TOWN OF FRIENDSHIP

MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 21, 2026

5:45 Budget Hearing

6:00 Regular Meeting

Budget Hearing 5:45pm

Pledge of Allegiance observed by all.

Roll call: Supervisor-James Blouvet- present
Councilman-Linda Mascho-present
Councilman-Dave Norton-present
Councilman-Ken Burdick-present
Also present- Patricia Schurr-Town Clerk
Tiffany Benscoter-Bookkeeper

Assemblage: Oakley Sortore, Shaun McCarthy, BJ Howe

5:45 Supervisor Blouvet calls meeting to order.

Any Discussion regarding the 2027 Budget- Supervisor Blouvet asked if anyone had anyone questions or concerns. The tax cap was not over the 2% tax cap.

Oakley Sortore mentioned the sidewalk fund balance is not very healthy, next year would be Sufficient to build on that fund balance.

Councilman Mascho stated that the Supervisor and Justice refused any raise going into 2027 but gave raise to the councilman positions. She wanted to thank them for what they do for the Town.

With no other comments or concerns:

Motion to close the Budget Hearing, offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Dave Norton.

Regular Meeting 6:00

Supervisor calls Regular Meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance observed by all.

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

Also present: Patricia Schurr, Town Clerk

Assemblage: Oakley Sortore, Shaun McCarthy, Mike Unfus, BJ Howe.

Motion to approve the Minutes from Sept. 16, 2026 for Public Hearing on Tax cap offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Dave Norton.

Motion to approve the Minutes from Sept. 16, 2026 for the Regular Meeting offered by Ken Burdick, seconded by Linda Mascho.

Motion to approve the Special Meeting October 13 on tentative budget offered by Dave Norton, Seconded by Linda Mascho.

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

Motion to approve the Audited Bills for September 2026 in the amount of $217,255.67, offered by, Ken Burdick seconded by Linda Mascho.
Roll call vote: Linda Mascho-aye
Dave Norton-aye
Ken Burdick-aye
James Blouvet-aye

Motion to approve the Preliminary Budget as the **Final Budget for 2027**, offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Ken Burdick.
Roll call: Linda Mascho-aye
Dave Norton-aye
Ken Burdick-aye
James Blouvet-aye

SUPERVISOR'S CONCCERNS
Heavy garbage pickup for November and December. Pickup in November is Friday, November 20th, December's pickup is December 18th. Items should not be out to the curb no earlier than the night before the pickup.

PUBLIC CONCERNS-none

TOWN OF FRIENDSHIP, NEW YORK

RESOLUTION NO. 23 OF 2026

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AN EXACT CASH PAYMENT POLICY FOR WATER/SEWER BILLS AND TOWN AND COUNTY TAX BILLS DUE TO THE PENNY SHORTAGE

WHEREAS, a shortage of pennies in circulation has created difficulties in making cash payments for bills and other financial transactions; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Friendship wishes to establish a policy for accepting cash payments for water/sewer bills and Town and County tax bills while ensuring that all payments are made in the exact amount legally due; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board finds it appropriate to implement this policy on separate effective dates for water/sewer bills and Town and County tax bills;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that effective **November 1, 2026**, all cash payments for water/sewer bills payable to the Town of Friendship must be made in the exact amount legally due, as stated on the applicable bill, with no overpayment or underpayment permitted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that effective **January 1, 2027**, all cash payments for Town and County tax bills payable to the Town of Friendship must be made in the exact amount legally due, as stated on the applicable tax bill, with no overpayment or underpayment permitted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Friendship shall not be required to provide change for cash payments, and cash payments that do not equal the full amount legally due shall not be accepted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect according to the respective dates stated above and shall remain in effect unless amended or repealed by subsequent resolution of the Town Board.

Duly adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Friendship, New York, on the 21st day of October, 2026.

Offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Dave Norton.

Roll call vote: Linda Mascho-aye, Dave Norton-aye, Ken Burdick-aye, James Blouvet-aye.

Water/Sewer Generator Project updates-Oakley Sortore
The Town of Friendship received an awarded WIIA Grant. There are important next steps and more paperwork involved. Thanked Tiffany and Patty for all the reports. Phase I is underway, dug out for the bldg. in Nile, putting in pipes. The DPW worked on getting the water main to the Allegany Co. DPW, not ready for consumption yet.

Motion to approve Supervisor James Blouvet to sign all upcoming pay applications with the Board approval, offered by Ken Burdick, seconded by Dave Norton.

Motion to approve the pay application #1 in the amount of $33,029.60 for Contract app.#1 -General Construction, Project: Friendship Water System Improvements, contractor :STC Construction, project #2610, 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 pay application #2 in the amount of $89,346.80 for Contract app.#2 -General Construction; Project: Friendship Water System Improvements; contractor: STC Construction, Inc., Project #2610, 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 pay application #3 in the amount of $219,107.05 for Contract app.#3- General Construction, Project: Friendship Water System Improvements, contractor: STC Construction, project #2610, offered by Davae Norton, seconded by Ken Burdick.
Roll call: Linda Mascho: aye
Dave Norton: aye
Ken Burdick: aye
James Blouvet: aye

Motion to approve the contractor's pay application #1 in the amount of $27,858.75 for Contract app.#1 contractor: American Contracting and Environmental (Plumbing), project #325, offered by Ken Burdick, seconded by Dave Norton.
Roll call: Linda Mascho: aye
Dave Norton: aye
Ken Burdick: aye
James Blouvet: aye
*Oakley Sortore advised that the Engineers go over every pay application and approve prior.

Motion to approve late Pool Credits(July-Sept.) on Sewer Acct.: #550 for 6764 gallons,
#3270 in the amount of 3969 gallons, #4470 in the amount of 9394 gallons, offered by Linda Mascho, Seconded by Ken Burdick.

Motion to approve an averaged credit on sewer of 108,321 gallons due to a broke valve underneath the double wide trailer acct.#0772, offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Dave Norton.

Motion to approve the Williamson Law Annual Software Support of $1,702.00 for 2026
Water/Sewer, last year $1621.00, an increase of $81.00, offered by Dave Norton, seconded by Ken Burdick.

Highway Dept.-no concerns
Will be picking up leaves the last week in October and 1st week in November.

Report Received:
Town Clerk Report for September 2026
Highway Report Sept. 2026
Dog Control Report
Justice Report
Water Report
Police Dept. Report

6:31 pm Motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel, offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Ken Burdick.

6:36 Motion to go out of executive session back into regular session any assemblage offered to come back into regular session.

Mike Unfus from M.A.C.E.(municipal alliance for code enforcement) consortium had approach the Town a few years back wanting the Town to join. MACE has 21 municipalities. They charge by the parcel $10.00 per parcel, they abide by the Towns Local law, the Town has control. They do the record keeping but they send the clerk a copy via email. Their permit fees are higher, such as residential permit fees $75.00, and commercial permit is more. He advised that they would meet on site. Supervisor Blouvet stated that this is something he and the board will have to think about.

7:05 pm Motion to adjourn offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Dave Norton.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Schurr, Town Clerk