

**TOWN OF FRIENDSHIP PUBLIC HEARING AND MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2017  
6:30 PUBLIC HEARING/7:00PM REGULAR MEETING  
DEPOT STREET MEETING ROOM**

6:30 PM PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING INCREASE OF WATER RATES

Pledge of Allegiance observed by all.

Roll Call: Supervisor James Blouvet- present  
Councilperson: Russell Hall-present  
Councilperson: Linda Mascho-absent  
Councilperson: Carolyn Carney-present  
Councilperson: Donette Shelley

Also present: Patricia Schurr-Town Clerk  
Town Attorney- David Pullen  
Richard Buck-Attorney(presented late)

Jeff Smith-Municipal Solutions

Assemblage for Public Hearing: James Monheim, Tiffany Bencoter, Jill Hoopes

A public hearing was held before the Town Board at 6:30pm to hear all persons interested in the matter of the proposed increase of Water Rates for users in the Friendship Water District. The Town Supervisor explained how the proposed ten percent(10%) increase in water rates would be implemented and why the Town Board is considering adopting a resolution to increase the water rates, effective immediately.

The current rates are as follows: Operation & Maintenance Charge: \$30.00 per quarter for the 1<sup>st</sup> 1,000 cubic fees, plus \$0.0075 per additional cubic foot of water used.  
Capitalization Charge: \$33.00 per quarter.  
Total for Operation & Maintenance charges plus Capitalization Charge up to 1,000 cubic feet purchased = \$63.00.

The proposed rated increase would result in charges as follows:  
Operation & Maintenance Charge: \$33.00 per quarter for the 1<sup>st</sup> 1,000 cubic feet, plus \$0.00825 per additional cubic foot of water used.  
Capitalization Charge: \$36.30 per quarter.  
Total for Operation & Maintenance Charges plus Capitalization Charge up to 1,000 cubic feet purchased = \$69.30. Increase would represent an increase of \$6.30, or \$2.10 per month.

The Board members answered from those present for the Public Hearing.

There followed a time dedicated to hearing comments from those appearing to express opinions on the proposed resolution, with the following appearing, as follows:

All in support        0 in opposition

The Supervisor then declared the public hearing to be closed.

Following the close of the public hearing the Town Board considered the adoption of proposed increase in the water rates for the users in the Friendship Water District for which the public hearing had earlier been held. There being comments in opposition and in support of the increase in water rates for the Water District, the Supervisor asked for a resolution that the proposed increase of the water rates be adopted. The following resolution was offered by James Blouvet, seconded by Russell Hall, to wit:

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Friendship, Allegany County, State of New York, has determined that the adoption of the proposed increase in water rates for users in the Friendship Water District is necessary for the purpose of providing for the costs of operation and maintenance of the Water District, and to protect the best interests, health, safety and welfare of residents in the Town of Friendship; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Friendship desires to increase the water rates for users of the Friendship Water District as follows:

Operation & Maintenance Charge: \$33.00 per quarter for the 1<sup>st</sup> 1,000 cubic feet, plus \$0.00825 per additional cubic foot of water used.

Capitalization Charge \$36.30 per quarter.

Total for Operation & Maintenance Charges plus Capitalization Charge up to 1,000 cubic feet purchased = \$69.30. Increase would represent an increase of \$6.30, or \$2.10 per month.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Town of Friendship adopt the proposed increase of Water Rates for users in the Friendship Water District, as follows:

Operation & Maintenance Charge: \$33.00 per quarter for the 1<sup>st</sup> 1000 feet, plus \$0.00825 per additional cubic foot of water used.

Capitalization Charge \$36.30 per quarter

Total for Operation & Maintenance Charges plus Capitalization Charge up to 1,000 cubic feet purchased = \$69.30. Increase represents an increase of \$6.30, or \$2.10 per month.

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

James Blouvet voting-aye  
Donette Shelley voting-aye  
Russell Hall voting – aye  
Carolyn Carney voting –aye  
Linda Mascho-(absent)

The Supervisor declared the resolution to be duly adopted.

### **7:00 pm Regular Meeting**

Supervisor Blouvet opens up Regular Meeting

Pledge of Allegiance observed by all

Roll Call Supervisor: James Blouvet- present  
Counsellperson: Russell Hall-present  
Counsellperson: Linda Mascho-absent  
Counsellperson: Donette Shelley-present  
Counsellperson: Carolyn Carney-present

Assemblage: Jim Monheim, Tiffany Bencoter, Jill Hoopes, Carl Miller, Erica Creamer, Sammantha Dunmire, Kevin Margerum, Leslie Dahill, Doug Ward, Kevin Snyder, Jarret Ward, Devin Stuck, Dan McCarthy Jr., Dan McCarthy Sr., Mark Vooheis, Jeremy Clawson, Dale Clark Karl Kruger(presented late),Carl Miller, Jeff Smith from Municipal Solutions.

Motion to approve the Minutes from August 16, 2017 offered by Russell Hall, seconded by Carolyn Carney. All Approve.

Motion to approve the audited bills from August 2017 in the amount of \$65,654.97, offered by Donette Shelley, seconded by Carolyn Carney.

**Roll call vote:** James Blouvet-aye  
Russell Hall-aye  
Donette Shelley-aye  
Linda Mascho-aye  
Carolyn Carney-aye

Motion to approve the Supervisor's report for August 2017 offered by Donette Shelley, seconded by Carolyn Carney. All approve.

Motion to approve the transfer funds of \$10,000.00 from Brush and Weeds to Roads offered by Russell Hall, seconded by Carolyn Carney.

**Roll Call vote:** James Blouvet-aye  
Russell Hall-aye  
Donette Shelley-aye  
Carolyn Carney -aye  
Linda Mascho- aye

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## **SUPERVISOR'S CONCERNS**

Supervisor Blouvet spoke on the garbage problem, working on getting it resolved, the Town can only afford to pick up the 6 bag limit for regular trash and no electronics on big pickup the last Friday of the month.

## **PUBLIC CONCERNS**

**Dale Clark**, Fire Chief advised if there are any complaints that in regards to the Fire Dept. Inc., that they should go to him, there was a problem on coverage between the Fire Dept. and Police Dept. He stated specifically for the Cheese Fest the Fire Dept. is tied up with the Rabies clinic at the Fire Dept. which is on the same day. Supervisor Blouvet asked Erica Kraemer if there was any problem and she said everything was worked out for coverage. Jill Hoopes with the Cheese fest committee advised that Meghan Solomon told her that everything was set for coverage. It was brought up that maybe letters in regards to the Cheese fest should be sent out earlier than 3 months prior to the activities.

The Cheese fest committee already got approval from Guy James at the County to close down the roads from Elmwood to Depot Street, and Baxter & Sunnyside St. from 7am till 4:00pm.

**Mark Voorheis**, Town Historian, Mt. Hope Business Manager and Chaplin for the American Legion advised of the World War II Veteran Barney Kuhn remains that were disinterred and brought back to be buried in Mt. Hope. Barney Kuhn's remains were identified recently through DNA. His niece, Dorothy Thompson lives in Bolivar. He also wanted to make sure that there was traffic control for Thursday when Truesdell Funeral Homes will transport the remains and the Patriot riders will escort the hearse; and on Friday on Co. Rd. 31 and Co. Rd. 20 for the funeral at Mt. Hope. Erica Kraemer advised that she would have that covered.

**Kay Middaugh** with Allegany County Office of the Aging spoke regarding the Pill Drop off areas around Allegany County. There will be a pill drop off center on 10/20/17 at the Friendship Ambulance Bay from 10-2pm. If there are any questions to call Allegany County Office of the Aging.

**Erica Kramer** thought there should be several different crosswalks were kids cross the road, one being down near Elmwood and Main Street. Discussion on who was responsible to how expensive it was to put one in. No motion given.

**Jeff Smith** with Municipal Solutions spoke briefly regarding how the increase in the rates will help the Town. He believes since the Town was first turned down from Rural Development/USDA regarding any Block grants to help the Town out that now with the following he will again try and resubmit the Grant Application.

The Town found 25,000 gallons in leaks, that have been corrected.

The Town is getting all new remote read meter for all residence will capture true and accurate water usage, therefore increasing revenue.

The Town increasing the Water rates that have not increased for 30 years will increase revenue.

Hopefully a new grant can be applied for by June 2018.

Leslie Dahill did ask if there was going to be a charge to the owner for putting in the Water Meter. Supervisor Blouvet advised there was not charge for the original meter to the Customer but they are responsible for the shut off valve. It was being planned to put in the meters in, in 50 increments. Attorney Pullen advised that no Municipality have gone this long without a rate increase.

**Motion to approve to use the Standardized Equipment Resolution for Water Meters for the Friendship Water District (actual Resolution and advertisement of meter bids upon receiving the specs),** offered by Russell Hall, seconded by James Blouvet. All approve.

Motion to approve the United Church of Friendship to build a handicap ramp on the back of the Church as it may run over onto the cemetery which is the Town's Property, offered by James Blouvet, seconded by Carolyn Carney.

Motion to approve Austin Security renewal contract for Security/Fire Alarm Systems for the Court House @ 25.95 per month- billed quarterly ( no change in rate), offered by Russell Hall, seconded by Donette Shelley.

Roll call vote: James Blouvet-aye, Russell Hall-aye, Donette Shelley-aye, Carolyn Carney-aye.

Motion to approve Renewal Agreement with Allegany County DPW for Disposal of Landfill Leachate effective 1/1/2018(no changes from last agreement)two and one-half cents (0.025) per gallon, offered by Donette Shelley, seconded by Russell Hall. All approve.

Motion to Approve the Introductory Local Law<sup>3</sup> of 2017 and Resolution for the Tax Cap override, offered by Russell Hall, seconded by Carolyn Carney. Roll call vote: James Blouvet-aye, Russell Hall-aye, Donette Shelley-aye, Carolyn Carney-aye.

Motion to Approve to set the Public Hearing regarding the Introductory Local Law to override the Tax cap for October 18, 2017 at 6:30pm, offered by James Blouvet, seconded by Donette Shelley. All approve.

Motion to Approve the Budget Hearing for November 1, 2017 at 7pm, offered by James Blouvet, seconded by Donette Shelley. All approve.

Code Enforcement- Kevin Margerum voiced he has some complaints regarding hooved animals and livestock in the Town and since he cannot find any Local Law or Ordinance that prohibits this and wanted to know if there was anything that the Town Board wanted to act on.

The Board advised Mr. Margerum that there was no zoning in Friendship and they are unable to do anything in regards to this complaint.

Water Department-

Brian Bingaman requested that the Board allow just one bill(one o/m, one cap) instead of the 3 bills at 30 West Main and 18 West Main(which is a lower antiques store and up stairs apt.) He is having it deeded all in one deed. The Board members discussed unable to do this per Town and Local Law/Ordinances.

#### **REPORTS RECEIVED**

Town Clerk Report for August 2017  
Code Enforcement report for August 2017  
Police Department –August 2017  
Justice Report for July 2017  
Public Works activity report for August 2017  
Cuba/Friendship Report for August 2017  
Fuel Farm Report for August 2017  
Water report for August 2017  
Sewer Waste/Water report for August 2017  
Ambulance Report July and August 2017  
Dog Control Report for August 2017

**8:15pm Motion to go into Attorney/Client conference offered by James Blouvet, seconded by Russell Hall. All approve.**

**8:40 Motion to go out of Attorney/Client Conference back into regular session offered by Russell Hall, seconded by Carolyn Carney. All approve.**

**8:45 Motion to adjourn, offered by James Blouvet, seconded by Carolyn Carney. All approve.**

Respectfully submitted,

Town Clerk  
Patricia Schurr

