

TOWN OF FRIENDSHIP MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2024
PUBLIC HEARING 6:00
REGULAR MEETING 7:00

Supervisor Hall calls Public Hearing to Order

Pledge of allegiance

Roll call: Supervisor Russell Hall:
Councilperson: Carolyn Carney:
Councilperson Linda Mascho:
Councilperson Steve Ritter:
Councilperson Kenneth Burdick:
Also present: Patricia Schurr, Town Clerk
Attorney: David Pullen

Assemblage: Trevor Hollenbeck, Burt Young, Brett Clouse, Fred Cook, Les Dahill, Jim Monheim, BJ Howe, Jarrett Ward

A public hearing was held before the Town Board at 6:00 P.M. to hear all persons interested in the matter of the adoption of the Introductory Local Law No. 2 of 2024 entitled "A Local Law to Provide for the Licensing, Identification and Control of Dogs in the Town of Friendship, to Restrain the Running at Large of Dogs Within said Town, to Provide For the Seizure and Impounding of Certain Dogs, to Limit the Number of Dogs that May be Kept, to Provide Punishments for the Violation of This Local Law, and Related Provisions" for the purpose to update the Town of Friendship's Dog Control Local Law and provide for the licensing and identification of dogs, the control and protection of the dog population, and the protection of persons, property, domestic animals and deer from dog attacks and damage within the Town of Friendship.

The Board members and Town Attorney answered questions from those present for the public hearing. The discussion included possible amendments of the proposed local law related to the limitation on the number of dogs that a person may keep, and repealing the existing Dog Control Local Law.

Comments from assemblage:

Burt Youngs stated that he didn't think the Town needed a new Dog Control Law they just needed to enforce the Law that they have now.

Brett Clouse stated I should he have to get a waiver? He has always had beagles. He does not like the Town telling him that he can only have 4 dogs, that would be a communist Town. It's wrong telling someone how many dogs you can have, he lives out in the country. He stated it sounds like the Law that the Town has now needs to be enforced and it it sounds like the barking dogs is more of a noise problem. Supervisor Hall advised that the Town also has a noise ordinance.

Another patron stated that the more you tell someone you cant do something the more they will take it, right to the edge. You can't break their constitutional law, they should be able to do whatever on their property. You can enforce the law but not break their constitutional rights.

Councilman Burdick stated he has four dogs and dogs bark but there has been no complaints regarding his dogs. Dogs bark.

Supervisor Hall advised he was walking his dog on a leash on a sidewalk and another dog ran from a residence and got in a fight with his dog, injuring his dog, this dog was not on a leash. There is a leash requirement in the current Dog control law.

After Discussion there was a Motion from Steve Ritter to close public hearing, Linda Mascho seconded.

Supervisor Hall declared the public hearing to be closed.

Supervisor Hall calls the regular meeting to order.

Pledge of allegiance.

Roll call: Supervisor Russell Hall:

Councilperson: Carolyn Carney:

Councilperson Linda Mascho:

Councilperson Steve Ritter:

Councilperson Kenneth Burdick:

Also present: Patricia Schurr, Town Clerk

Attorney: David Pullen

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After the public hearing and Board discussion it was decided that the Current Dog Control Local Law just needs compliance and enforcement, maybe some more thought. The following motion was brought forth:

Motion to table the proposed Local Law No.2 of 2024 Dog Control Law, offered by Kenneth Burdick, seconded by Carolyn Carney.

Motion to approve the minutes from the Public Hearing on August 21, 2024 offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Steve Ritter. All Approve.

Motion to approve the minutes for the Regular meeting of August 21, 2024, offered by Carolyn Carney, seconded by Steve Ritter. All approve.

Motion to approve the Supervisor's report from August 2024 offered by Steve Ritter, seconded by Carolyn Carney. All approve.

Motion to approve the audited bills from August 2024 in the amount of \$ 121,741.86, offered by Steve Ritter, seconded by Linda Mascho.

Roll call: Carloyn Carney-aye

Linda Mascho-aye

Steve Ritter-aye

Ken Burdick-aye

Russell Hall-aye

SUPERVISOR'S CONCERNS:

*Noted under the Union contract in the HRA there is only single, and single +family, no Single plus 1. The amounts on the Deductible is 3000/6000, which is what it is on the HRA card. Hopefully will not have to open the contract, but it was agreed to make the single plus 1- \$4500.00 on HRA card.

Motion to make the additional change to offer the single plus 1- 4500.00 on their HRA, offered by Steve Ritter, seconded by Linda Mascho. All approved
Supervisor Hall will let Kim McCarthy from the Insurance know and the Town Clerk will notify Dell Baker, Union Steward know.

Concerns with the Current Account Firm EFPR. The Current program of Accufund is well liked with the firm, however the firm is not meeting the needs of the Town. The current accountant is selling her house and will be working out of their mobile trailer and traveling. Board thought this is not a good idea. Justin from Baldwin's whom we have used before stated they would take the Town back if they can obtain this accufund program.

Supervisor Hall stated that it has been too hard finding a used vehicle to meet Oakley's Department needs, and Oakley obtained a State bid quote from basil Chevrolet for \$51,000.00. Russ suggested to go with this and as with the other 2 vehicles, trade them in every 4 years. He also stated that there are funds in their budget for this vehicle in this year to purchase, money does not have to borrowed, and would be divided/shared from within his departments. After Board discussion the following motion was brought forth:

Motion to purchased a truck from Basil Chevrolet in the amount of \$51,000.00(state bid) for Oakley Sortore's Departments and **not to buy an used** vehicle. Will be divided amongst his departments and pay outright(do not need to borrow funds), offered by Carolyn Carney, seconded by Kenneth Burdick.

Roll call vote: Linda Mascho-aye
Carolyn Carney-aye
Kenneth Burdick-aye
Steve Ritter-aye
Russell Hall-aye

PUBLIC CONCERNS:

Les Dahill question what can an individual do w/an unleashed dog that comes after you. Answer was retreat if you can, if not and dog is not on a leash you use spray.

Burt Youngs still concerned about the dog situation on Austin Road, supposedly there are new dogs up there and he heard there were again 73 dogs up there. He cannot use his property where he has to listen to dogs barking, running loose all of this ruining any hunting that him or his family would like to do. He still thinks the Town Board should prosecute the prior dog control officer for not doing her job. He stated those dogs should be seized. Supervisor Hall said the Town does not have room for all those dogs, Burt responded that there are room for 3 dogs. The Town just needs to enforce the Dog Control Law, write tickets and let them go to court.

Jarrett Ward-Approval for Variant from Town Board to Jarrett Ward at 4125 Co. Rd. 1 for a garage that is near the cemetery. After Board discussion the following motion was set forth:
Motion to Have the Supervisor, Russell Hall after he looks at it and confirms with the Code Enforcement on the set back which is thought to be 15ft, will grant authority on the variance, offered by Steve Ritter, seconded by Linda Mascho.

Set Halloween Trick or Treat day and time

Motion to approve the trick or treat day on Thursday, October 31, 2024 between the hours of 5-7pm, offered by Steve Ritter, seconded by Linda Mascho.

Water/Sewer/Public Works concerns(Oakley Sortore

#1.Lead Service Line Inventory- Trying to obtain Inventories on the water customers, via Requested questionnaire on the Town's Facebook page they can print out page fill it out, call the information into the Town Hall or to the Water dept. number.

#2 Need to replace a refuse picker as one has given his 2 week notice. Will have to advertise for a picker-part-time.

#3The Recycle truck was worked on.

#4Refuse truck was inspected but is need of some work.

#5Thank You for the work on grants, had trouble w/ sam.gov but it looks like clear sailing from now on.

Highway Dept.(George Ritter) Concerns-none

Reports received: Town Clerk Report for August 2024

Highway Dept. Report for August 2024

Water Report

Police Dept. Report

Justice Report

Motion to go into executive session , Oakley Sortore invited to discuss an employee issue: 8:22pm

Motion to go out of executive session back into regular session, no one waiting to come back into meeting. 8:55pm

9:00pm Motion to adjourn offered by Steve Ritter, seconded by Carolyn Carney.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Schurr
Town Clerk