

TOWN OF FRIENDSHIP MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

7PM

Supervisor Hall call meeting to order.

Pledge of allegiance observed by all.

Roll call: Supervisor Russell Hall-present

Carolyn Carney-present

Linda Mascho-present

Dave Norton-present

Ken Burdick-present

Also present: Patricia Schurr-Town Clerk

Assemblage: Jim Monheim, Karl Kruger, Scott Lanphere, George Ritter, Michelle & Dell Baker, Brad Blouvet, Brian Blouvet, Jake Blouvet, Oakley Sortore, BJ Howe, Daneil Eck Chet Jablonski, Rachel Jablonski, Jessica.

(*Note No public hearing this date- need to introduce the Introduction to Local Law#1)

Motion to approve the Minutes from the meeting of August 20, 2025, offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Carolyn Carney. All approve.

Motion to approve the Supervisor's Report for August 2025 offered by Dave Norton, seconded by Linda Mascho. All approve.

Motion to approve the Audited bills for August 2025 in the amount of \$ 78,928.35, offered by Ken Burdick, seconded by Linda Mascho.

Roll call: Carolyn Carney-aye

Linda Mascho-aye

Dave Norton-aye

Ken Burdick-aye

Russell Hall-aye

SUPERVISORS CONCERNS:

*BUDGET-Budget not ready, It was just returned for review from Accountant yesterday and not happy with it, changes need to be done. Budget is not what the Town asked for. This is the 3rd year in a row with a delay d/t accounting firm.

*The Original Town Attorney is not the Attorney anymore d/t Health, the other attorney in the firm is now handling Town issues. The Supervisor knows of other Towns that have another Attorney and are Happy with that Attorney. Will look into this Attorney, maybe set up so that he can meet the whole Board.

*Senator Borello is set to speak at the GAR Hall on October 9, 2025 from 6-7pm.

PUBLIC CONCERNS:

Jake Blouvet-Noticed that on regular Tuesday garbage pickup that residents are putting everything out for pickup other than just garbage and the pickers are picking it up. Should be for heavy pickup. He was advised the Board and committees have been working on a solution. What suggestion does he have? He suggested residents get passes from the Town Hall. Possibly have a once a year spring cleanup. Per Karl Kruger he stated some time ago the County would bring an open container over and residents would put whatever it that.

Discussion on the Refuse truck and how long this truck will last. What will we do, buy another truck or contract picking up trash. This is another discussion/decision. Karl Kruger stated if you think it will be cheaper to contract the garbage to be picked up, it won't be cheaper.

The contractor has to pay for fuel, repair, wages, insurance, etc. and they cannot work for nothing.

Supervisor Hall also stated another issue is how the refuse is charged on the tax bill, by assessment.

Dell Baker stated just put couches/heavy trash out with the regular pickup on Tuesdays.

Recycling was discussed as it has been discussed at other meetings. Per Oakley Sortore the Town is not mandated to recycle. Only 27 People recycled the last pickup, so they have to take a truck out and pay 3 workers to pick up this up. Supervisor Hall suggested maybe just leaving the truck at a location and residents could come down and throw the recycled items in it.

All suggestions or discussion will be reviewed by the refuse committee to look at.

Chet Jablonski questioned on another matter of that he has been seeing the Friendship Water Vehicles and employees in Cuba helping them. Who is paying them? Supervisor Hall advised that the Towns "Share" or help each other out if they can, there is no agreement here, they just do it. Friendship has helped Belmont out by letting them use our refuse truck when theirs was down. It will come around and Friendship will need help or assistance with something and they will help us out.

Dell Baker questioned with these water projects if the resident's bills will be going up again. The answer was that its unknown at this time but it's possible they may. The Town is mandated by the state to keep sewer/water infrastructure up to date. If the Town does not comply then the States comes in and there are no choices. The state knows that we are trying to and in the process of fixing problems.

Daniel Eck questions about the burn down rubbish on Depot Street. The owner will not answer him, but he would have talked to him about some kind of deal. Supervisor Hall advised that there is a discussion going on between the owner and someone else about taking it over. If the Town has to get involved somehow to obtain it they can hire someone to push everything into the inside into one pile, that would cost the tax payers 20,000.00 or to clean the whole thing up would cost 65,000.00. A question came up if someone got hurt

who would be responsible. The Town can show they been trying to help with suggestions to clean it up, at this point they don't own the property. The owner can always end up with a judgement against him if someone else has to cleanup the property.

*Senator Borrello Request for Support for S.8481(email handout) gives local governments to opt out of mandates and benchmarks established under the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. Requests Resolution of Support.

PUBLIC CONCERNS-

RESOLUTION 15-2025 TO APPOINT ASSESSOR

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Friendship has the responsibility to appoint an Assessor to serve the Town and to carry out the duties prescribed by law, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board desires to appoint an Assessor for the statutory term beginning October 1, 2025 and ending September 30, 2031;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Friendship does hereby appoint Joe Dannheim as Assessor for the Town of Friendship; effective October 1, 2025 to serve until September 30, 2031, in accordance with New York State Real Property Tax Law and applicable statutes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be filed with the Clerk of the Town of Friendship and all required agencies, and that it be entered into the official minutes of the Town Board.

Offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Carolyn Carney.

Roll call: Carolyn Carney-aye

Linda Mascho-aye

Dave Norton-aye

Ken Burdick-aye

Russell Hall-aye

Adopted on Sept. 17, 2025

Introductory to a Local Law to Override the Real Property Tax Cap Levy Established By General Municipal Law Section 3-c.

At a regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Friendship, County of Allegany, State of New York, held at the Friendship G.A.R. Hall located at 29 West Water Street, Friendship,

New York, on September 17, 2025, at 7:00 P.M. there were

Russell Hall, Supervisor

Linda Mascho, Councilperson

Carolyn Carney, Councilperson

David Norton, Councilperson

Kenneth Burdick, Councilman

ALSO PRESENT- Patricia Schurr-Town Clerk

A draft of proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2025 entitled the "A Local Law to Override the Real Property Tax Cap Levy Established by General Municipal Law Section 3-c" was presented by the Town Supervisor, Russell Hall. Town Attorney Richard M. Buck, Jr., had prepared the draft local law at the request of the Town Supervisor. It was explained that this local law is for the purpose of enabling the Town Board to adopt a budget for 2026 that exceeds the 2025 real property tax levy by more than 2%. The following resolution was introduced by Dave Norton, who moved its adoption, and seconded by Ken Burdick, to wit:

BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the Town Board of the Town of Friendship accepts and proposes to adopt a local law to be designated as Introductory Local Law No. 1 of 2025 entitled the "A Local Law to Override the Real Property Tax Cap Levy Established by General Municipal Law Section 3-c."
2. That a public hearing be held on October 15, 2025, at 6:45 P.M. at the Friendship G.A.R. Hall located at 29 West Water Street, Friendship, New York.
3. That the Town Clerk, with the assistance of the Town Attorney, is directed to prepare the legal notice required to be published and to provide such notice for timely publication in the official newspaper.
4. That a copy of such legal notice be posted upon the Town Clerk's bulletin board and Town website as required by law.

Following discussion, the foregoing resolution was called to a vote which resulted

as follows:

Russell Hall, Supervisor-aye

Linda Mascho, Councilperson-no

Carolyn Carney, Councilperson-aye

David Norton, Councilperson-aye

Kenneth Burdick, Councilman-aye

____The Supervisor then declared the resolution to be adopted and directed the Clerk to proceed to contact the Town Attorney if necessary and to complete the publishing and posting as required by law.

Motion to set Trick or Treat on Friday, October 31, 2025 from 5-7pm offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Ken Burdick. All approve.

*Public Works/Refuse/Water-Sewer(Oakley Sortore) concerns-WIIA wastewater turned in last Friday. EFT/Dec looking into why scoring is low, our scoring is not high enough, need to get scoring up, Waiting on FEMA Generator and the Nile house generator-not going to have them by winter. Supervisor Hall stated that there should be a performance deadline. Should be able to start drawing down on grant funds received as soon as Kelly Latham(from fiscal advisors) can access it. Phase I Nile tank should be able to go out for review next week. Meeting w/ engineers on phase II design, they won't get paid until we get approved to draw down.

Sanitary Review was satisfied.

*Highway(George Ritter)concerns-none

- REPORTS RECEIVED:
- TOWN CLERK REPORT
- HIGHWAY REPORT
- WATER REPORT
- POLICE REPORT
- JUSTICE REPORT
- CODE ENFORCEMENT

8:35 pm Motion to adjourn offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Carolyn Carney.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Schurr, Town Clerk