TOWN OF FRIENDSHIP MEETING MINUTES
November 19, 2025

Pledge of Allegiance observed by all.

Supervisor Hall calls meeting to order.

Roll call: Supervisor Russ Hall-present
Councilman-Linda Mascho-present
Councilman- Carolyn Carney-present
Councilman-Dave Norton-present
Councilman- Ken Burdick-present

Also present- Patricia Schurr-Town Clerk
Tiffany Benscoter-Bookkeeper

Assemblage-Oakley Sortore, Kevin Waters(MTS), George Ritter, Jim Monheim, Jake Blouvet, Walter Sosinski, Brad Blouvet, BJ Howe, Olivia Cochran, Caleb Kirch, Shaun McCarthy, (an unknown person who left early)

Motion to approve the Minutes from the Budget Hearing from October 15, 2025, offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Carolyn Carney. All approve.

Motion to approve the Minutes from the Public Hearing on tax cap from October 15, 2025, Offered by Dave Norton, seconded by Ken Burdick. all approve.

Motion to approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting on October 15, 2025, offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Ken Burdick. All approve.

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

Motion to approve the audited Bills from October 2025 in the amount of $152,551.50 offered by Ken Burdick, seconded by Dave Norton.
Roll call: Linda Mascho-aye
Carolyn Carney-aye
Dave Norton-aye
Ken Burdick-aye
Russ Hall-aye

TOWN OF FRIENDSHIP

PLEASE APPROVE THE FOLLOWING INTERFUND TRANSFERS
AT YOUR MEETING ON NOVEMBER 19, 2025

TO:				
AA.5031.000	*	Interfund Transfer	$	954.00
SM.9901.900	*	Interfund Transfer	$	318.00
SR.9901.900	*	Interfund Transfer	$	318.00
SW.9901.900	*	Interfund Transfer	$	318.00
			$	954.00
	*	To cover portion of Bobcat - this is the final year		
TO:				
SW.5031.000	**	Interfund Transfer	$	10,280.00
FROM:				
SS.9901.900	**	Interfund Transfer	$	10,280.00
	**	To cover portion of BAN payment - will be pd off in 2027		

Motion to approve the Interfund Transfers above offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Dave Norton.
Roll call: Carolyn Carney-aye
Linda Mascho-aye
Dave Norton-aye
Ken Burdick-aye
Russell Hall-aye

SUPERVISOR'S CONCERNS-
*Ambulance Bay-MTS is requesting to be able to access the upstairs room in the ambulance bay for a lunch break area. After discussion the following motion was brought forth:
*Motion to allow MTS to use the upper 2nd room for additional compensation, a new contract/agreement needs to be drawn up, offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Dave Norton. All approve.

*Todd Wallace is requesting to be paid cash for the 1 week of vacation that he was unable to take this past year d/t staffing and not being able to take off. Motion offered as follows: Motion to approve to pay Todd Wallace for 1 week for the one week on vacation that he was not able to take, offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Dave Norton. All approve.

Public Concerns- Jake Blouvet- Questioned what was happening with the cleanup of burned bldg. on Depot Street. Supervisor Hall advised that because of the outcome of the election the firm that was interested in it is putting everything on hold till after the first of the year to see how the Board supports them. Jake Blouvet wanted to know what the election results have to do with the people and cleanup of the debris. Supervisor Hall advised that he has a company from Florida NY that said they could totally clean it up for $60,000 or $20,000 to just push the top and everything into a pile. Brad Blouvet advised that he has looked into it and if there is asbestos in there it will be a lot more than $60,000 to clean it up. The Town does not have the money, they would have to borrow it, therefore it would fall on the residents of the Town to pay for it on their taxes. The property as of date is still the owners name. If the Town did pay to have it cleaned up, they could put a judgement against the owner.
Supervisor Hall asked for a Motion to either pay $60,000 for total cleanup or $20,000 to just push it in. Noone wanted to offer a motion, so will present it next month.

Follow up from last meeting:
#1 Recommendation from refuse committee regarding Heavy Pickup(last Friday of the month)- After the committee, and Oakley Sortore and input from the refuse employee, it was decided that big/heavy pickup cannot be combined with regular trash pickup on Tuesday because there is barely no room left on the refuse truck just with regular trash.

There will be another issue because the Hyland is charging the Town $35.00 per mattress that the Town brings into the Landfill.

Recycling was again brought up. Oakley Sortore advised that there was a total of 27 residents that recycled. Should the Town still pickup recycling? To pay an employee(s), fuel, maintenance on the truck, driver. Residents can take their recycling to the Transfer station, it takes recycling on Thursdays and Saturday free from 8:00am-3:30pm. After discussion it was decided to have a public hearing to get residents opinion. The following motion was brought forth:

Motion to have a public hearing to discuss the elimination of the Town of Friendship picking up the Recycling, public hearing set for December 17, 2025 at 6:30pm, offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Dave Norton. All approve.

#2 Resolution regarding Road permit DOT—permit has already been issued, no need for resolution.

Motion to keep the partial tax exemption for persons who are over 65 years of age at $8,000.00(If changed a local law or resolution authorizing the change needs to be done), Offered by Linda Mascho ,seconded by Dave Norton. All approve.

Motion to approve the Annual software and Support contract 11/1/25-10/31/26 from Williamson Law for the Water/Sewer in the amount of $1,621.00 (last year $1,544.00 an increase of $77.00) offered by Ken Burdick, seconded by Dave Norton. All approve.

Motion to approve the Accu-fund upgrade, a new accounting platform, The Town will own the program and can take it with the Town if they should go with a different firm. Key points
*Browser Based
*No more fighting with the window boxes having to resize them to see everything.
* You can leave on area without closing another.
* Most of the updates will be going to this new platform and only a few updates will be done on the old one
* Much easier to upload invoices to the system. The cost of the program is $5,340.00/year plus $720.00 for receivables, offered by Linda Mascho, Seconded by Carolyn Carney.

Roll call: Carolyn Carney-aye
Linda Mascho-aye
Ken Burdick-aye
Dave Norton-aye
Russell Hall-aye

Motion to approve the Association of Towns membership dues in the amount of $1,000.00(same as last year) for 2026, offered by Ken Burdick, seconded by Dave Norton.
Roll call: Carolyn Carney-aye
Linda Mascho-aye
Ken Burdick-aye
Dave Norton-aye
Russell Hall-aye

Motion to approve the newly elected 2026 Supervisor, James Brad Blouvet to sign on Community Bank signature accounts as of January 1, 2026, offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Ken Burdick.

Motion to approve the pool(full fill new pool) credit on sewer account # 1710 for 15,220 gallons on sewer o/m(109.58 credit) only, Offered by Ken Burdick, seconded by Linda Mascho.

FYI Water and Sewer Re-levy plus unpaid water meter: Water $51,025.14,
Sewer $47,959.30
Unpaid water meters $632.16 and $79.02

Motion to approve the unpaid water/sewer bills and unpaid water meters to be re-levied onto the 2026 Town and County Tax bill, offered by Dave Norton, seconded by Linda Mascho. All approve.

Water/Sewer/Public works-Oakley Sortore concerns-

Oakley Sortore advised he has brought this up at prior meetings that he needed a Bobcat wondered if the board would authorize the purchase.

Motion to approve Oakley Sortore to purchase outright the Bobcat L28 at the amended negotiated price of $56,018.56, offered by Ken Burdick, seconded by Dave Norton.

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

Information: Phase I letter received from the Health Dept. Hunt is working with teams. Would be nice to go to bid soon, looking for the 1st reimbursement.

Supervisor Hall questioned Kelly Latham's work- Oakley Sortore advised that she really doesn't know EPA

Supervisor Hall advised that a "Grant Administer" might be needed. Do not want to miss any steps in these grants. Something the Board may want to consider.

Resolution for Generator Extension HMGP 4625-0021 Well 4/5 House Generator Hazard Mitigation Plan Grant Extension

Resolution # 17 of 2025

Resolution supporting the extension of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program(HMGP) Project identified as HMGP-4625-0021

WHEREAS, the Town of Friendship is currently undertaking the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) project identified as HMGP-4625-0021,

Whereas, the current termination date for the project is April 5, 2026,

Whereas, the Town of Friendship seeks a 12-month extension to the project termination date, moving it to April 6, 2027,

Whereas, this extension is necessary to ensure the successful completion of the project and to meet all required milestones and objectives,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Town of Friendship formally requests the extension of the HMGP project termination date to April 6, 2027.

Be it further resolved that the necessary documentation and communications will be submitted to the appropriate authorities to support this request.

Resolution offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Dave Norton.

Roll call: Carolyn Carney-aye

Linda Mascho-aye

Dave Norton-aye

Ken Burdick-aye

Russ Hall-aye

Resolution supporting the extension of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Project identified as HMGP-4625-0024 WWTP Generator

Resolution # 18 of 2025

Resolution supporting the extension of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program(HMGP) Project identified as HMGP-4625-0024 WWTP Generator

WHEREAS, the Town of Friendship is currently undertaking the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) project identified as HMGP-4625-0024 WWTP Generator,

Whereas, the current termination date for the project is April 5, 2026,

Whereas, the Town of Friendship seeks a 12-month extension to the project termination date, moving it to April 6, 2027,

Whereas, this extension is necessary to ensure the successful completion of the project and to meet all required milestones and objectives,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Town of Friendship formally requests the extension of the HMGP project termination date to April 6, 2027.

Be it further resolved that the necessary documentation and communications will be submitted to the appropriate authorities to support this request.

Resolution offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Dave Norton.

Roll call: Carolyn Carney-aye

Linda Mascho-aye

Dave Norton-aye

Ken Burdick-aye

Russ Hall-aye

Highway Dept.-George Ritter concerns-none

Approval of the American Legion to conduct " Games of Chance- bell jar" for the year of Jan.1, 2026- December 31, 2026 offered by Ken Burdick, seconded by Linda Mascho. All approve.

Reports Received:
Town Clerk Report October 2025
Highway Report - Sept. & October 2025
Water Report
Police report
Justice Report
Code Enforcement
Dog Control Report

8:30am Motion to adjourn offered by Dave Norton, seconded by Carolyn Carney.

FYI The Town Hall will be closed, November 27th and November 28th.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Schurr, Town Clerk