKLIN POOL** Mr. Dumian stated that he is already receiving inquiries about graduation parties this summer and the use of the Conklin Pool, although the dates requested occur before the pool usually opens for the season. He stated that the Board must make a decision whether or not to open the pool for the 2024 season, knowing that it will require the use of extra water and chemicals. Mr. Francisco stated that he has learned that Governor Hochul has allocated \$150 million for repairs to pools as an effort to prevent drownings. He stated that he is drafting a letter to Lea Webb, New York State Senator, asking for help. Mr. Dumian stated that the Board might consider removing the pool after the 2024 season. He stated that it is estimated that it will cost \$250,000 for repairs to the trough and a new liner, plus the pool is operating on very old equipment. He thinks it can "limp along" for 2024 IF the Town can hire enough lifeguards and/or there are no major repairs required. Mr. Dumian went around the Board: Mr. Boyle – No, citing 15,000 gallons of water plus chemicals added daily); Mr. Farley – Yes; Mr. Francisco – Yes. Mr. Dumian stated that "if safety becomes an issue, we must make a decision to close." Mr. Farley will inquire if the Susquehanna Valley School District is offering Lifeguard training, and the ad will be prepared to run in the Country Courier.

**BATTING CAGES** Mr. Francisco asked for an update on the batting cages and Mr. Farley stated that he talked to Youth Commissioner Justin Parker about them, and Mr. Parker planned to talk to Mr. Kilmer, but so far Mr. Farley has heard no follow up on the project.

**CEMETERY CLEANUP** Mr. Francisco stated that the deadline to remove decorations from the cemeteries has passed and the cemeteries will be prepared for the upcoming mowing season.

**SCHNURBUSCH PARK** Mr. Boyle asked if one good camera could be placed at Schnurbusch Park, but Secretary to the Supervisor Teresa Bamber stated that Internet would be required. Mr. Dumian stated that more of the less expensive cameras can be added. Mr. Boyle stated that the Town should not allow radios at the pool other than what the Lifeguards play, because people cannot hear the Lifeguards over the loud music and some of the music is objectionable in a family setting. Mr. Dumian stated that Mr. Kilmer added parking near third base.

**RESO 2024-78: EXECUTIVE SESSION/LEGAL & PERSONNEL ISSUE** Mr. Farley moved to close the Regular Town Board Meeting and move into Executive Session at 7:17 P.M. to discuss a specific personnel issue and to receive legal advice. Seconded by Mr. Francisco. VOTE: Boyle – Yes, Farley – Yes, Francisco – Yes, Dumian – Yes. Motion passed unanimously.

**RESO 2024-79: RE-OPEN REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING** Mr. Dumian moved to close the Executive Session and re-open the Regular Town Board Meeting, seconded by Mr. Francisco. VOTE: Boyle – Yes, Farley – Yes, Francisco – Yes, Dumian – Yes. Motion passed unanimously.

**RESO 2024-80: APPROVE INCREASE IN PAY RATE TO \$21.00 PER HOUR/ELIZABETH EINSTEIN** Mr. Dumian moved for the following resolution: Be It Resolved: that the Town Board of the Town of Conklin approves an increase in pay rate to \$21.00 per hour for Elizabeth Einstein, effective April 9, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Farley. VOTE: Boyle – Yes, Farley – Yes, Francisco – Yes, Dumian – Yes. Motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Dumian moved for adjournment, seconded by Mr. Francisco. The vote to close the meeting was unanimous. **Respectfully submitted, Sherrie L. Jacobs Town Clerk**

## Monthly bonuses for junior troops included in defense budget plan

Lawmakers included plans for monthly bonuses to junior enlisted troops in their latest federal appropriations bill.

Junior enlisted troops could receive financial support bonuses within a few months after congressional appropriators included funding for the economic support initiative as part of their final \$824 billion defense budget proposal for fiscal 2024 released on March 21.

Lawmakers also included money to cover troops' 5.2% pay raise this year and a pledge to push for even more improvements to military pay tables next year, calling the low pay of some enlisted troops a "crisis" that must be addressed soon.

"The Department of Defense must work with Congress during fiscal year 2025 to provide legislative options ... to include increases to junior enlisted basic military pay as well as other ways to incentivize new recruits and prepare them for duty," appropriators wrote in a report accompanying the defense spending bill.

Congress has until Friday night to adopt the full-year appropriations bill, already nearly six months late. If not, the Defense Department will head into a partial shut-down, with troops' paychecks delayed and hundreds of



thousands of workers at risk of furlough.

The monthly bonuses for junior enlisted troops were already approved as part of the annual defense authorization bill approved in December. But money to fund the bonuses has been held up by the appropriations delay.

The new budget plan includes \$43 million for the program, which allows

the Defense Secretary to award "junior enlisted monthly economic hardship bonuses" for troops of rank E-6 and below "as economic conditions dictate."

The monthly bonuses are only authorized for 2024, and are not expected to carry over into 2025.

The exact amounts and timing of the program are still to be determined by Pentagon leaders following passage of the legislation. Department officials have not yet publicly announced any details of those plans, or if they may decline the option to award bonuses altogether.

But lawmakers are hopeful the extra money will help offset low salaries for some of the youngest service members. Under the current pay tables, some junior troops can make as little as \$23,000 annually in base pay.

Pentagon officials are currently conducting its Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation, expected to be

delivered to Congress early next year.

The appropriations bill includes language "to more rapidly review and consider any proposed changes to compensation" and mandates an interim report on findings by May, to help inform potential legislative changes for 2025. House and Senate members have already eyed plans to boost all troops' basic pay to at least \$31,000 annually.



**VETERANS CORNER**



### US assets helped repel Iran's attack on Israel

The Navy destroyer Carney was one of two U.S. warships that helped repel Iran's attack on Israel Saturday. The ship left the Middle East and entered the Mediterranean Sea last week. It is shown here transiting the Suez Canal. (Navy)

A host of American military ships, jets and munitions played a vital role in repelling Iran's attack on Israel over the weekend — an unprecedented barrage that involved hundreds of missiles and attack drones.

The Iranian attack on Saturday, less than two weeks after a suspected Israeli strike in Syria that killed two Iranian generals in an Iranian consular building, marked the first time Iran has launched a direct military assault on Israel, despite decades of enmity dating back to the country's 1979 Islamic Revolution.

An Israeli military spokesman said that 99% of the drones and missiles launched by Iran were intercepted. Part of that success rate had to do with the U.S. forces who aided the Israelis in taking out the airborne threats. From the Mediterranean Sea, the Navy destroyers Carney and Arleigh Burke shot down multiple ballistic missiles in the attack, according to a defense official and media reports.

Carney has become a workhorse of the Navy in recent months and has been crucial to shooting down missile and drone attacks over the Red Sea sent by Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen since October.

### MRE's Fruits & Vegetables Upgrade

One of the challenges of providing packaged food that has an adequate shelf life and enough nutrients to keep troops nourished has long been a challenge for the U.S. military.

As such, the Army Combat Capabilities Development Command's Soldier Center's Combat Feeding Division in Natick, Massachusetts, has turned to advanced technology to address both issues.

In particular, the division is working now to drastically improve the quality of fruits and vegetables in the Meals Ready-to-Eat, more commonly referred to as MREs.

The division has set its sights on a new technique called "vacuum microwave drying" to turn the produce contained in MREs into crunchy snacks rather than vacuum-sealed preservatives. The Combat Feeding Division has not, as of yet, specified which fruits and vegetables will be included in the process, however.

Julie Edwards, stated "These components may provide an opportunity increase the number of fresh like fruits and vegetables (meaning that the fruits and veggies retain a bright color and similar shape but are just crunchy) within the MRE if found to be acceptable by Warfighters during an Initial Operational Test and Evaluation."

Working with a company called BranchOut foods on the technology, the Combat Feeding Division hopes to include these upgraded fruits and vegetables in the close combat assault ration, which is typically used for short, high-intensity deployments.

The main goal is to preserve not only the nutrition of the produce but also its taste. "The flavor is retained post processing and there was an opportunity to add additional flavors after the drying step, so the Soldiers taste tested pineapple with chili lime seasoning as well as vegetables with either ranch or buffalo seasoning," according to another food technologist, Danielle Anderson.

# SUBURBAN SEPTIC

## EXCAVATING:

Foundations, driveways, sewer lines, water lines

## SEPTIC TANKS CLEANED

- Septic Systems Installed
- Portable Toilet Rentals



332 MAIN ST, KIRKWOOD, NY

**607-775-3693**

SOUTHERN TIER  
WOMEN'S  
VETERAN  
GROUP

Clear Path for Veterans Southern Tier has formed a group for women veterans to connect with each other.

Regular meetings will be every third Monday of the month

Clear Path for Veterans Southern Tier Office  
114 Clayton Ave  
Vestal, NY 13850

For more information, contact:  
Clear Path for Veterans Southern Tier Outreach Manager  
Katina Sinclair  
315-687-3300  
katina@clearpathforvets.com

