

Town of Friendship Meeting Minutes

August 20, 2025

7pm

Supervisor Hall calls meeting to order.

Pledge of allegiance.

Roll call: Supervisor- Russell Hall-present

Councilman- Carolyn Carney-absent

Councilman-Linda Mascho-present

Councilman- Dave Norton-present

Councilman-Ken Burdick-present

Also present: Patricia Schurr, Town Clerk

Assemblage: Jason Isaman, John Barnes, Jim Monheim, George Ritter, Ron Dubois, Scott Lanphere.

Motion to approve the Minutes from the Public Hearing and Regular Meeting on July 16, 2025, offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Dave Norton. All approve.

Motion to approve the Supervisor's report for July 2025, offered by Linda Mascho, Seconded by Ken Burdick. All approve.

Motion to approve the Audited Bills for the month of July 2025 in the amount of \$417,614.07 offered by Ken Burdick, seconded by Linda Mascho.

Roll call:

Linda Mascho-aye

Dave Norton-aye

Ken Burdick-aye

Russell Hall-aye

SUPERVISOR'S CONCERNS-

BUDGET TIME-Departments needed to get in their Budget requests to the Bookkeeper, this information was due by the 14th.

Information on gov.- The Town has migrated their website to the friendshipNY.gov , the email sub accounts are now current. The current and new running at the same time, so if you put in the old it will direct you to the new.

EPA AWARD FOR WATER PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,000,000.00-Almost Ready to be able to draw on it for the water project.

PUBLIC CONCERNS- Ron Dubois that resides at 49 West Main St. has a question and complaint, why does he pay so much more on his taxes for electric, fire dept., and refuse tax than anyone else. He states it's not fair, he looked it up that an 8 Unit complex pays less than he does.

Russ Hall explain that it is based on your assessment, everything is based on that. The supervisor sees his point and this has been brought up before, however they have not come up with a way to make it fair. Maybe a minimum and a maximum charge for refuse tax, will have to ask to see if this can even be done, a question for the Attorney.

RESOLUTION 14-2025 to Relevy the Sewer and Water as well as unpaid broken water meters onto the 2025 Tax Roll for the Town of Friendship.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Friendship, Allegany County, New York, will relevy all delinquent water and sewer rental fees/bills as well as unpaid outstanding bills for broken water meters on the Real Property taxes for 2026, no later than November 1, 2025. Offered by Linda Mascho, Seconded by Dave Norton.

Roll call:

Linda Mascho-aye

Dave Norton-aye

Ken Burdick-aye

Russ Hall-aye

Motion to approve the Town Attorney to prepare the Introduction to the Local Law #1 of 2025 to override the tax cap of 2% and set the Public hearing for Sept. 17, 2025 at 6:45pm. Offered by Ken Burdick, seconded by Linda Mascho.

Roll call vote:

Linda Mascho-aye

Ken Burdick-aye

Dave Norton-aye

Russ Hall-aye

Motion to approve Russell Hall, Supervisor to adopt and sign the **New York State Department of Environmental Conservation MWBE & SDVOB Equal opportunity Policy** statement(non-discrimination & equal employment opportunity {Policy}),offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Dave Norton.

Motion to approve the Shared Assessor Agreement(Joe Dannheim -assessor) with Wellsville per fee schedule covering January 1, 2026-December 31, 2030, offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Dave Norton.

Roll call: Linda Mascho-aye

Dave Norton-aye

Ken Burdick-aye

Russ Hall-aye

****Refuse Local Law 1-2008-** suggested changes- The question is: is it Mandatory for the Town of Friendship to recycle? Very few people recycle, around -26-50 people in the district.

Not really worth paying someone to pickup for so few people. After further discussion the following motion was set forth.

Motion to investigate how to have a public referendum/vote/proposition vote on whether or not to have recycling pickup in the Town of Friendship(refuse is a special district) may entail Town Attorney help, offered by Dave Norton, seconded by Ken Burdick. All approve.

Motion to approve the pool sewer credits for account #4070 for 9,324 gallons, \$64.14, Credit to acct.#4741 for full pool fill, 6658 gallons/\$47.94 on sewer o/m offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Ken Burdick. All approve.

Tabled Topics:

Fire fighter Real property tax exemption-Noone offered a Motion, not tabled or advanced.

Updates on 4-6 depot cleanup- Friendship Code officer sent Mr. Friend a letter to remedy and gave him a specific timeline to have an answer on the fire debris. The Landbank offered to buy 4-6 Depot from Mr. Friend for \$1.00. Although the landbank can send in an engineer there to see if any of the building can be saved, they do not have funds to clean up the debris and haul it away.

Highway- No concerns

Public works/water/sewer(Oakley Sortore) concerns

****EPA AWARDED FOR THE WATER PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,000,000.00.**

Can start drawing on that as needed.

*Bobcat articulated loader-\$56,018.56 purchase price (5 year lease?)

To be used for plowing sidewalks and wherever else needed.

After Town Board discussion, it was agreed upon that the **\$56,018.56** would be put into the budget, after they put in and run all the figure, they will see where they are at in the Budget, If they need to leave it in or need to cut it out.

4 West Main St- currently owe 234.78, who is responsible for the water/sewer cap

Bill taken over by the Land Bank?

Jason Isaman advised that they have not had their closing yet and it will be taken care of then.

Jason also updated on the Historic project on Main Street, still in the process of making it Historical so that they can get the tax credit. They are in the process of obtaining 14 W. Water under the Landbank, which will be included in the historical area. On 4-6 W. Main St. they need the sidewalk to be fixed so that when they are working inside water/snow does not run in. A map of the current proposed Historical area was given to the Board members. Jason advised the Town Board needs **to Budget \$10,000.00 towards** needed engineering consultant for next year. They will be getting pamphlets out to residents. Oakley Sortore informed the Jason about the Sewer line near the barn and 5 West Water St. Street and where it runs, for them to let him know of any planned Construction, etc.

Information:

Town Clerk Hours & water billing clerk- To change to Mon.-Thurs. (and additional Fri 8-noon during tax time).

REPORTS RECEIVED

Town Clerk Report

Highway Report

Water Report

Code Enforcement

Police Report

Justice Report

8:50pm **Motion to** go into executive session to discuss an employee matter, offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Dave Norton.

9:32 **Motion to go** out of executive session back into regular session offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Ken Burdick.

9:32 **Motion to** adjourn offered by Dave Norton , seconded by Linda Mascho.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Schurr,
Town Clerk