

Town of Friendship Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2023

Supervisor Hall calls meeting to order.

Pledge of allegiance observed by all.

Roll call: Supervisor Russell Hall-present

Councilmember-Jill Hoopes-present

Councilmember- Carolyn Carney

Councilmember-Linda Mascho

Councilmember-Steve Ritter

Also present: Town Clerk-Patricia Schurr

Town Attorney- David Pullen

Assemblage: Albert Merrill, Ken Burdick, Tony France, Dell & Michelle Baker, Oakley Sortore, Jim Monheim, Mark Voorheis, George Ritter, David Freeman, Les Dahill, Karl Kruger, Dan Hoopes, B.J. Howe.

Motion to approve the minutes of December 21, 2022, offered by Steve Ritter, seconded by Jill Hoopes. All approve.

Motion to approve the Organizational minutes of January 4, 2022, offered by Carolyn Carney, seconded by Jill Hoopes. All approve.

Motion to approve the Supervisor's Report for December 2022, offered by Steve Ritter, seconded by Carolyn Carney. All approve.

Motion to approve the audited bills in the amount of \$133,781.29, offered by Jill Hoopes, seconded by Carolyn Carney.

Roll call vote:

Jill Hoopes-aye

Carolyn Carney-aye

Linda Mascho-aye

Steve Ritter-aye

Russell Hall-aye

SUPERVISOR'S CONCERNS

Update on Police Car- The Police car that was in an accident will be replaced, the Insurance Company is going to replace it.

PUBLIC CONCERNS

Karl Kruger spoke in reference to the revaluation/new assessments that were done in Friendship. He stated again his property has gone up again for the 6<sup>th</sup> revaluation. One of his properties went up 960%. He also has an arms length piece of property that was one parcel and the assessor now has it 2 parcels. He questioned how he can have 2 parcel, where is the Deed for this other parcel. The Friendship Little League(Athletic field), got a nice assessment. He questioned if he had to sell who is going to pay \$40,000.00 for a Little League Field. It used to be tax exempt. He requests the Town Board to help him get the taxes to a sensible level. A Board decides or does take it down and destroy it.

Supervisor Hall advises that he should wait and see what if anything the Tax assessor is going to do with his properties. The assessor is suppose to meet with Karl to go to these properties.

Karl Kruger also stated the Board should have the ability to say that the

Assessor should come to this Town to see the taxpayers, not the taxpayers drive to Wellsville to

see him. There are a lot of Elderly people that cannot drive there. Also noted was that that all records should not be stored over to Wellsville they belong in Friendship.

Russell Hall stated that it has been a broken promise, service provided has changed in the last couple of years. Carolyn Carney did advise that a another Board of Assessment review member was needed and Karl Kruger spoke up and said he would fill the position.

Karl wanted to know how do you pick what property assessment goes up and what goes down or what stays the same. He wants some help from the Town, the Town voted to fund the Revaluation. He helped out with the repair of the Town's dump truck, paid for a part and was glad to do it. When does the favor get returned? He knows the Town has been sympathetic in the past, knows the Towns hands are tied, but there are things the Town can do. Supervisor Hall stated that Karl should let him know how his walk through with the Assessor goes.

Motion to advertise in the Olean Times Herald for non-collusive sealed bids for Deisel fuel and unleaded gasoline for the Town of Friendship for the remaining 2023; bid opening will be at 6:50pm on February 15, 2023, offered by Steve Ritter, seconded by Jill Hoopes.

#### RESOLUTION 5 OF 2023

**Title: RESOLUTION APPROVING THE MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF ALLEGANY COUNTY, NEW YORK.**

Offered by Allegany County town Highway Superintendents Association

Whereas, the Town Board of the Town of Friendship hereby

Agrees to allow Oakley Sortore, or Deputy of Public Works to extend Mutual Aid assistance to another participating municipality within 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 Carolyn Carney, seconded by Jill Hoopes.

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

#### RESOLUTION 6 OF 2023

**Title: RESOLUTION APPROVING THE MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF ALLEGANY COUNTY, NEW YORK.**

Offered by Allegany County town Highway Superintendents Association

Whereas, the Town Board of the Town of Friendship hereby

Agrees to allow George Ritter, or his designee to extend Mutual Aid assistance to another participating municipality within 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.

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

Motion to approve to sign up with Southern Tier West for the G.I.S. project, in the amount of \$680.00 annually.( 405.00 to sign in, 275.00 to access, Town owns the data,5 Services are offered, you can cancel anytime), offered by Steve Ritter, seconded by Jill Hoopes.

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

**\*BAR SCREEN -( AND SOME OTHER PARTS, MAYBE)**

Attorney Pullen had sent several scenarios on how to pay for the Bar screen(and some other parts, maybe). Supervisor Hall advised he has gone through the numbers.

Discussion regarding the “BAR Screen and some other parts, maybe” project.

Supervisor Hall advised the Town could take \$44,250.00 out of the sewer fund and 44,250.00 from the ARPA funds and rest finance. The Supervisor advised he does not want to put the Town into a vulnerable spot. The Town Attorney had worked up several scenarios on what options the Board has for financing. Supervisor Hall stated there will not be a decision until He gets figures and speaks to the Accounting firm what the Town can do money wise. Attorney Pullen advised any financing over 5 years would need a permissive referendum and a public hearing.

Question remains on to: Replace just the Bar Screen or Bar Screen and other parts.

Noted that the D.E.C. has approved the already presented bar screen.

Karl Kruger suggested that everyone have septic tanks put in. Supervisor Hall agreed that may be a good idea, however that would take time and a bar screen is needed now, the employees are doing manual cleaning of the sewer, having to carry buckets.

Karl Kruger also asked if an local fabrication shop could build a bar screen, it seems it would have to be a lot cheaper. It was brought up again that the D.E.C. would have the say, one is already approved.

Dell Baker stated the people in Friendship can't afford their water/sewer bills going up.

Supervisor Hall advised that this will be tabled until he gets the numbers from Shelby at the Accounting firm.

\*School Crossing guard- The Board said they would help with the crossing guard. The Town's never said funding was ever an issue, keeping one and continuously chasing a guard is an issue, they just leave. This will be tabled.

\*Ambulance squad officers for 2023 still not confirmed.

**\*Oakley Sortore concerns:**

Refuse phone- Currently the guys on the truck do not have a cell phone to communicate with if something happens. Supervisor Hall stated that there was a cell phone that was purchased during COVID, will look to see if that can work.

School Refuse pickup- The School is contracting with another company, the Town is not picking the School up anymore, just the Bus garage.

Recycling pickup- The Recycling Truck is not functioning at the County Station. The County advised not to recycle anymore, there is no place to take recycling. Supervisor Hall stated to find out what other Towns are doing. Oakley Sortore advised that Belmont has a truck and a trailer that they pick up with.

**REPORTS RECEIVED:**

**Town Clerk Report**

**Town Clerk annual report for 2022**

**Highway Dept. Report**

**Police Report**

**Water Report**

**Dog Control Report**

Motion to adjourn offered by Steve Ritter, seconded by Jill Hoopes.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Schurr

Town clerk