

TOWN OF FRIENDSHIP MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 17, 2021

Pledge of Allegiance observed by all.

Supervisor Halls calls meeting to order.

Roll call: Supervisor: Russell Hall-present
Councilperson-Jill Hoopes-present
Councilperson-Carolyn Carney-present
Councilperson-Linda Mascho-present
Councilperson-Steve Ritter-present

Also present: Patricia Schurr, Town Clerk

Assemblage: Jim Monheim, Brett Clouse, Les Dahill, Mark Voorhies, B.J. Howe, Shelby Bennett, Oakley Sortore.

Supervisor Hall introduces, Shelby Bennett with EFPR Solutions (Accounting Firm)- Shelby Bennett describes their firm and how it will benefit the Town compared to the Accounting firm presently. EFPR Solutions has many municipalities. They can do the monthly booking, payroll, yearly reports, budgets, reconciling. They do train over the computer without being present. The software "Accufund" is user friendly and can report any report needed. Fast turn out with vouchers and Printing the checks, less chance of errors. The price is \$19,500 yearly (prorated this year) and one time conversion fee of \$795.00 . The firm will lock in the price for 3 years. Per Supervisor Hall the Town could buy the software from Accufund but then you have to pay someone to keep up with it. Les Dahill questioned whether or not there is a chance the EFPR would change the software and Shelby advised that the Company loves the software and has no plans to change. Russell Hall thanked Shelby for attending the meeting and advised her that the board next month will make a decision.

Motion to approve the Special Meeting minutes from December 10, 2020, offered by Steve Ritter, seconded by Carolyn Carney. All approve.

Motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from December 16, 2020, offered by Jill Hoopes, seconded by Linda Mascho. All approve.

Motion to approve the Organizational Meeting from January 6, 2021, offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Steve Ritter. All approve.

Motion to approve the minutes from January 20, 2021, offered by Carolyn Carney, seconded by Steve Ritter. All approve.

Motion to approve the Supervisor's report for December 2020, offered by Jill Hoopes, seconded by Linda Mascho. All approve.

Motion to approve the Supervisor's report for January 2021, offered by Steve Ritter, seconded by Jill Hoopes. All approve.

Motion to approve the audited bills for January 2021 in the amount of \$208,323.00 offered by, Jill Hoopes, seconded by Linda Mascho.

Roll call vote: Jill Hoopes-aye
Carolyn Carney-aye
Linda Mascho-aye
Steve Ritter-aye
Russell Hall-aye

SUPERVISOR'S CONCERNS

Houghton interns project- Since the COVID the Colleges have not been able to have internship programs. Supervisor Hall was asked by the students if they could something for the Town. The students can do a Preplan for the Comprehensive plan, Friendship does not have one. This is at no cost to the Town. The Supervisor would be involved and the 3 students and their professor, Joe Miller. Once the plan is done, they would just present the Plan to the Town Board.

Informational—Advised from Joe Dannheim that the Town will have to look for and pay for the Commercial appraisal for Saputo Dairies for the next years revaluation.

Quote from the Friendship Fire Dept. for Roofing, there is one quote for \$110,000.00 and they have 2 more coming, however the Board of Fire Commissioners are thinking just to make a good fix to the roof in the spring and down the line put the 110,000.00 into a new building.

Friendship Central School had a dress down day and collected \$292.00 which they donated to the Town for Flags. A Thank you note should be sent to the School.

A potential new project is being talked about going down to the Crossroads the water committee; Russ Hall, Jill Hoopes and Oakley Sortore got together to see what Crossroads could do for Friendship for the exchange of our assistance. If there is going to be another “cheese plant” at crossroads, question as to where the water is coming from. The water committee needs to give Crossroads information, if we have the water and the cost for it. The committee will come up with the information, either way Crossroads will have to pay a lot to have water.

Supervisor Hall advised he attended a Virtual State Budget meeting, there was talk about running 200 miles of electric transport lines. All infrastructure is running in the same loop, there is no path from Friendship to the East, it's all New York City way. Gov. Cuomo wants stop be the leader in green energy. Solar farms are going in everywhere.

FIRST FLIGHT FIBER- This Fiber company wants to either dig up near the Post office and fire hydrant or put the wire on the Light Pole overhead. The problem is overhead, additional load/stress on the pole. Normally there would be an engineering study prior, which they aren't doing; what happens if there is damage to our pole? What happens if their wire breaks our pole, or what happens years down the line. Supervisor Hall advised he will call Jeff Ackerman with First Flight Fiber(#607-351-2695) and speak to him on this. We don't want them on our Pole, and it seems they are not offering to be responsible is anything happens.

PUBLIC CONCERNS-NONE

Motion to approve the Lease Agreement with Allegany County, Office of the Aging, for the use of the GAR; Friendship Community Hall on Tuesdays and Thursdays, offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Jill Hoopes. All approve.

RESOLUTION 5-2021 JUSTICE AUDIT

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Town Board approves and acknowledges the completion of the 2019 Justice Audit completed by Baldwin’s Accounting Firm for Judge Szucs and Judge Lewis, offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Steve Ritter.

Roll call vote: Jill Hoopes-aye
Carolyn Carney-aye
Linda Mascho-aye
Steve Ritter-aye
Russell Hall-aye

RECOMMENDATION from Russell Hall and Jill Hoopes and Board members regarding an additional salary for Oakley Sortore for additional work, responsibility from the out of District crossroads, If the additional work goes away, then so does the salary. This money would come be allocated from the ACUC/Crossroads Water. After discussion the following motion was set forth.

Motion to add an additional salary to Oakley Sortore’s salary due to the additional work, responsibility from the ACUC/Crossroads Water District in the amount of \$3,500.00/year, payable biweekly but retro-active from January 1, 2021, offered by Steve Ritter, seconded by Linda Mascho. All “aye” except, Carolyn Carney abstained.

Oakley Sortore’s Concern

Oakley Sortore asked the Town Board their thoughts, as he has a septic hauler that dumps product at the sewer plant and he is continually delinquent, he never gets caught up, and only a pays a little at a time. The D.E.C. wants the Town to come up with a Policy on this. In the past if they happen to dump product and lines broke then the Town has to clean it up. After Board discussion the following Motion/Policy was brought forth:

Motion to implement a new Policy that no new product will be accepted from a customer that is 45 days in arrears. This particular customer will get a notice that gives them 15 days from the date of the notice and to have their bill paid in full or no more dumping their product. Notice to be sent to this customer.

Offered by Steve Ritter, seconded by Carolyn Carney. Roll call: Jill Hoopes-aye, Linda Mascho-aye, Carolyn Carney-aye, Steve Ritter-aye, Russell Hall-aye.

RESOLUTION 7-2021- APPROVING THE MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF ALLEGANY, NEW YORK

WHEREAS, the Board of the Town of Friendship hereby agrees to allow Michael Bidwell, Superintendent of Highways and Oakley Sortore Public Works Superintendent to extend Mutual Aid assistance to another participating municipality with the County of Allegany when requested to do so by such municipality in time of abnormal snow or work conditions.

This agreement is subject to the conditions listed in the written agreement, offered by Steve Ritter, seconded by Carolyn Carney.

Roll call vote: Jill Hoopes-aye
Carolyn Carney-aye
Linda Mascho-aye
Steve Ritter-aye
Russell Hall-aye

COUNTY WIDE SHARED SERVICES

There have been several Towns that sent a Shared Services plan in and spent a lot of time doing it and they received nothing for doing it. Allegany County told them they are not interested in participating.

REPORTS RECEIVED

Town Clerk report for December 2020
Annual Town Clerk report for 2020
Town Clerk report for January 2021
Highway reports Feb. 2020-Dec. 2020
Water systems operation report
Shared services report
Fuel usage report
Dog Control report December 2020
Dog Control State Inspections report-Satisfactory
Wastewater report
DMR(Oakley)
Justice report November 2020
Assessor's report

8:40pm Motion to go into executive session to discuss two personnel matters, offered by Steve Ritter, seconded by Carolyn Carney.

9:23pm Motion to go out of executive session, back into regular session, offered by Carolyn Carney seconded by Steve Ritter.

Oakley Sortore concerns, information:

Oakley Sortore spoke about the Power outage that the Town just experienced with no backup generator. He also mentioned that the ammonia is out of tolerance. Both blowers were broke but now repaired.

Crossroads billing was discussed. The Town bills Crossroads for the water from the master meter, but per the agreement the Town is supposed to bill crossroad's customers. This has not been done Because Crossroads will not let the Town know what their customers(rates)are. When these customers do get their bill they probably will complain because it will be more than one billing. Waiting for crossroads to give us that information. Unable to bill at this point.

Dept. of Health – The engineer has received information to change gas to liquid chlorine, but it has to be approved by the State.

There are several Leaks on County 20. The Correlator agrees where the leaks are located, 1 Foot off center lane on East Main Street, however its not a good time of year to be digging up the road, it would have to be shut down.

Oakley Sortore questions, if the Town if contracting to mow or the Town will continue to mow. Supervisor Hall advises after discussion with the Board to go forward with purchasing a Zero turn mower. It is in the Budget to do so; he already has 3 or 4 quotes.

A new part time non- competitive employee has been hired as a back up picker and he also has his CDL, so he can drive if needed. His name is Jim Powers, he is retired, lives in Friendship and is only looking to work, now and then.

Motion to adjourn offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Steve Ritter. All approve.
Adjourned 9:30

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Schurr
Town Clerk

