

MINUTES

TOWN OF FRIENDSHIP

SEPTEMBER 16, 2026

5:50 PUBLIC HEARING

6:00 REGULAR MEETING

5:50 Public Hearing of Local Law 1 of 2026 to override the Tax Cap

Pledge of allegiance observed by all.

At a regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Friendship, County of Allegany, State of New York, held at the Friendship G.A.R. Hall, located at 29 West Water Street, Friendship, New York, on September 16, 2026, at 6:00 P.M. there were

PRESENT: James Blouvet, Supervisor
Linda Mascho, Councilperson
David Norton, Councilperson
Vacant
Kenneth Burdick, Councilperson

Also present: Patricia Schurr, Town Clerk

Assemblage: Jim Monheim, Brett Clouse, BJ Howe, Oakley Sortore, George Ritter.

A public hearing was held before the Town Board at 5:50 P.M. to hear all persons interested in the matter of the adoption of the Introductory Local Law No. 1 of 2026 entitled "A Local Law to Override the Real Property Tax Cap Levy Established by General Municipal Law Section 3-c" 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 2.0%.

The Tax Cap Override Local Law is only necessary if there are insufficient resources available to the Town of Friendship to meet the budget for 2027. The Board members answered questions from those present for the public hearing. **The Supervisor declared the public hearing to be closed.**

***note no Bid openings for the Court ramp d/t no specifications.**

6:00pm Supervisor Blouvet calls Regular Meeting to order.

Pledge of allegiance observed by all.

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

Also present Patricia Schurr-Town Clerk
Assemblage: Jim Monheim, Brett Clouse, BJ Howe, Oakley Sortore, George Ritter

Following the close of the public hearing the Town Board considered the adoption of the proposed local law for which the public hearing had earlier been held. The following resolution was offered by Ken Burdick who moved its adoption, and seconded by Dave Norton, to wit:

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Friendship, Allegany County, State of New York, has determined that the adoption of this local law is necessary for the purpose of enabling the Town Board to adopt a budget for 2027 that may exceed the 2026 real property tax levy by more than 2.0%; and

WHEREAS the Town Board of the Town of Friendship desires to adopt a budget for fiscal year 2027 that may require a real property tax levy in excess of the amount otherwise proscribed in General Municipal Law Section 3-c;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Town of Friendship adopt Local Law No. 1 of 2026 entitled A Local Law to Override the Real Property Tax Cap Levy Established by General Municipal Law Section 3-c which local law shall provide as follows:

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 "tax 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.

Section 5. Effective Date.

This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State pursuant to Section 27 of the Municipal Home Rule Law.

The Supervisor asked if there was any further discussion. There being no further discussion the Supervisor put the matter to a roll call vote which resulted as follows:

James Blouvet, Supervisor	voting-yes
Linda Mascho, Councilperson	voting -yes
David Norton, Councilperson	voting-yes
Kenneth Burdick, Councilperson	voting-yes

The Town Clerk handed the Board Members were handed their tentative Budgets.

Motion to approve the Minutes from August 19, 2026 offered by Ken Burdick, seconded by Linda Mascho.

Motion to approve the Supervisor Report for August 2026, offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Dave Norton.

Motion to approve the Audited bills for August 2026, in the amount of \$ 160,201.62, offered by Ken Burdick, seconded by Dave Norton.

Roll call:

James Blouvet-yes

Linda Mascho-yes

Ken Burdick-yes

David Norton-yes

Supervisor's concerns- Worked on Union Contact, everything is good employees are happy with it and it is signed, also worked on the tentative budget with the Accountant and the Bookkeeper. The Board members are encouraged to go over the tentative and if any questions/changes to get with him or with the bookkeeper.

Supervisor Blouvet also advised that the garbage truck on auctions international's bid only came in at 4,650.00. He said we are declining that because he can get more, he thinks he can get \$10,000.00 out of it.

Note: The Equalization Rate for Friendship for Town of Friendship is 87. Other Towns are a lot lower.

Public concerns:

Brett Clouse with the Fire Dept.Inc. asked the Board if they would consider paying for half of the bill for the boiler, that heats the Community room. The bill total is \$7868.00. He was informed that request would have to go to the bookkeeper to see where the funds would come from to see if this could be done.

Motion to set the Budget hearing on the 2027 Budget for October 21, 2026 at 5:45 PM, offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Dave Norton..

Motion to approve the tentative budget to preliminary Budget, offered by _____, seconded by _____. **TABLED**

TOWN OF FRIENDSHIP

ALLEGANY COUNTY, NEW YORK

RESOLUTION NO. 22 OF 2026

RESOLUTION DETERMINING THE SAPUTO DAIRIES BUILDING PROJECT TO BE A TYPE II ACTION UNDER THE STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT (SEQRA)

WHEREAS, Saputo Dairies, or its authorized representative, has proposed a building project (the "**Project**") located within the Town of Friendship, Allegany County, New York; and

WHEREAS, the Project involves [briefly describe the project, e.g., construction, renovation, expansion, rehabilitation, or reuse of the existing Saputo Dairies building and associated site improvements]; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Friendship Town Board is an agency having jurisdiction over and/or authority to approve certain aspects of the proposed Project; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board is required to consider the applicability of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act ("**SEQRA**") and its implementing regulations set forth in Title 6, Part 617 of the New York Codes, Rules and Regulations (**6 NYCRR Part 617**); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 6 NYCRR § 617.5, certain actions have been classified as **Type II actions**, which are actions that have been determined not to have a significant impact on the environment or are otherwise precluded from environmental review under Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has reviewed the proposed Saputo Dairies Building Project and has determined that the Project falls within the Type II classification identified in **6 NYCRR § 617.5(c)**, specifically [insert applicable Type II subsection and description]; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 6 NYCRR § 617.5, Type II actions are not subject to further review under SEQRA, except as otherwise provided by law or regulation; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 6 NYCRR § 617.3(f), no determination of significance, Environmental Impact Statement, or findings statement is required for an action classified as Type II; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board desires to formally document its SEQRA determination concerning the Saputo Dairies Building Project and to provide a clear record that the Project has been classified as a Type II action;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Friendship hereby determines that the **Saputo Dairies Building Project is a Type II action pursuant to 6 NYCRR § 617.5(c)**; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that because the Project is classified as a Type II action, it is not subject to further review under SEQRA, and **no determination of significance, Negative Declaration, Positive Declaration, or Environmental Impact Statement is required**; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board's classification of the Project as a Type II action shall constitute the Town's completion of its SEQRA obligations with respect to the Project, subject to any other applicable federal, state, county, or local environmental requirements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor and/or Town Clerk are hereby authorized to execute and issue any documentation reasonably necessary to memorialize and communicate the Town Board's Type II determination to the project applicant, involved agencies, and other appropriate parties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk shall maintain a copy of this Resolution in the official records of the Town of Friendship as documentation of the Town Board's SEQRA determination concerning the Project; and

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

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, Clerk of the Town of Friendship, Allegany County, New York, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution duly adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Friendship at a meeting thereof duly held on the 16th day of Sept. 2026.

Board Member Vote

Linda Mascho-aye

David Norton-aye

Ken Burdick-aye

Brad Blouvet-aye

The following Resolution was adopted.

Trick or Treat Hours

Motion to approve the Trick or Treat hours on Saturday, October 31, 2026 at 5pm-7pm offered by Ken Burdick and seconded by Dave Norton.

Concerns: Public Works/Water Sewer/Grant dates-Oakley Sortore

Updating EFC paperwork from Russ to Supervisor Blouvet.

Working on phase II design.

Phase I moving, equipment in- goal to start digging and putting in pipe.

Still working on roof design.

- Need to get with Kelly Lathem, need to focus on reimbursement/pay apps need to know the process. Reimbursement for EPA needs to come back.
- Notice went out that the water Dept. is flushing crossroads, east end of Town.

Concerns: Highway Dept.-George Ritter

George Ritter is asking the board for approval to bump Dakota Stuck up a step he is a good worker and the Board has approved other employees. He is currently at step 2.

Motion to approve Dakota Stuck to be bumped up a step in pay from 2 to step 3, offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Ken Burdick.

REPORTS RECEIVED:

Town Clerk Report

Highway Report

Water Report

Police Report

Dog Control Report

Justice Report

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

6:47adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Schurr, Town Clerk