

Town of Friendship

Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2026

6pm/6:55 Bid opening

Call to Order by Supervisor Blouvet.

Pledge of Allegiance observed by all.

Roll call: Supervisor James Blouvet-present

Councilperson: Carolyn Carney-present

Councilperson:-Linda Mascho-present

Councilperson: Dave Norton-present

Councilperson: Ken Burdick-present

Also Present: Patricia Schurr-Town Clerk

Assemblage: Connie and Michael Livergood, George Ritter, Yvonne Marks, Kendra and Derek Kado, Bob Beck, Olivia Cochran, Jacob Blouvet, Jacob Isaman with Alle. Co. Land Bank, Scott Lanphere, Ashley Smith, Jacob Isaman, Chet & Rachael Jablonski, Lori Hathaway, Shawn McCarthy.

Motion to approve the meeting Minutes from December 2025 offered by Ken Burdick, seconded by Linda Mascho.

Motion to approve the Organizational meeting Minutes from January 2nd, 2026 offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Dave Norton.

Motion to approve Supervisor's report from December 2025, offered by Ken Burdick, seconded by Linda Mascho.

Motion to approve the audited bills from December 2025 in the amount of \$211,537.01, offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Ken Burdick.

Roll call: Carolyn Carney-aye

Linda Mascho-aye

Dave Norton-aye

Ken Burdick-aye

James Blouvet-aye

SUPERVISOR'S CONCERNS:

Direct Deposit- Supervisor Blouvet advised effective this date that the Town will require all employees to receive their payroll via direct deposit. Paper checks will no longer be issued.

Employees who are not currently enrolled in direct deposit must complete and submit the required authorization form by January 28th to ensure uninterrupted payroll processing.

If you have any questions or need assistance with enrollment, please contact the Tiffany Benscoter.

The Town is committing to a Rabies Clinic April 25th from 9:00am-12noon. Need a few volunteers to help with paperwork and someone to help with traffic control. Need to determine where it will be held.

It was discussed that maybe going back to the 4 east Main St. for the Town's meeting, it been determined that the 4 East Main St. will not accommodate the needs for the meeting, so 29 Water St., GAR Community Hall will main the meeting Venue.

The Town has recently rented the Ambulance Bay out to MTS, there is a bunch of medical equipment upstairs and it has been discussed to donate the equipment to MTS & other ambulance entities in the County. Scott Lanphere will help with this. After discussion the following motion was set forth:

Motion to approve the Town of Friendship to donate left over ambulance equipment left upstairs in the ambulance building to various other ambulance agencies, offered by Ken Burdick, seconded by Linda Mascho. All approve.

MTS- contract agreement to add to agreement that MTS will be paying the Town for all Utilities. for the ambulance bay offered by Dave Norton, seconded by Ken Burdick.

The Town of Friendship Depts. are overrun with paperwork that the retention periods are way outdated and are able to be shredded per the NYS Records Retention and Disposition Schedule April 23, 2024(LGS-1). Will look into a shredding Company and each Dept. to share the expense.

The Town's current crossing guard will not be able to do the job for a few weeks, so the Town is looking for someone to do the crossing guard job, about 2 hours a day at \$18.75 an hour. Contact the Town hall is anyone is interested.

FUEL FARM DISCUSSION- The Fuel Farm is shared by the Town Depts., Fire Dept. and the School. Public works has had someone from Rochester to look at it because it does not always register correctly, and the Town may be paying out for the other entities using it. It could be possibly the pump and it would cost \$17,000.00 for new, but it may not be the issue. Supervisor Blouvet spoke with someone at the County level and the County employees have cards to obtain fuel, it would save time and money. Not sure how the School and the Fire Dept. feels about this yet. The Town should not be responsible for paying for the fuel and it doesn't always register correctly. The Fuel tanks now are above the ground so the DEC should not have to get involved. Oakley Sortore stated he spoke with Jim at Miller and Brandes about getting fuel through them and Jim with Millier & Brandes was all for it, the pumps have to be available 24/7 and would be.

Paul Sardina- The Town had gotten an email from Paul Sardina at 51 E. Main St., and the Board had already decided to **not** give a credit for the late fees, and this has not changed no credit due.

PUBLIC CONCERNS-

Jason Isaman from Allegany County Land bank

Update on Properties they have or are obtaining ownership of 4-6 & 8 W. Main St. and 4-6 and 12 Depot St.

They are doing bids to re- do the front walls and they are waiting for the Historical Preservation officer. It was confirmed that \$10,000.00 was put in the budget for this year that the Town committed to. Supervisor Blouvet asked what is that paying for and the answer was it is paying for a consultant to get buildings onto a Historic Registry. It is a selling tool, proposed Downtown District, they can get the credit. Right now, checking on some tanks in the ground that come up on old "Sanborn maps", under the sidewalk, investigation to continue. The whole process is slow. When asked about the water/sewer caps that they are still being charged, they do not pay them at this point, however something formal is needed in writing to remove the charges that have already been assessed and stop charging the caps. He said this will come as soon as there is finalization.

Bill Beck Pastor with United Church of Friendship stated they have done some improvements on the church and they will continue to do so, as much as they can as they have a faith based budget.

Chet Jablonski Just wanted to know if any information is known about the business coming into the Bldg. off of Castle Garden Rd. Ashley Smith advised that the Owner is not ready to announce anything official, she could just say it is light manufacturing wholesale, should employee 25-50 people possibly be opening in March or April of this year.

Chet also asked about the foul smell coming from the Saputo plant states it smells like human feces. Councilman Norton advised it is just dairy waste.

Motion to appoint Attorney DiMatteo Roach & Kelly as alternate Town Attorneys, offered by Ken Burdick, seconded by Carolyn Carney.

Motion to increase wages on Union Employees by \$2.00/hr starting February 5th, 2026. (from Jan 19th thru Feb. 1st payroll), and approving Supervisor Blouvet to sign the memorandum of agreement from the Union, offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Ken Burdick.

Roll Call vote: Carolyn Carney-aye

Linda Mascho-aye

Dave Norton-aye

Ken Burdick-aye

James Blouvet-aye

Motion to approve the LGSS Accounting firm to examine/audit Justice Szucs Court Records for 2025, offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Dave Norton. All approve.

Motion to approve the Town Board to create a Full time position for Kristina Carney for Friendship Court Clerk d/t traffic diversion work load, offered by Ken Burdick, seconded by Carolyn /Carney. All approve.

RESOLUTION 5 -2026

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF ALLEGANY COUNTY, NEW YORK

Offered by Allegany County Town Highway Superintendents Association

Whereas, the Town Board of the Town of Friendship hereby agrees to allow George Ritter, or his designee to extend Mutual Aid assistance to another participating municipality within the County of Allegany when requested to do so by such municipality in time of abnormal snow or work conditions. This agreement is subject to the conditions listed in the written agreement.

Offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Dave Norton.

Roll call: Carolyn Carney-aye

Linda Mascho-aye

Dave Norton-aye

Ken Burdick-aye

James Blouvet-aye

RESOLUTION 6-2026

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF ALLEGANY COUNTY, NEW YORK

Offered by Allegany County Town Highway Superintendents Association

Whereas, the Town Board of the Town of Friendship hereby agrees to allow Oakley Sortore, or his designee to extend Mutual Aid assistance to another participating municipality within the County of Allegany when requested to do so by such municipality in time of abnormal snow or work conditions. This agreement is subject to the conditions listed in the written agreement.

Offered by Ken Norton, seconded by Linda Mascho.

Roll call: Carolyn Carney-aye

Linda Mascho-aye

Dave Norton-aye

Ken Burdick-aye

James Blouvet-aye

Public works/water/sewer Oakley Sortore concerns:

Grants- Waiting for responses or approvals

Generators well 4 -FEMA is dragging, everything thing is to them for review. Waiting for the ok to start.

Waiting for response from Army Corps of Engineers

Waiting for Water permit-Health Dept. on well

Phase I- they were some questions from the professional services, its approved to go to bid but has not gone to bid yet.

WIIA state revolving fund in for review- some questions but it has been resolved.

Regarding L-28 the V-plow is shipped and it should be here next week.

Highway Dept. George Ritter concerns-none busy with snow plowing

Report Received:

Town Clerk Annual Report for 2025

Tow Clerk Report for December 2025

Highway Dept. Report

Water Report

Dog Control Report

Police Report

BID OPENING

6:55 Opening of Fuel Bids: Only one from Rinker Oil-non-collusive bid

As follows: Clearulsd#2-2.4995/gal

Clear All weather-ulsd#2 – 2.5295/gal.

87 No lead E10 Gasoline- 2.3578/gal

Being the only bid and Board discussion, the following motion was brought forth:

Motion to accept the Bid above From Rinker oil for the fuel prices for 2026, offered by Dave Norton, seconded by Carolyn Carney.

Motion to adjourn offered Ken Burdick, seconded by Linda Mascho.

Sincerely submitted,

Patricia Schurr
Town Clerk