

F-0600-339

Town of Friendship

Meeting Minutes-OCTOBER 15, 2025

Budget Hearing 6:15

Pledge of Allegiance observed by all

Roll Call: Supervisor Russ Hall-present
Councilperson-Carolyn Carney-present
Councilperson Linda Mascho-present
Councilperson-Dave Norton-present
Councilperson -Ken Burdick-present

Also present-Town Clerk-Patricia Schurr
Bookkeeper-Tiffany Benscoter
Attorney Richard Buck, Heather Trask, Alexandra McCumsky
Police Officer-Frank Shostick

Assemblage: Ashley Smith, Caleb Kirch, Walter Sosinski, Nathan Frutiger,
Tabitha Jachlewski, James Blouvet, Olivia Cochran, Jake Blouvet, Lori Hathaway,
Deane Hathaway, Tony France, Jim Monheim, Rachael Jablonski, Chet Jablonski,
Cassandra Plan, William Ritchie, Oakley Sortore.

6:15 pm Supervisor Hall calls Budget Hearing to order-

Discussion regarding Budget for 2026- Supervisor Hall asked the assemblage if they had any questions. Nathan Frutiger wanted to know what percentage we were on the tax cap. Supervisor Hall advised that the Town was under the Tax cap it was 1.98%. He advised That residents in the refuse district will see their taxes go down because last year the Town had to estimate the refuse budget because it was the first year without sharing with Cuba. They had overestimated which is helping this year. The bottom line is that the Town's Budget is not over the tax cap. This is for the Town taxes, the Tax bill in January includes the County, not sure if the County tax will go up.
With no other questions the Supervisor asked for a vote to close the hearing.

Motion to close the Budget Hearing, offered by Ken Burdick, seconded by Linda Mascho.

Supervisor Hall closes Budget Hearing.

6:45 Public Hearing regarding Local Law #1 of 2025 to override the Tax Cap

Pledge of allegiance observed by all.

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Review/Discussion why a Tax cap override is needed.

Supervisor Hall opens up public hearing for any comments or questions.

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 October 15, 2025, at 6:45 P.M. there were

PRESENT: Russell Hall, Supervisor

Linda Mascho, Councilperson

Carolyn Carney, Councilperson

Dave Norton, Councilperson

Kenneth Burdick, Councilperson

ABSENT: 0

ALSO PRESENT: Ashley Smith, Caleb Kirch, Walter Sosinski, Nathan Frutiger, Tabitha Jachlewski, James Blouvet, Olivia Cochran, Jake Blouvet, Lori Hathaway, Deane Hathaway, Tony France, Jim Monheim, Rachael Jablonski, Chet Jablonski, Cassandra Plan, William Ritchie, Oakley Sortore

Also present: Patricia Schurr-Town Clerks

Bookkeeper-Tiffany Benscoter

Attorney Richard Buck, Heather Trask, Alexandra McCumsky(stayed only for beginning of the Regular meeting)

Police Officer-Frank Shostick

A public hearing was held before the Town Board at 6:45P.M. to hear all persons interested in the matter of the adoption of the Introductory Local Law No. 1 of 2025 entitled "A Local Law to Override the Real Property Tax Cap Levy Established by General Municipal Law Section 3-c@ 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 2.0%.

The Tax Cap Override Local Law is only necessary if there are insufficient resources available to the Town of Friendship to meet the budget for 2026. The Board members answered questions from those present for the public hearing. The Supervisor declared the public hearing to be closed. **It was discussed by the Supervisor that the Town was not over the 2% tax cap.**

Following the closure of the public hearing the Town Board considered the adoption of the proposed local law for which the public hearing had earlier been held.

It was discussed that the Town was not over the 2% tax cap.

The following motion was set forth:

Motion **to table overriding the Tax cap due to not being over the 2%** offered by Ken Burdick, seconded by Dave Norton.

Roll call: Carolyn Carney-aye, Linda Mascho-aye, Ken Burdick-aye, Dave Norton-aye, Russ Hall-aye.

Regular Meeting:

Supervisor Hall calls Regular Meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance-observed by all

Roll call: Supervisor Russ Hall-present

Councilperson-Carolyn Carney-present

Councilperson-Linda Mascho-present

Councilperson-Ken Burdick-present

Councilperson- Dave Norton-present

Also present: Patricia Schurr-Town Clerks

Bookkeeper-Tiffany Benscoter

Attorney Richard Buck, Heather Trask, Alexandra McCumsky(stayed only for beginning of the Regular meeting)

Police Officer-Frank Shostick

Assemblage-: Ashley Smith, Caleb Kirch, Walter Sosinski, Nathan Frutiger, Tabitha Jachlewski, James Blouvet, Olivia Cochran, Jake Blouvet, Lori Hathaway, Deane Hathaway, Tony France, Jim Monheim, Rachael Jablonski, Chet Jablonski, Cassandra Plan, William Ritchie, Oakley Sortore.

Motion to approve the Minutes from the September 17, 2025, Meeting, offered by Dave Norton, seconded by Ken Burdick. All approve.

Motion to approve the Special Meeting Minutes from October 1, 2025, Special meeting, offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Carolyn Carnolyn. All approve.

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Motion to approve the Supervisor's report from September 2025, offered by Carolyn Carney, seconded by Linda Mascho. All approve.

Motion to approve the Audited Bills for September 2025 in the amount of \$ 159,564.79 offered by Ken Burdick, seconded by Carolyn Carney.

Roll call: Russ Hall-aye

Carolyn Carney-aye

Linda Mascho-aye

Dave Norton-aye

Ken Burdick-aye

Motion to approve the preliminary Budget as the **Final Budget for 2026**, offered by Dave Norton, seconded by Ken Burdick .

Roll call: Carolyn Carney-aye

Linda Mascho-aye

Ken Burdick-aye

Dave Norton-aye

Russ Hall-aye

Supervisor's concerns:

4-6 Depot Fire Debris-

4-6 Depot Street Code Enforcement time limit for cleanup -Certified Letter was sent from the Code Enforcement and he has been given date to respond with no response.

Owner Unable to comply. He has been approached that there were interested parties that made offers, he either refused or just would not have a conversation. The Utility

Companies are now holding the Town responsible d/t Utilities. Board will have to approve

the expenditure and figure out from where \$20,000.00 to 64,000.00 will come from if they were to clean it up. The Town does not have the funds to clean it up, they would have to

borrow the money. How about putting a judgement against the now owner? Attorney Buck

was asked if he could look into whether the Town could relevy the cost of the cleanup or

what steps the Town would take next to achieve the property to be able to clean it up.

Attorney Buck will look into this and get back with the Supervisor.

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Public Concerns:

Jake Blouvet wanted to know if anything was talked about or resolved with the Refuse from last meeting. Dave Norton advised they had some conversation but needed to include Oakley Sortore and need his input but did not want to pull him from the water and sewer. Mr. Blouvet wanted to know who is on the committee, he was advised the 2 board members on were Dave Norton and Linda Mascho. Supervisor Hall advised it is no more than 2 Board members because if more than 2 board members get together then it is a quorum, more than two you have to call a meeting. **Supervisor Hall advised that next month he wants the committee members to come up with a recommendation on the heavy pickup being picked up with regular pickup on Tuesdays. This will be placed on the agenda.**

The Burned debris left on 25 Maple Avenue is almost gone, debris still remains. It was questioned why this has not been totally cleaned up yet. The Code Enforcement should go through the process for cleanup.

*Reimbursement for CDL license to employees-Supervisor Hall stated this is being offered to the Union in the Contract he advised to just stay with the policy on paying for the CDL.

*Water/Sewer-Public Works (Oakley Sortore)

Road Permit-DOT - Oakley Sortore advised a Resolution is needed.

Supervisor Hall advised that a proper Resolution should be thought out and prepared to be brought forth at the next Regular meeting in November; will be put on the agenda.

Topics Oakley Sortore brought up:

* Army Corp or Engineer reporting timeline

*Kelly Lathan with Fiscal Advisor regarding ASAP for getting paid and paying vendors, Having problem logging in for grants.

*Performance period timeline for generators Grants- need to file for extension, maybe by April now we might have one installed.

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Reports Received:

Town Clerk Report for September 2025

Highway Report September 2025

Code Enforcement

Police Report

Water Report

Justice Report

Dog Control Report

Motion to Adjourn offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Carolyn Carney.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Schurr

Town Clerk