

TOWN OF FRIENDSHIP MINUTES

May 20, 2026

5:30 open bids

5:45 pm Public Hearing

7pm Regular Meeting

Supervisor Blouvet calls meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance observed by all.

Roll call: Supervisor James Blouvet-present

Councilperson-Dave Norton-present

Councilperson-Ken Burdick-present

Councilperson-Linda Mascho-present

Also present-Patricia Schurr-Town Clerk

Assemblage: Shawn McCarthy, Scott Lanphere, Jim Monheim, Ashley Smith, BJ Howe, Oakley Sortore, George Ritter.

5:30 Refuse job Bid opening

4 Closed sealed Bids received

Companies: #1 Cryco 48,706 for the rest of year

2027 -91,428

2028- 100,113.84

2029-109,624.68

2030-120,039.00

2031-131,442.72

#2 LaForge 51,170 for rest of year

2027 – 103,000

2028 – 105,944

2029 – 108,593

2030- 111,307

2031- 114,000

#3 Enton 80,920 for the rest of year

2027- 143,000

2028 – 148,772

2029 – 154,060

2030- 155,556

2031- 165,233

#4 Casella 88,044 for the rest of year

2027 - 88,044

2028 -91,000

2029 -94,000

2030 – 97,000

2031 – 101,000

Bid Session Closed.

5:45 Public Hearing regarding the hire of Attorney Matthew Rosenbaum to prosecute Dog Cases.

Supervisor Blouvet calls the Public Hearing to order.

Roll call: Supervisor Blouvet-present

Councilman-Linda Mascho-present

Councilman-Ken Burdick-present

Councilman-Dave Norton-present

Discussion/questions-

Shawn McCarthy questioned if this Attorney has been looked into, Supervisor Blouvet advised he had.

Scott Lanphere wanted to know how much it will cost to have an Attorney go to court, they charge more than just coming to a Board Meeting. This is a good question, will have to find out what the charges would be.

BJ Howe OIC, advised that the bail reform keep defendants from going to jail. Can always go through with it write the tickets and fines and it would only effect their credit. The Dog Control officer does her job. Officer Howe stated another Town has a new animal abuse law, that the owner can be banned from having dogs. Officer Howe stated he will look into this and get back with the Board.

Supervisor Blouvet asked if there were anymore questions, after discussion Supervisor Blouvet closes the Public Hearing.

Supervisor Blouvet calls the Regular Meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance observed by all.

Roll call: Supervisor James Blouvet-present
Councilperson-Dave Norton-present
Councilperson-Ken Burdick-present
Councilperson-Linda Mascho-present

Motion to approve the Regular Town Meeting from April 15, 2026, offered by Dave Norton,
Seconded by Linda Mascho.

Motion to approve the Special Emergency Meeting Minutes from April 27, 2026, offered by Ken
Burdick, seconded by Linda Mascho.

Motion to approve the Supervisor's Report for April 2026 offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Ken
Burdick.

Motion to approve the audited bills in the amount of \$82,478.94 for April 2026 offered by Dave Norton,
seconded by Linda Mascho.

Roll call vote: Linda Mascho-yes
Ken Burdick-yes
Dave Norton-yes
James Blouvet-yes

SUPERVISOR'S CONCERNS:

Supervisor Blouvet thanked everyone that come out to help out with the Community Garden.
Historical Society upset because the Town put up a small portable shed up to put the Gardening tools in.
Noted that the Historical Society does nothing with the upkeep on the lot or the jail.

Supervisor Blouvet also advised that the Board would not appoint anyone to fill the Councilman position
instead will wait for the Elections. The Town Board will just let the Elections and the people vote who to
put in the position for next year.

Public Concerns:

Jim Monheim: He states that he inquired to the Assessor regarding the exemption on land taxes for
veterans exemption, and what he knows he did get was an unrealistic increase in his taxes on his property,
he then Complained and some error was made and is to be corrected by real property. He still really does
not have and answer on the veteran's exemption and he has been inquiring about this since 2024.
Supervisor Blouvet advised he would see what he could find out.

Resolution 11- 2026

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CONTINUED USE OF LAFORGE GARBAGE COMPANY FOR REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICES PENDING REVIEW AND FINAL DECISION ON SUBMITTED BIDS

WHEREAS, the Town of Friendship currently contracts with LaForge Garbage Company for refuse collection services; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Friendship has solicited bids for refuse collection services pursuant to applicable laws and procurement requirements; and

WHEREAS, bids have been received and are presently under review by the Town Board of Friendship; and

WHEREAS, the governing body finds it necessary and in the best interests of the residents of the municipality to ensure uninterrupted refuse collection services during the review and evaluation process;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Friendship Town Board hereby authorizes the continued use of LaForge Garbage Company for refuse collection services on a temporary basis pending the review, evaluation, and final determination regarding the submitted bids; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such continuation shall remain in effect until a formal award of contract is approved by the governing body or until otherwise directed by resolution.

Resolution offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Dave Norton. All approve.

TOWN OF FRIENDSHIP(bid opening)

Resolution regarding decision on garbage pickup

RESOLUTION No. ____ OF 2026

Resolution authorizing award of contract for garbage/refuse collection

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Friendship duly advertised and solicited sealed bids for garbage and refuse collection services in accordance with New York State Law and the Town's bid specifications; and

WHEREAS, sealed bids were publicly opened on May 20, 2026, prior to the Regular Meeting and reviewed by the Town Board to determine compliance with the bid specifications; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has determined that _____ submitted a responsible bid that meets all specifications and is in the best interest of the Town; and

WHEREAS, said services are necessary for the health, safety, and welfare of the Town residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Friendship hereby awards the contract for garbage and refuse collection services to _____ in accordance with the Town's bid specifications and the bid submitted, for a total contract amount of \$_____, and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to execute any and all contracts and related documents necessary to effectuate this award; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Above Resolution offered by _____, seconded by _____.

Roll call: Linda Mascho:

Dave Norton:

Ken Burdick:

James Blouvet:

This Resolution will be tabled at this time.

TOWN OF FRIENDSHIP

RESOLUTION NO. ____ OF 2026

AUTHORIZING SPECIAL COUNSEL MATTHEW ROSENBAUM TO PROSECUTE DOG CONTROL VIOLATIONS

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Friendship has received numerous concerns regarding dog control violations within the Town; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was duly noticed and held on May 20, 2025, at which time the public was given the opportunity to be heard regarding the appointment of special counsel for the prosecution of such cases; and

WHEREAS, it is determined to be in the best interest of the Town of Friendship to ensure the effective and consistent prosecution of violations of the Town’s Dog Control Law and relevant sections of the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Friendship hereby authorizes and appoints Friendship Town Attorney Matthew Rosenbaum to act as special counsel to prosecute dog control cases on behalf of the Town; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such authorization is subject to any necessary consent from the Allegany County District Attorney should prosecution of dog control cases rise to the level of criminal violations under New York State Law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Offered by _____, seconded by _____

Linda Mascho:

Dave Norton:

Ken Burdick:

James Blouvet:

This Resolution will be tabled d/t some questions and concerns.

PUBLIC CONCERNS: Jim Monheim presents the Board with questions again regarding additional Veterans exemption. This has been brought up before and was told that it would be looked into, and no further information was given. Noone knows anything about it or can answer questions He advises that he feels the assessor has been no help. Supervisor Blouvet stated that he knows that he has been told this at past Board meetings by someone else but he would look into this.

Motion to approve the Williamson Law Annual Software Contract support for Town Clerk Plus Software in the amount of \$1055.00(\$1005.00 prior yr.), offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Dave Norton.

Motion to approve the Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 26, 2026 at 10:00 am. Starting in front of the Fire Dept. and proceeding to the Library, offered by Ken Burdick, seconded by Linda Mascho.

**Public Works/Water Sewer Concerns-Oakley Sortore
Updates on Water Grant and Water phase I and II-**

Approved Construction by EPA for Phase 1. Contracts have been awarded, awaiting now for the contractors.

Secured financing for EFC for phase 2. Hoping to get through the bidding process.

Almost ready-DEC Water withdrawal permit

Working with Engineers on Phase II.

Will still be applying for more funding.

Updates on Sewer Wastewater project-

Looking into different wastewater treatment manufacturing= less maintenance.

Working on a new template.

Updates on generators- No news on new scope change. It been 14 months with FEMA. If it does not go through, its still going in. Can use it on Phase II, holding FEMA to it.

Update on 4-6 depot cleanup- LandBank acquired the property and working on the initial work and cleanup. Dig safely has been called. The pre-Demo contractor did not show. There has to be core sampling done. ** Note that the Ally between the buildings there is a sewer right of way there when it comes to them taking out the foundation.

Highway Dept. concerns- George Ritter- No problems or concerns

Reports received:

Town Clerk Report- April

Highway Dept. Report – April

Water Report

Police Report

Dog Control Report

7:04 Motion to go out of regular session into executive session to discuss personnel, offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Ken Burdick.

7:29 Motion to go out of executive session back into regular session, offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Davae Norton.

7:34 pm

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

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Schurr

Town Clerk