Town of Conewango Board Meeting- October 14, 2026

Meeting Called to Order at 7:00 pm

September's Meeting Minutes

- **Motion:** Councilman Finch moved to accept the minutes, Supervisor McGuire seconded.
- **Vote:** All in favor. None opposed or abstained.

Community Concerns

Equalization Rate

- **Problem:** The current equalization rate is 30%, causing tax inequity.
- **Cost:** The assessor will provide a cost estimate next week before a decision can be made.
- **Solution:** A full property re-evaluation to achieve a 100% rate.
    - **Process:** Assessor Aucoin will review all parcels, hold informal hearings, and submit values to the state for review.
    - **Timeline:** A January 2027 start would affect 2028 taxes.
- **Decision:** The board will decide on funding and possible action after reviewing the cost estimate.

Flood Road Conditions

- **Resident Complaint:** A resident reported Flood Road is in "deplorable" condition, citing severe potholes, unmaintained ditches, and poor winter plowing.
- **Highway Superintendent Response:**
    - **Potholes:** Skid patching will begin within 2–3 weeks, before the November 15th hot-mix plant closure.
    - **Brush Mowing:** was complicated by problems with the mower but they are continuing to work on it to solve this problem.
    - **Plowing:** Service will improve with a new plow truck replacing a problematic 1995 Peterbilt. The route's length does create scheduling challenges for school bus times.

Department Head Reports

- **Building Code Officer:** $435 revenue; 2 permits issued; 8 inspections.
- **Assessor:** Helping property owners with STAR issues; reviewing property changes for the 2027 tax file.
- **Justice Court:** $118 in fines; Justice Brown attended the NYS Magistrates Assoc. Conference, earning all required CE credits.
- **Town Clerk:** $5,196 total revenue ($4,001.56 town share).
- **Supervisor Report:** The EPIC Fund earned $627.86 in September interest. All Accounts match financials with Doreen Mayhew and are available in the clerk's office.

Unfinished Business

- **Building Updates:** Obtaining quotes for building roof tin and the front area near cold storage.
- **AOT Training:** The board encourages attendance at the January (New Officer) and March (AOT Annual Conference) trainings. Knowledge is power which leads to a stronger town.
- **Local Law 2-2026:** Approved by the state; allows informational pamphlets with tax bills.

New Business

EMS Backup Service

- **Proposal:** Cattaraugus County will contract with an Ambulance service for a county-wide backup service.
- **Function:** Responds to calls when the primary agency (e.g., Randolph EMS) is unavailable.
- **Board Concerns:**
  - **Data Verification:** The cost is based on call volume, but the county's data source may be unreliable.
  - **Funding Source:** Who pays—the town or the fire district?
  - **Non-Participation:** What are the fees for service if the town doesn't opt in?
- **Next Step:** The clerk will request EMS call data from Randolph EMS (total calls, responses, rollovers) to evaluate the proposal's value.

2027 Budget & Resolutions

- **Budget Status:** The tentative budget has been submitted to the clerk, and the board will discuss a workshop to go over figures.
- **Public Hearing:** The public hearing for the budget will be **Wednesday, November 4th, at 7 PM**.
  - **Motion:** To hold the public meeting on November 4th at 7 pm with the normal November board meeting to follow. Clerk to advertise the public hearing.
  - **Vote:** All in favor. None opposed or abstained.
- **Resolution 16-2026:** Approved including two informational pamphlets (dong Census and application and notifications/announcements page with January 2027 tax bills.
  - **Motion:** Moved to approve Resolution 16-2026 made by councilman Studley and seconded by councilman Finch.
  - **Vote:** Councilman Pitts (Aye), Councilman Finch (Aye), Councilman Studley (Aye), Councilman Hubbard (Aye), Supervisor McGuire (Aye).
- **Resolution 17-2026:** Approved budget transfers including $10,000 from Highway Snow Removal Personal to General Repairs Personal. $79.00 from Contingent to Town Board Contractual, $815.00 Contingent to Building Contractual, $176.00 from contingent to Garage Contractual.
  - **Motion:** Moved to approve Resolution 17-2026 made by supervisor McGuire and seconded by councilman Pitts.
  - **Vote:** Councilman Pitts (Aye), Councilman Finch (Aye), Councilman Studley (Aye), Councilman Hubbard (Aye), Supervisor McGuire (Aye).

Audit of Claims

General Warrant #10-2026	Vouchers 173-188	Totaling $ 4,823.03
Highway Warrant # 10-2026	Vouchers 88-107	Totaling $ 193,118.70

- **Motion:** Moved to audit the claims and pay them made by supervisor McGuire and seconded by councilman Hubbard.
- **Vote:** All in favor. None opposed or abstained.

Adjournment motion made by councilman Finch at 8:12 pm