

**TOWN OF FRIENDSHIP MINUTES**

**PUBLIC HEARING-6:15 JOINING CODE ENFORCEMENT**

**PUBLIC HEARING -6:30-INCREASE OF WATER/SEWER RATES**

**Regular Meeting - MAY 16, 2017**

Supervisor Blouvet calls meeting to order.

Pledge of allegiance observed by all.

Roll Call: Supervisor James Blouvet-present  
Councilperson: Russell Hall-present  
Councilperson: Jill Hoopes-present  
Councilperson: Carolyn Carney-present  
Councilperson: Linda Mascho-present

Also present: Patricia Schurr- Town Clerk  
Town Attorney- David Pullen

**Assemblage:**

Jim Monheim, Burt Young, Michelle Hill, Sharon Pfahler, John Pfahler, Dale Clark, Brett Clouse, Kevin Snyder, Oakley Sortore, David Sortore, Craig Schlau, Jake Blouvet, James Lewis, Karl Kruger, Kevin Margerum.

**6:15pm Public Hearing**

Supervisor Blouvet opens up the Public Hearing regarding the Town joining the Code Consortium.

Supervisor Blouvet states that the State is pushing for "shared services" and code officers are one of the shared services the State wants the Towns to share in. There are about 9 Town or Villages now within the Code Consortium. The State will give credits to the Towns who share the services.

There would be a savings to the town of about \$4,000.00, if we don't like being in the consortium we can always get out of the consortium. He states he has attended about 3 meetings with the consortium. It is a group of people who get together to talk about any problems within the consortium.

Questions from Burt Young and Karl Kruger included what exactly would be the cost for a permit?

The Board did not have a permit fee schedule from the consortium as to the permit fees. Supervisor Blouvet stated that the consortium charged \$5.00 per parcel and any permit fee would go to the consortium. The price on the permits would go up somewhat. The consortium pays the code enforcement officer.

Burt Young stated the permit fee should be based on square footage and not the value, we do not want to deter people from building. Karl Kruger stated that the municipality should not charge any more for a cost of issuing the permit.

Need to obtain more information, permit fee schedule, etc.

Motion to close Public Hearing.

**6:30 Public Hearing**

Supervisor Blouvet opens up the Public Hearing regarding the need to increase water and sewer rates. We are in the "red" and the Town has been told that until they are out of the "red" they will not be eligible for any grants. The Town needs a grant to pay for outdated infrastructure, ancient water lines. The Town has applied to the USDA/Rural Development for a grant but until the Town is out of the red they will not talk to us. Prior to Sept. 2017's increase of 10% on the water o/m and cap there had not been an increase in rates in 30 years. There has been a lot accomplished, most all remote meters and the Town is on the right track obtaining "good accurate readings", there also have been leaks detected and corrected. In the past there was thought to be leakage from the water tank, there was a 30,000 gal. leak on E. Main St. that had to be fixed. There has been a loss of intake of Leachate which has affected the sewer.

A question as to how anyone will be able to pay for such an increase in the water bill, there are people who are on fixed, budgeted incomes.

Karl Kruger stated he has been on the Board in the past and suggested for a contingency in the water/sewer but it never happened, and where there was any excess it has been depleted, he thinks over the years to help offset the Budget.

Burt Young has gone over the figures with Oakley Sortore and he agrees that the Town has to increase the rates. With the suggested increase in the rates this will get everything just to zero but at least it will get it out of the red and back into the black. He also suggested in the future to have monthly billing. He stated that the Water/Sewer is a special district and has to stand on its own 2 feet, we need to have better control with accuracy. In the future the Town will be able to sell the water to Belvidere. With this water increase people may find they will have to conserve. He also stated that he didn't think that the Town should be paying someone in the dept. to mow grass.

The proposed rates are **Water** o/m \$ 81.50 plus .15 per 100 gal. over **7,000** gal.  
Cap 46.30 = total water bill \$127.80 up to 7,000 gal.

**Sewer** o/m \$ .72/per ea. 100 gals. on water use  
Cap 50.50 = total sewer bill \$ 100.90 (ex. on 7,000 gal. of water -  
more or less depending on water use)

A total for 7,000 gal of water used would produce a total water/sewer bill of \$228.70

After question and answer period the Supervisor Declares the Public Hearing closed.

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#### **SUPERVISOR BLOUVET opens up the Regular Meeting.**

**Supervisor Blouvet-Present**  
**Councilperson- Russell Hall-Present**  
**Councilperson- Jill Hoopes-Present**  
**Councilperson-Carolyn Carney-Present**  
**Councilperson-Linda Mascho-Present**

**Motion** to table "Joining the Code Consortium", offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Carolyn Carney.

#### **RESOLUTION 6-2018**

##### **WATER AND SEWER RATE INCREASE**

Following the close of the public hearing the Town Board considered the adoption of the proposed increase in the water and sewer rates for the users in the Friendship Water and Sewer District for which the public hearing had earlier been held. There being comments in opposition and in support of the increase in the water and sewer rates for the Water and Sewer district, the Supervisor asked for a resolution that the increase in water and sewer rates be adopted. The following resolution was offered by Russell Hall and seconded by Jill Hoopes , 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 the water and sewer rates for users in the Friendship Water and Sewer District is necessary for the purpose of providing for the costs of operation and maintenance of the Water and Sewer 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 the users of the Friendship **Water District** as follows:

**Operation and Maintenance Charge: 81.50 per quarter for the 1<sup>st</sup> 7,000 gallons, plus .15 per each additional 100 gal. over 7,000**

**Capitalization Charge: 46.30 per quarter**

Total for Operation & Maintenance Charges plus Capitalization Charge up to 7,000 gallons purchased=**127.80**

**WHEREAS**, The Town Board of the Town of Friendship desires to increase the sewer rates for the users of the Friendship Sewer District as follows:

**Operation and Maintenance Charge: .72 per 100 gals used on water**

**Capitalization Charge: 50.50 per quarter**

Total for Operation & Maintenance Charges plus Capitalization Charge on 7,000 gallons purchased=**100.90** (less or more depending on water use)

**NOW, THEREFORE,** be it resolved that the Town of Friendship adopt the proposed increase of water and sewer rates for the users in the Friendship Water and Sewer District, as follows:

Friendship Water District as follows:

**Operation and Maintenance Charge: 81.50 per quarter for the 1<sup>st</sup> 7,000 gallons, plus .15 per each additional 100 gal. over 7,000**

**Capitalization Charge: 46.30 per quarter**

Total for Operation & Maintenance Charges plus Capitalization Charge up to 7,000 gallons purchased=**127.80**

Friendship Sewer District as follows:

**Operation and Maintenance Charge: .72 per 100 gals used on water**

**Capitalization Charge: 50.50 per quarter**

Total for Operation & Maintenance Charges plus Capitalization Charge (ex. 7,000 gallons) purchased=**100.90**

Total water and sewer bill on 7,000gallons of water used: **\$228.70**

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-aye
- Russell Hall-aye
- Jill Hoopes-aye
- Carolyn Carney-aye
- Linda Mascho-noe

**Motion** to approve the Minutes from April 18, 2018 offered by Russell Hall, seconded by Jill Hoopes. All approve.

**Motion** to approve the Supervisor’s Report for April 2018 offered by Carolyn Carney, seconded by Russell Hall. All approve.

**Motion** to approve the Audited Bills for April 2018 in the amount of \$53,674.40, offered by Russell Hall, seconded by Carolyn Carney.

- Roll call vote:
- James Blouvet-aye
  - Russell Hall-aye
  - Jill Hoopes-aye
  - Carolyn Carney-aye
  - Linda Mascho-abstain

**SUPERVISOR’S CONCERNS**

Supervisor Blouvet advises he again has had to put a notice on facebook and website regarding all trash needing to be in garbage cans. He said it is better but still some not abiding by the Town Local Law. Dale Clark from the Fire Dept. stated we can apply a message on their electronic message board outside.

Dale Clark advised that the back parking lot of the Fire Hall is being black topped so there will be no parking there during this time.

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\*No Public concerns

**Motion** to approve the Summer Recreation Program held at Island Park,(run by volunteers)Janet Mahoney from July 10-August 16<sup>th</sup> on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12noon-3pm, offered by Russell Hall, seconded by James Blouvet. All approve.

**Motion** to approve the Memorial Day Parade with a Police Escort will start 10:00 a.m. in front of Treusdell Funeral Home and finish in front of the Friendship Free Library, offered by Carolyn Carolyn Carney, seconded by Jill Hopes. All approve.

**Motion** to approve the resignation of part-time police officer Evan Smith effective 4/13/18, offered by James Blouvet, seconded by Carolyn Carney. All approve.

**Motion** to approve to apply for an EFC's Engineering Planning Grant, cost to apply for grant approved up to \$500.00(grant for waste water treatment plant or BAR Screen-study application to see if Town is eligible for free Grant money), offered by James Blouvet, seconded by Russell Hall. All approve.

**Motion** to approve pavilion type roof over concrete pad at Wally's Shag Bark BBQ on State Rte. 275. it is on their property and It is 3ft. away from the State's right a way. The State was out to the site and approved it -they have no problem with it and marked the end of their right away- No Town Law or State Law states they cannot construct this. Kevin Margerum had no problem with it, wanted Board to approve it. Motion to approve offered by James Blouvet, seconded by Russell Hall. All approve.

#### **REPORTS RECEIVED**

**Highway report-none**

**Town Clerk report for April 2018**

**Town Justice Report for April**

**Public works report for April**

**Water Systems Operation report for April**

**Waste Water Report for April 2018**

**Cuba/Friendship Refuse Report for April 2018**

**Fuel Farm report for April 2018**

**Dog Control Report for April 2018**

**Code Enforcement report for April 2018**

Motion to Adjourn offered by James Blouvet, seconded by Carolyn Carney.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Schurr  
Town Clerk

