

TOWN OF FRIENDSHIP MINUTES

FEBRUARY 15, 2023

6:50 Fuel Bids openings

7:00 Meeting

Bid Opening for Fuel- Only (1) one bid was received from Rinker Oil & Propane.  
learULSD#2-\$3.2363/gallon; Clear All weather ULSD#2- \$3.3971/gallon, NL Gasoline(E10)-  
\$2.7475/gallon.

Supervisor Russell Hall calls meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance observed by all.

Roll call: Supervisor- Russell Hall-present  
Councilmember- Jill Hoopes-present  
Councilmember-Carolyn Carney-present  
Councilmember-Linda Mascho-present  
Councilmember-Steve Ritter-present  
Also present: Town Clerk-Patricia Schurr  
Town Attorney David Pullen

Assemblage: Karl Kruger, Brett Clouse, Mark Voorheis, Fred Cook, Ken Burdick, Ji, Monheim,  
Oakley Sortore, Tony France, Dell & Michell Baker, Dave Freeman, BJ Howe, unknown person.

Motion to accept the one and only bid received for fuel from Rinker Oil & propane, offered by  
Linda Mascho, seconded by Jill Hoopes.

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

Motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 18, 2023, offered by Carolyn Carney,  
seconded by Linda Mascho. All approve.

Motion to approve the Supervisor's report for January 2023 offered by Steve Ritter, seconded  
by Carolyn Carney. All approve.

Motion to approve the audited bills in the amount of \$229,636.18, offered by Carolyn Carney,  
seconded by Jill Hoopes.

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

NYMIR Policy review- by Chase Tascone

Chase Tascone with NYMIR reviewed the Insurance Proposal with the Board members.  
Chase went over the NYMIR Coverage Summary. Board's opted to leave in the CYBER  
coverage, Chase discussed how important it is these days. The Board opted to keep the  
coverage.

The Insurance premium had increased \$3,147.00 from last year, mainly d/t the cyber coverage,  
Police.

After the Insurance review the Motion followed:

Motion to accept the final NUMIR Renewal premium amount of \$47,665.38, offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Steve Ritter.

Roll call: Jill Hoopes-aye

Carolyn Carney-aye

Linda Mascho-aye

Steve Ritter-aye

Russell Hall-aye

#### PUBLIC CONCERNS:

\*David Freeman advised that people can start ordering the Heros' Banners. The cost for the Banner is \$135.00 per side for a 24x48. Information will be left at the Library, Post Office and Town Hall. David will be the contact person if you want to order a Banner. They will be ordered through White's imprints. He advised that the County stated to him that a county bucket truck can be used to put them up.

\*Fred Cook questioned whether anyone else is having problems with what the Assessor is assessing property's with. He wanted to know what to do as he was helping others that did not know what to do. Supervisor Hall advised that a lot of people are disturbed with the assessments but first to go through the informal meetings which you have to schedule with the assessor. He is doing the reviews next week and you should call to speak to him. Make sure that the information is correct on what the assessor is using.

Fred Also questioned School overtaking the taxpayers. Supervisor Hall advised he does not know what they are doing about that, The Town Board does not have any control over the school.

#### SUPERVISOR CONCERNS:

\*Supervisor Hall just wanted everyone to know that the County has a Resolution that has gone to the State opposing the State's cutback on Medicaid funding to the Counties. This means the counties would have to make that up.

\*GAR Hall 2-Estimates on Insulating the GAR Hall

Are as follows: Nailed it Contracting: 2,835.00

CCS : \$4777.63

Motion to approve the estimate from Nailed it contracting in the amount of \$2,835.00, offered by Steve Ritter, seconded by Jill Hoopes.

Roll call: Jill Hoopes-aye

Carolyn Carney-aye

Linda Mascho-aye

Steve Ritter-aye

Russell Hall-aye.

**RESOLUTION 7 of 2023 -School Crossing Guard**

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes Russell Hall, Supervisor to fill the position of school crossing guard and work under the direction of such, place position in the Town's delegated paper, motion offered by Jill Hoopes, seconded by Linda Mascho.

Roll call: Jill Hoopes-aye

Carolyn Carney-aye

Linda Mascho-aye

Steve Ritter-aye

Russell Hall-aye

Motion to approve the NYSDCP Roth contributions Agreement for employees to participate and authorizing Supervisor Hall to sign the Agreement, offered by Jill Hoopes, seconded by Carolyn Carney. All approve.

**RESOLUTION 8 OF 2023-PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF BAR SCREEN AND EQUIPMENT**

Town Supervisor Russell Hall stated that the next order of business was considering the purchase of a "Bar Screen Unit and related equipment to be installed at the Friendship Wastewater Treatment Plant that serves the hamlet of Friendship and surrounding area. Supervisor Hall explained that recent changes at the Wastewater Treatment Plant have resulted in some urgency to purchase either a Bar Screen Unit or other similar technology. Sewer District Superintendent Oakley Sortore has been working with Jimmie Joe Carl, P.E., regarding the best way to address the current circumstances at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Engineer has recommended the purchase of a Bar Screen Unit at a total price of \$177,000.00. The present circumstances have been reviewed and it has been concluded that the recent failure of the comminutor unit has resulted in an emergency situation that necessitates taking immediate action to protect the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Town Attorney David T. Pullen, Esq., has reviewed the engineering report and agrees that the circumstances constitute an emergency and that the Town Board can accept the bid for the new Bar Screen Unit and related equipment without further advertising or competitive bidding. He also reported that the Bond Resolution that was adopted by the Town Board last summer including funding for a Bar Screen Unit or similar equipment and that no further bonding authorization is required to proceed with a purchase of this equipment.

After considering the reports from Sewer District Superintendent Oakley Sortore and Town Attorney David T. Pullen, Esq., the Supervisor asked if a member of the Town Board wished to offer a resolution to authorize the purchase of a Bar Screen Unit for the Town of Friendship Sewer District. The following resolution was offered by Jill Hoopes who moved its adoption, and seconded by Linda Mascho, to wit:

WHEREAS, the Town of Friendship Wastewater Treatment Plant is in need of major repairs, including the purchase and installation of a Bar Screen Unit together with other related equipment, and

WHEREAS, the Sewer District Superintendent has obtained a recommendation from Jimmie Joe Carl, P.E., that the Sewer District and Town purchase a particular Bar Screen Unit at a bid price of One Hundred Seventy Seven Thousand Dollars (\$177,000.00) and

WHEREAS, on August 17, 2022, the Town Board of the Town of Friendship adopted a Bond Resolution authorizing borrowing up to \$8.2 million (\$8,200,000.00) for improvements to the Town of Friendship Sewer District and Wastewater Treatment Plant, which Bond Resolution remains in full force and effect, and

WHEREAS, the Town Attorney has reviewed the proposals submitted by Jimmie Joe Carl, P.E., regarding the need for immediate purchase and installation of this equipment and has determined that the circumstances are critical and that this action can be authorized on the basis that this represents an emergency,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the Town Board of the Town of Friendship accepts the recommendation of Jimmie Joe Carl that the Town of Friendship purchase a DUPERON Mechanically Cleaned Bar Screen with Related Equipment for the total price of One Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$177,000.00).
2. That the Town Board authorizes the purchase of the aforesaid DUPERON Mechanically Cleaned Bar Screen with Related Equipment from Duperon Corporation, of Saginaw, Michigan.
3. That this purchase be paid for from current funds and appropriations of the Town of Friendship, and by borrowing up to Eighty Five Thousand Dollars (\$85,000.00) pursuant to the Local Finance Law of the State of New York, which borrowing was approved by a Bond Resolution adopted by this Town Board on August 17, 2022.
4. That the authority of the Supervisor to authorize the issuance of a bond that was contained in the aforesaid Bond Resolution remains in full force and effect as of this date.

Following discussion of the aforesaid resolution Supervisor Russell Hall called the resolution to a vote that resulted as follows:

Russell Hall, Supervisor	voting ___aye___
Jill Hoopes, Councilperson	voting ___aye___
Linda Mascho, Councilperson	voting ___aye___
Carolyn Carney, Councilperson	voting ___aye___
Steven Ritter, Councilperson	voting ___aye___

#### RESOLUTION 9 OF 2023- AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE IN THE SEWER RATES FOR THE FRIENDSHIP SEWER DISTRICT.

The Supervisor then declared the resolution to be adopted and directed the Sewer District and Superintendent to proceed with the purchase of the aforesaid equipment.

Town Supervisor Russell Hall stated that the next order of business was reviewing and possibly revising the Sewer Rent Charges and Rate Schedule for the Town of Friendship Sewer District. He noted that the Town Board has just authorized the purchase of a Mechanical Bar Screen with related equipment at a price of \$177,000.00. The Town Board has determined that this equipment should be paid off over the next five years. The Town's Financial adviser, Andrew Schreyack, of Fiscal Advisors and Marketing, Inc., has calculated that the likely total cost for paying for the Mechanical Bar Screen and Equipment will be in the approximate amount of \$21,700 in 2024, and decrease to approximately \$22,100 in 2027. That additional amount will need to be generated from increased sewer rent fees that will be charged to Sewer District customers. He has advised given the estimated number of sewer service customers the average quarterly rate increase will need to be approximately \$ 15.00 per EDU per quarter.

Supervisor Hall requested Town Attorney David T. Pullen, Esq., to explain the statutory procedure that must be followed to increase sewer rents. The Town Attorney explained that General Municipal Law Article 14-F, Section 452 provides that the Town Board can increase the amount of sewer rents after conducting a public hearing, held on five (5) days published notice. That notice should be published in the official Town newspaper, posted on the Town Clerk's official bulletin Board, and posted on the Town's official website. The Town Attorney provided

the Board with a draft Legal Notice that can be published once the Town Board makes the appropriate decisions regarding the amount of the proposed increase in Sewer Rents, the date that the increase will become effective, and what the actual sewer rates will be after the sewer rents increase becomes effective. The Town Attorney then presented to the Town Board a sample Resolution to Increase Sewer Rent Rates for the Friendship Sewer District. That Draft Resolution provides as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Friendship hereby increases the Friendship Sewer District Sewer Rents as follows:

- a. The current rates are set at \$50.50 cap(sewer o/m .72 per 100 gallons used)..
- b. Sewer rental rates shall increase by the amount of Fifteen Dollars(\$15.00) per quarter, effective on the 1st day of April, 2023.
- c. Following the increase the new Sewer rental rates shall be in the amount of \$65.50 Per EDU per quarter.
- d. Except as modified the Friendship Sewer District Rental Rates shall remain unchanged; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing shall be held at 6:30 o'clock p.m., on the 15th day of March, 2023, at the GAR Hall on West Water Street, in the hamlet of Friendship, New York; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is hereby directed to post, publish and put on the Town's official website, a copy of the Legal Notice provided by the Town Attorney, at least five (5) days prior to the date of that public hearing.

Following extensive discussion Supervisor Russell Hall asked for a member of the Town Board to offer the proposed Resolution, as modified, which motion was offered by Steve Ritter, who moved its adoption, and seconded by Carolyn Carney.

Following further discussion the aforesaid resolution was called to a vote by Supervisor Russell Hall which vote resulted as follows:

Russell Hall, Supervisor	voting- aye
Jill Hoopes, Councilperson	voting-aye
Linda Mascho, Councilperson	voting-aye
Carolyn Carney, Councilperson	voting-aye
Steven Ritter, Councilperson	voting-aye

The Supervisor then declared the resolution to be adopted and directed the Town Clerk, with the assistance of the Town Attorney, to publish, post and place on the Town's Official Website, not later than five (5) days prior to the date of the public hearing.

Oakley Sortore's Concerns:

Superintendent Oakley Sortore just wanted to let the Town Board know that the Sewer Plant study steps have been satisfied( the Town's obligation). This was the \$50,000.00 Grant.

REPORTS RECEIVED:

Town Clerk Report for January  
Highway Dept. Report  
Police Report  
Water Report  
Dog Control Report  
Ag. And Market Dog control Officer Report  
Ag. And Market Municipal Shelter Report

Motion to adjourn offered by Carolyn Carney, seconded by Jill Hoopes.  
8:07pm

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Schurr  
Town Clerk

