

TOWN OF FRIENDSHIP  
MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 18, 2026

*Call to Order by Supervisor Blouvet.*

*Pledge of Allegiance observed by all.*

*Roll call: Supervisor: James Blouvet-present  
Councilperson Carolyn Carney-absent  
Councilperson Linda Mascho-present  
Councilperson Dave Norton-present  
Councilperson Ken Burdick-present*

*Also present-Patricia Schurr Town Clerk-present*

*Assemblage: Scott Lanphere, Ashley Smith, BJ Howe, Oakley Sortore, Jacob Blouvet, Olivia Cochran.*

*Motion to approve the meeting Minutes from January 21, 2026. Offered by Linda Mascho, By Dave Norton. All approve.*

*Motion to approve the Supervisor's report from January 2026, offered by Ken Burdick, seconded by Linda Mascho. All approve.*

*Motion to approve the audited bills from January 2026 in the amount of \$239,465.43 offered by Ken Burdick, seconded by Linda Mascho.*

*Roll call vote:*

*Linda Mascho-aye*

*Dave Norton-aye*

*Ken Burdick-aye*

*James Blouvet-aye*

***SUPERVISOR'S CONCERNS-***

***\*Community Garden-Need residents help with the garden. The gardens will be raised. Public works will not be involved in this project, it is a community-based project. There will be a designated plot near the Old Friendship jail off Baxter Street. More information will be put on the facebook page to get information out there. Officer Howe advises that if this happens cameras should be put up.***

***Be placed out there.***

***\*The Town was not making any money on funds in the bank, working with the bank and they are offering 3.1% interest. Working to implement this.***

***(noted)Direct Deposit with payroll will not be mandatory but voluntary.***

***PUBLIC CONCERNS-none***

***7-2026 RESOLUTION FOR COURT RECORDS EXAMINATION***

***BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Town Board of Friendship has had All of 2025's Court records examined, and it is confirmed that all fines have been collected therein, and that all funds have been turned over to the proper officials of the Town, as required by law.***

***Resolution offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Dave Norton.***

***Roll call:***

***Linda Mascho-aye***

***Dave Norton-aye***

***Ken Burdick-aye***

***James Blouvet-aye***

Motion to approve the transfer of Funds of \$50,000.00 to the Highway Equipment Reserve (was Budgeted but state wants Board approval). Offered by Dave Norton, seconded by Linda Mascho.

Roll call vote:

Linda Mascho-aye

Dave Norton-aye

Ken Burdick-aye

James Blouvet-aye

Motion to approve Agreement of Shared Kennel Services with the Town of Amity, as the Town of Friendship has the same Dog Control officer (Connie Livergood), offered by Linda Mascho, Seconded by Linda Mascho. All approve.

**8-2026**

**Resolution approving the Emergency Operations Plan for 2026**

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of Friendship hereby approves the Emergency Plan for the Town of Friendship for the year of 2026, offered by, seconded by Ken Burdick.

Roll call:

Linda Mascho-aye

Dave Norton-aye

Ken Burdick-aye

James Blouvet-aye

Motion to approve the Insurance Renewal with (NYMIR) Gallagher Insurance in the Amount of \$57,087.79, offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Dave Norton.

Roll call vote: Linda Mascho-aye

Dave Norton-aye

Ken Burdick-aye

James Blouvet-aye

**9-2026**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF STRENGTHENING STATE-LOCAL PARTNERSHIP IN THE STATE FISCAL YEAR**

**2026-27 EXECUTIVE BUDGET**

Whereas, on January 20, 2026, Governor Kathy Hochul released the State Fiscal Year 2026-27 Executive Budget; and

Whereas, towns provide essential services to residents, including maintain local roads and bridges, operating and maintaining water and sewer infrastructure, and delivering public safety and code enforcement services; and

Whereas, towns are experiencing rising costs for labor, fuel materials, and equipment, while many state aid programs remain flat or temporary in nature; and

Whereas, predictable, formula-based state aid allows towns to plan responsibly, invest in preventive maintenance, and limit reliance on the property tax; and

Whereas, grants remain an important source of funding for municipal infrastructure projects, but competitive grant programs alone are insufficient to support routine maintenance and long-term planning for water and sewer systems; and

*Whereas, the SFY 2026027 Executive Budget includes \$500.00 million in Clean Water Infrastructure Act grant funding and an additional \$250.00 million for water infrastructure projects intended to promote housing preservation, including funding fore rural communities; and*

*Whereas, the New York Association of Towns has recommended allocation \$100 million of this additional funding to the Sewer and Water Action Program(SWAP)to create a formula-based, CHIPS-like funding stream for municipal water and sewer infrastructure; and*

*Whereas, last year’s Enacted Budget included \$50 million in Temporary Municipal Aid(TMA) in addition to the \$715 million Aid Incentives to Municipalities base, but this TMA funding remains temporary and neither AIM or TMA is indexed to inflation; and*

*Whereas, unrestricted municipal aid is critical to helping towns control property taxes and maintain core services, and more than a decade of flat funding has forced towns to delay maintenance and shift costs to local taxpayers; and*

*Whereas, towns maintain nearly two-thirds of all centerline miles of roads in New York State and spend a significant share of their budgets on transportation, yet state transportation aid does not reflect the true and growing cost of maintaining local infrastructure;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Friendship calls on the Governor and the State Legislature to modify the SFY 2026-27 Executive Budget to better Support towns by:*

- 1. Allocating \$100 million in formula-based aid for municipal water and sewer infrastructure through the Sewer and Water Action Program(SWAP), in addition to existing grant programs; and*
- 2. Making the \$50 million Temporary Municipal Assistance In unrestricted municipal aid permanent, and indexing AIM and TMA to inflation to reflect rising municipal costs; and*
- 3. Increasing state transportation funding for local roads and bridges, in particular the CHIPS base, to better align with the actual cost of maintaining town-owned infrastructure; and*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is directed to transmit copies of this resolution to the Governor, the Temporary President of the Senate, the Speaker of the Assembly, and the Town’s State Senator and Assemblymember.*

*Resolution approving the Support of Strengthening State-Local Partnership in the SFY 2026-27 Budget, offered by Dave Norton, seconded by Linda Mascho.*

*Roll call:*

*Linda Mascho-aye*

*Dave Norton-aye*

*Ken Burdick-aye*

*James Blouvet-aye*

*Public works/water/sewer-Oakley Sortore-*

*Just FYI electric is going up a neighboring community's sewer plant water bill tripled. Per Councilperson, Linda Mascho, there are different things you can apply for – check with state Representatives. There are different stages of raising the bills, 2 more stages due to paying for upgrading infrastructures.*

*Regarding the grants- Oakley Sortore advised hoping to go out to Bid for phase I water project, we wanted to go before October '25. All he can do is bid as accurate as we can. The Bid document is 906 pages, has to go through it some things not agreeing on such as the slope of the roof. The documents have to be gone through and rectify things that need to be fixed.*

*Invoiced was received for the soil boring of \$19,000+, this was billed directly, did not go through Hunt engineering, hopefully does not throw up a flag.*

*There was a water main break on 275, if the new tank was up and running he stated it could have been just shut off in the order that it would not have affected so many people. This line was put in in the 1990's there is about 200 of them. Multiple neighboring communities helped fix this main break with shared services.*

*Highway Dept.-George Ritter-none*

*REPORTS RECEIVED:*

*Town Clerk Report*

*Highway Report*

*Water Report*

*Police Report*

*Justice Report*

*Dog Control Report*

*Motion to adjourn offered by Dave Norton, seconded by Linda Mascho.*

*6:44pm*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Patricia Schurr*

*Town Clerk*