

TOWN OF FRIENDSHIP

Meeting Minutes

AUGUST 19, 2026

6:00

Supervisor Blouvet calls meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance observed by all.

Roll call: Supervisor James Blouvet: present

Councilmember: Dave Norton: present

Councilmember: Ken Burdick: present

Councilmember: Linda Mascho: present

Also present: Patricia Schurr-Town Clerk

Assemblage: George Ritter, Ashley Smith, Scott Lanphere, Oakley Sortore, Jason Isaman(Alle.County Landbank)

Motion to approve the Minutes from July 15, 2026 offered by Dave Norton, seconded by Ken Burdick .

Motion to approve the Minutes from Special Meeting of August 4, 2026, offered by Ken Burdick, seconded by Linda Mascho.

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

Motion to approve the audited bills in the amount of \$ 100,723.78, offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Ken Burdcik.

Roll call: Linda Mascho: aye

Dave Norton: aye

Ken Burdick: aye

Linda Mascho: aye

SUPERVISOR'S CONCERNS:

UPDATE ON BESS: Supervisor Blouvet asked Ken Burdick if he had found out anymore information on BESS. He stated that he had not.

Supervisor Blouvet advised that attorney Rosenbaum had read the minutes from the last meeting and he was a little upset. The attorney advised he can meet the Towns needs and put in the local law whatever needs to be in it what ever the Town needs.

Ashley Smith questioned if the Town had a moratorium yet , and the answer was no. She also advised she would send the Town a copy of the Local law from Burns and Alfred.

The Town of Burns are building, they have solar and windmills, that's where their money comes in from.

Supervisor Blouvet advised that the Union Contract is coming up and they are working on it, 2 of the Board members will meet with the Union Rep.

Wrecked Public works truck: The truck was taken from Extreme collision to Kendall's Auto.

Kendall told Supevisor Blouvet would work with Friendship, he is not charging any storage while

The truck is there. The plow is being taken off.

Town Garden:

Saputo has put the rocks around the garden and cameras were put up, should not be any vandalism anymore, if there is they will have them on camera.

Suspervisor Blouvet stated that repair for the Front Steps for Town Hall needs to go into the Budget for next year, it is in need of repair.

PUBLIC CONCERNS:

Jason Isaman – Stated they are closing on the Hardware/Restaruant 8 and 10 West Main Street was suppose to close 2/4/2026 holdup on ownership paperwork with FRED.

On 4-6 Depot Street will fence around it, not sure if they are filling in or building. Waiting for the EPA testing d/t history of the Tin shop that was there.

Oakley Sortore advised that there was Linear soil cracking the side of the old driveway where the sewer main is, it would be a bad situation if not filled in. The sewer from Elmwood Ave, Maple run through there. Jason assured that this will be addressed before the frost. He was on his way to the Allegany planning Board meeting from this meeting, and he does represent the Town of Friendship.

In reference to the Historical District Preservation Grant- there is a pre application due by August 28, 2026 and he is asking if the Town wants them to apply for the Grant, they will do all work on it, however he needs commitment from the Town and it is a \$20,000.00 Grant with a Town's share of \$2,000.00. The \$2,000.00 was already budgeted. Added benefit: Developers get tax incentive/credit.

*After Board discussion the following motion was set forth:

Motion to authorize the Town to approve for the pre-application for the Historic Preservation in the amount of \$20,000.00 with \$2,000.00 being the Town's share, offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Dave Norton.

Roll call: Linda Mascho: aye

Dave Norton: aye

Ken Burdick: aye

Linda Mascho: aye

Proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2026-Tax Cap override

A LOCAL LAW TO OVERRIDE THE REAL PROPERTY TAX CAP LEVY ESTABLISHED BY GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW SECTION 3-c.

Section 1. Legislative Intent.

It is the intent of this local law to override the limit on the amount of real property taxes that may be levied by the Town of Friendship, pursuant to General Municipal Law Section 3-c, and to allow the Town of Friendship to adopt a budget for fiscal year 2027 that requires a tax levy increase in excess of the Atax levy limit@ as defined by General Municipal Law Section 3-c.

Section 2. Authority.

This local law is adopted pursuant to subdivision 5 of General Municipal Law Section 3-c, which expressly authorizes the Town Board to override the tax levy limit by the adoption of a local law approved by a vote of sixty percent (60%) of the Town Board.

Section 3. Tax Levy Limit Override.

The Town Board of the Town of Friendship, County of Allegany, State of New York, is

hereby authorized to adopt a budget for fiscal year 2027 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the amount otherwise proscribed in General Municipal Law Section 3-c. This override is necessary to deal with the following increased costs:

- a. increased wages for Town employees pursuant to the Collective Bargaining Agreement that the Town is obligated to pay pursuant to the State Taylor Law;
- b. increased wages for non-union Town employees;
- c. to offset increased operating costs that impact critical and necessary operations of the Town of Friendship

Section 4. Severability.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this Local Law or the application thereof to any person, firm or corporation, or circumstance, shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision or part of this Local Law or in its application to the person, individual, firm or corporation or circumstance, directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or order shall be rendered.

A draft of proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2026 entitled the "A Local Law to Override the Real Property Tax Cap Levy Established by General Municipal Law Section 3-c" was presented by the Town Supervisor, James Blouvet. Town Attorney Richard M. Buck, Jr., had prepared the draft local law at the request of the Town Supervisor. It was explained that this local law is for the purpose of enabling the Town Board to adopt a budget for 2027 that exceeds the 2026 real property tax levy by more than 2%. The following resolution was introduced by Linda Mascho, who moved its adoption, and seconded by Dave Norton, to wit:

BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the Town Board of the Town of Friendship accepts and proposes to adopt a local law to be designated as Introductory Local Law No. 1 of 2026 entitled the "A Local Law to Override the Real Property Tax Cap Levy Established by General Municipal Law Section 3-c."
2. That a public hearing be held on September 16, 2026, at 5:50 P.M. at the Friendship G.A.R. Hall located at 29 West Water Street, Friendship, New York.
3. That the Town Clerk, with the assistance of the Town Attorney, is directed to prepare the legal notice required to be published and to provide such notice for timely publication in the official newspaper.
4. That a copy of such legal notice be posted upon the Town Clerk's bulletin board and Town website as required by law.

Following discussion, the foregoing resolution was called to a vote which resulted as follows:

AYES

NOES

James Blouvet, Supervisor	___aye___	_____
Linda Mascho, Councilperson	___aye___	_____
David Norton, Councilperson	___aye___	_____
Vacant, Councilperson	-	
Kenneth Burdick, Councilperson	___aye___	_____

The Supervisor then declared the resolution to be adopted and directed the Clerk to proceed to contact the Town Attorney if necessary and to complete the publishing and posting as required by law.

Motion to put bids in the paper for the September 16, 2026 meeting for opening at 5:40 PM for the Courthouse ramp and side door steps funded by NYS Justice Grant. (Bid opening for August 19 not done d/t specs not completed to put in paper). Bids for the September 16, 2026 meeting must be received by Tuesday, September 15th by 3pm, motion offered by Dave Norton, seconded by Ken Burdick.
Roll call: Linda Mascho: aye
Dave Norton: aye
Ken Burdick: aye
James Blouvet: aye

Motion to approve the 5 year contract between Laforge Refuse and The Town of Friendship and approve Supervisor Blouvet to sign the contract, offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Ken Burdick.
Roll call: Linda Mascho-aye
Dave Norton: aye
Ken Burdick: aye
Brad Blouvet: aye

Public Works/water/sewer-Oakley Sortore-

Decision/motion on totaled 2020 chevy truck of public works-
Quote of \$53,210.00(state bid) from Basil Chevy for a new 2026 Chevy, Insurance is paying \$35,475.00 that is with putting the plow from the damaged vehicle on the new. This leaves a balance of \$17,735.00. (What fund does this come from)?
Discussion: Councilmember, Linda Mascho question if we had allocated funds for this, although this was not budgeted, Bookkeeper Tiffany Benscoter and Supervisor Blouvet advised they would be able to find the \$17,735.00 need to obtain the new 2026 truck. (When this truck initially was purchased it was supposed to be rotated every so many years for a new vehicle).
Linda Mascho advised that residents have voiced that they did not think new vehicles were needed also reminded that the Insurance will go up with a new vehicle. Supervisor questioned where are the concerned residents? They are not at the meeting.

After discussion the following Motion was set forth:

Motion to find funds in the budget to pay the bal. of \$17,735.00 to be able to pay for the totaled truck and obtain a 2026 truck, offered by Ken Burdick, seconded by Dave Norton.

Roll call vote: Linda Masacho-no

Ken Burdick-aye

Dave Norton-aye

James Blouvet-aye

Fuel Farm:

Fuel Farm is being repaired should be done tomorrow. Some repair on the front roof peak of the Fuel farm was done.

Grant updates

*CDBG water grant submitted on time.

*WIIA successfully submitted

*Generators: gone through every step have gotten notice to proceed

Preconstruction with contractor

- Need a sloped roof
- Modifications made by Engineers.

Phase I -working through submittals

Completion date of Dec. 31st

The piece of property on Moss Brook that is needed for the Booster Station the owners said they will sponsor it, letting the Town go on it.

Ashley Smith advised that Saputo is Adding on to the plant and it will be massive, however it will not generate more jobs, it will be mostly automated. They will be moving the RGE Power lines across the street. It will take the most time to get the Silos.

Highway Dept.- no concerns

NOTE: Town Clerk/Town Hall Hours for the week of August 24-August 27th:

M-W-Thurs. 10am-3pm

Reports Received:

Town Clerk-July 2026

Highway Dept. 2026

Water Dept.

Dog Control Report

Police Dept. Report

Justice Report

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

7:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Schurr

Town Clerk