

Meeting Minutes-February 19, 2025

6:50 Bid opening/7pm

Bid Opening for Fuel:

Only Bid received was from Rinker Oil, Cuba, NY

#2 clear ulsd#2 -2.8327/gal., Clear All weather ulsd#2-2.8958/gal., 87 no lead E10-2.3638/gal

Prices will increase or decrease only to reflect any increase or decrease we receive from our suppliers as calculated on a weekly basis.

Motion to accept the bid as above, offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Carolyn Carney.

Supervisor Hall calls meeting to order

Pledge of Allegiance observed by all.

Roll call: Supervisor Russell Hall-present

Councilperson: Linda Mascho- present

Councilperson: Carolyn Carney-present

Councilperson: David Norton-present

Councilperson: Ken Burdick-present

ALSO PRESENT: PATRICIA SCHURR, TOWN CLERK

TIFFANY BENSCOTER- BOOKKEEPER

ASSEMBLAGE: WESLEY SORTORE, MARK VOORHEIS, GEORGE RITTER, ASHLEY SMITH, DELL BAKER, MICHELL BAKER, BJ HOWE, EVAN RINKO, OAKLEY SORTORE.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE FUEL BID FROM RINKER OIL.(ONLY BID)

OFFERED BY LINDA MASCHO, SECONDED BY DAVE NORTON. ROLL CALL: CAROLYN CARNEY-AYE, LINDA MASCHO-AYE, KEN BURDICK-AYE, DAVE NORTON-AYE, RUSSELL HALL-AYE.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING FROM

JANUARY 22, 2025, OFFERED BY KEN BURDICK, SECONDED BY CAROLYN CARNEY. ALL APPROVE.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE SUPERVISOR'S REPORT FROM JANUARY 2025 OFFERED BY CAROLYN CARNEY, SECONDED BY KEN BURDICK.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE AUDITED BILLS FROM JANUARY 2025 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$224,028.10, OFFERED BY KEN BURDICK, SECONDED BY LINDA MASCHO.

ROLL CALL VOTE: LINDA MASCHO-AYE, CAROLYN CARNEY-AYE, DAVID NORTON-AYE, KEN BURDICK-AYE, RUSSELL HALL-AYE.

*SUPERVISOR'S CONCERNS: NONE

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*PUBLIC CONCERNS: WESLEY SORTORE JUST REQUESTING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING UNION CONTRACT. SUPERVISOR HALL ADVISED HE IS PLANNING TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.

*PUBLIC WORKS/WATER/SEWER CONCERNS-

***DEPARTMENT OF LABOR INSPECTION RESULTS-STATE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR WANTS SOMETHING DONE WITH THE GENERATOR THAT'S BY THE HANDICAP RAMP, ITS IN THE WALKWAY, ALSO THE RAMP TO TO THE BINGO HALL NEEDS RAILS. DIFFERENT RESOLUTIONS WERE DISCUSSED, WILL HAVE TO DECIDE WHICH IS THE BEST.**

***FFAFTA – (FEMA GENERATOR GRANT-SIGNED) #HMGP4625-0021 INFO ONLY**

***FFAFTA-(FEMA GENERATOR GRANT-SIGNED) HMGP4625-0024 INFO ONLY**

OAKLEY SORTORE-

- 1. WATER EPA SENT THE ENGINEER CONTRACT WITH NO NEGATIVE FINDINGS, ALSO SENT TO EFC. IF THERE ARE PROB. MISSING ITEMS, BE AWARE OF EMAILS OF MISSING ITEMS LIST.
- 2. THE PFAS LITIGATION PROCESS. EARLY ON WHEN PFAS WAS A MAJOR THING YOU NEEDED TO HOP ON TO A CLASS ACTION SUITE, IT COST THE TOWN NOTHING, BUT IT HAS BEEN AN NIGHTMARE. WE DON'T HAVE ANY DETECTS OF PFAS. QUESTION IS DO WE TELL THEM WE DON'T NEED THEM OR IGNORE THEM. WE DID A EPA MONITORING DID NOT HAVE TO PAY FOR IT AND IT FOUND NO PFAS. AT THE BEGINNING IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN GOOD TO GET IN IT, PROBERALLY NOW GOOD TO GET OUT OF IT.

***MOTION TO GET OUT OF THE PFAS LITIGATION PROCESS, OFFERED BY CAROLYN CARNEY, SECONDED BY DAVID NORTON. ALL APPROVE.**

3. OAKLEY SORTORE ADVISED THAT AN EMAIL WAS RECEIVED THAT ADVISED THAT IT WAS OK TO USE LOCAL FUNDS TO START PHASE I OF THE WATER PROJECT WHILE WAITING FUNDS- IT WAS TOLD THERE WAS A LITTLE OF A GAMBLE. THEY WILL BE CAREFUL AS TO SPENDING, THE MONEY SHOULD BE BACKBY END OF FISCAL YEAR. IT WAS DECIDED TO HAVE A COMMITTEE THAT WOULD MAKE DECESIIONS AS TO THE FUNDS USED FOR START UP ON PHASE I. THE FOLLOWING MOTION WAS SET FORTH:

***MOTON TO HAVE THE WATER COMMITTEE MAKE THE DECISION S AS TO THE FUNDS USED FOR PHASE I, OFFERED BY KEN BURDICK, SECONDED BY LINDA MASCHO. WILL HAVE TO BE IN TOUCH WITH THE ACCOUNTING FIRM, POSSIBLY FOR A SEPARATE ACCOUNT OR LINE.**

4. OAKLEY-SEWER INFORMATION- THE RFQ WAS POSTED IN THE OTH PAPER, TOWN BOARD AND REPORTER MEETING ON MARCH 17TH OR 18TH TO REVIEW AND SCORE.

MAY 30TH IS THE INTENDED USE PLAN, THERE IS A LOT TO DO.

***RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF THE FEDERAL ASSISTANCE SF-424 APPLICATION**

WHEREAS, the Town of Friendship wishes to apply for federal assistance for the Town of Friendship Water System Improvements Project.

WHEREAS, the application requires approval from the governing board for submission.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Friendship authorizes the submission of the Application for Federal Assistance SF-424 for the Town of Friendship Water System Improvements Project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor is hereby authorized to sign and submit the SF² 424 application on behalf of the Town, and to execute any agreements, instruments or other documents in connection with the Town's acceptance of any such grants and/or the funding thereof; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

I, Patricia Schurr, Town Clerk of the Town of Friendship do hereby certify that the Town Board of the Town of Friendship adopted the above resolution on February 19, 2025 by the following vote:

- Vote: Carolyn Carney-aye
- Linda Mascho-aye
- Kenneth Burdick-aye
- David Norton-aye
- Russell Hall-aye

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING A NON-DISCRIMINATION COORDINATOR

WHEREAS, the Town of Friendship wishes to apply for federal assistance from EPA for the Town of Friendship Water System Improvements Project.

WHEREAS, EPA's nondiscrimination regulations at 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7 contain important "procedural safeguards," which are legal requirements for recipients of EPA financial assistance, including designating at least one person to coordinate efforts to comply with federal civil rights laws, including the substantive civil rights obligations to:

- o Take reasonable steps to provide meaningful access for persons with limited English proficiency (LEP);
- o Provide qualified persons with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from the recipient's programs and activities.

- o Ensure that public participation processes are available to all persons regardless of race, color, national origin, disability, age, or sex.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Friendship authorizes the Town Supervisor as the nondiscrimination coordinator; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

I, Patricia Schurr, Town Clerk of the Town of Friendship do hereby certify that the Town Board of the Town of Friendship adopted the above resolution on February 19, 2025 by the following

Offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Ken Burdick.

Roll call: Carolyn Carney-aye

David Norton-aye

Ken Burdick-aye

Linda Mascho-aye

Russell Hall-aye

Dated: 2/19/25

Patricia Schurr -Town Clerk

RESOLUTION -DISABILITY NONDISCRIMINATION PLAN

WHEREAS THE TOWN OF FRIENDSHIP IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN OR BENEFIT FROM ITS PROGRAMS, SERVICES, AND ACTIVITIES THROUGH ITS COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973

Town of Friendship recognizes that persons with disabilities may need reasonable modifications to have equal opportunities to participate in or benefit from Town's programs, services, and activities. ³

It is Town of Friendship's policy that no otherwise qualified individual with a disability will be denied access to or participation in any program, service, or activity offered by the Town. Town of Friendship will administer programs, services, and activities in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of qualified persons with disabilities.²

Town of Friendship will provide at no cost appropriate auxiliary aids and services where necessary to afford people with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from the programs, services, and activities provided by Town. Auxiliary aids and services may include qualified interpreters to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing and must be provided in a timely manner and in such a way as to protect the privacy and independence of the individual.

Persons with disabilities have a right to request reasonable modifications to allow them to participate in or benefit from Town of Friendship's services and activities.

Town of Friendship and any of its agents will not coerce, intimidate, retaliate against, or discriminate against any individual for exercising a right under Section 504, or for assisting or supporting another to exercise a right under Section 504.

This Program and Policy applies to all Town of Friendship subrecipients, agents and contractors.

Definitions

A. Disability means, with respect to an individual:

1. a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the person's major life activities;
2. a history of such an impairment; or
3. being regarded as having such an impairment.

¹ Town of Friendship also prohibits discrimination in employment, including based on disability. For Town of Friendship's Equal Opportunity Employer Policy.

² See 40 C.F.R. § 7.55

The definition of “disability” shall be construed broadly in favor of expansive coverage, to the maximum extent permitted by the terms of Section 504. The question of whether an individual meets the definition of “disability” should not demand extensive analysis

- B. Qualified Individual with a Disability is an individual with a disability who, with or without reasonable modifications to rules, policies, or practices, the removal of architectural, communication, or transportation barriers, or the provision of auxiliary aids and services, meets the essential eligibility requirements for the receipt of services or the participation in programs or activities provided by Town of Friendship.

Nondiscrimination Coordinator

The Town of Friendship employs fifteen (15) or more employees, and as such, shall designate *the Town Supervisor* as the Nondiscrimination Coordinator to coordinate its efforts to comply with its obligations under 40 C.F.R. Part 7.

The Nondiscrimination Coordinator will coordinate Town of Friendship’s efforts to comply with Section 504, including ensuring the following:

- A. Town of Friendship will adopt and make readily available in suitable formats (*e.g.*, enlarged, Braille, audio-taped):
1. a procedure that allows an individual to request reasonable modifications or auxiliary aids or services needed to obtain equal access to and enable participation in Town of Friendship programs, services, and activities;
 2. a procedure for maintaining personal information in a manner that protects the privacy and independence of the individual; and
 3. a procedure for providing modifications and auxiliary aids or services.
- B. Town of Friendship will maintain data on the nature and extent of the services provided to persons with disabilities and develop data collection requirements as part of the operational guidelines for implementing this policy.
- C. Town of Friendship will administer its programs, services, and activities in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of qualified individuals with disabilities.
- D. Town of Friendship will utilize the grievance procedures set forth in its nondiscrimination program and policy for providing prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging any action that would violate Section 504. These procedures should be applicable to any anticipated complaint, including an appeal of a denied request for reasonable modifications or auxiliary aids or services.
- E. Town of Friendship will provide auxiliary aids or services that are required to comply with Section 504 free of charge.
- F. Town of Friendship will provide periodic in-service training for faculty and staff to develop their awareness and understanding of the needs of persons with disabilities and legal compliance issues.

Program Accessibility

Consistent with Town of Friendship’s self-assessment, Town of Friendship will consider the extent to which any Town facilities are “public facilities” or will be used by the public. The Town will operate its programs and activities out of those facilities consistent with 40 C.F.R. § 7.65 so that, when each program or activity is viewed in its entirety, it is readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities.

A. Existing Facilities:

- 1. Structural changes in existing facilities are not required when other methods provide program accessibility. Such methods include:
 - a. Redesigning equipment or the facility after case review.
 - b. Providing appropriate signage directing people to accessible features.
 - c. Reassigning staff, or services to accessible sites.
- 2. Evacuation procedures will be developed by Town of Friendship for persons with disabilities.

B. New Construction and Alterations:

Each facility or part of a facility constructed by, on behalf of, or for the use of Town of Friendship must be designed and constructed in such a manner that the facility is readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities. Alterations to existing facilities shall, to the maximum extent feasible, be designed and constructed to be readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities.

C. Off Campus:

Contractual or lease agreements for the use of non-Town of Friendship facilities should ensure that any program, service, or activity of the Town in that facility is accessible. If a program, service, or activity is not wholly operated by Town of Friendship, the Town will attempt to assure that these programs, services, or activities, as a whole, provide an equal opportunity for the participation of persons with disabilities.

Reasonable Modifications and Auxiliary Aids and Services:

No participant with a disability in a Town of Friendship program, service or activity will be denied the benefits of, be excluded from participation in, or be otherwise discriminated against in the provision of services available to all individuals in general.

Each individual is responsible for making requests regarding reasonable modifications or

auxiliary aids or services to meet their particular needs to enable Town of Friendship to provide an appropriate response to the request. However, the failure to request a reasonable modification or auxiliary aid or service does not always excuse the Town of Friendship from providing a reasonable modification or auxiliary aid or service, as long as it does not result in a fundamental alteration or undue burden.

All auxiliary aids, services used by persons with disabilities to provide access to Town of Friendship programs, services, and activities need not be on hand or present at all times.

A Town of Friendship does not need to provide a reasonable modification or auxiliary or service that would fundamentally alter the nature of the program, service, or activity, for example, requiring waiver of essential program or licensure requirements; violating accreditation requirements; or posing an undue administrative burden on Town of Friendship.

In determining reasonable modifications or appropriate auxiliary aids or services, Town of Friendship considers the wishes of the individual.

Town of Friendship will not require an individual with a disability to accept a modification, aid, service, opportunity, or benefit under any circumstances.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE DISABILITY NONDISCRIMINATION PLAN RESOLUTION, OFFERED BY LINDA MASCHO, SECONDED BY CAROLYN CARNEY.

ROLL CALL: CAROLYN CARNEY-AYE

LINDA MASCHO-AYE

DAVID NORTON-AYE

KEN BURDICK-AYE

RUSSELL HALL-AYE

MOTION TO APPROVE THE PRESS RELEASE FOR THE \$20,000.00 MAIN STREET GRANT, OFFERED BY DAVE NORTON, SECONDED BY LINDA MASCHO. ROLL CALL: CAROLYN CARNEY-AYE, LINDA MASCHO-AYE, DAVE NORTON-AYE, KEN BURDICK-AYE, RUSSELL HALL-AYE.

Town of Friendship, NY awarded \$20,000 Grant for Main Street

Friendship, NY – The town of Friendship, NY has been awarded the New York Main Street Technical Assistance (NYSM-TA) grant in the amount of \$20,000, through NYS Homes and Community Renewal. This grant will support comprehensive building assessments regarding rehabilitation and re-use options for properties on West Main Street. The town intends to issue an RFP for consulting firms soon. Friendship, NY is proud to take the first of many steps in revitalizing their downtown area. A committee has been formed to lead the project and work with the selected consulting firm to ensure the grant guidelines are met.

HIGHWAY

MOTION TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS OF \$50,000.00 TO THE HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT RESERVE (THIS WAS BUDGETED BUT PER THE ACCOUNTING FIRM ADVISED THE STATE WANTS IT IN THE MINUTES), OFFERED BY DAVE NORTON, SECONDED BY LINDA MASCHO.

ROLL CALL: CAROLYN CARNEY-AYE

LINDA MASCHO-AYE

DAVID NORTON-AYE

KEN BURDICK-AYE

RUSSELL HALL-AYE

HIGHWAY DEPT CONCERNS-NONE BUT THE SALT SHORTAGE, BUT THAT IS EVERYWHERE.

POLICE

BJ HOWE ADVISES HE HAS A POLICE OFFICER HE WOULD LIKE TO GET STARTED FOR FRIENDSHIP FOR PART TIME FILL IN, HIS NAME IS MAWELL LEWIS. SUPERVISOR HALL ADVISED THAT HE THOUGHT IT'S IMPORTANT THAT HE COMES IN MAYBE ON THE NEXT BOARD MEETING NIGHT AND IS INTRODUCED TO THE BOARD MEMBERS. IT WOULD BE NICE TO KNOW THE OFFICER WORKING FOR THE TOWN. OFFICER HOWE AGREED. THE FOLLOWING MOTION WAS SET FORTH:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE HIRING OF MAXWELL LEWIS FOR PART TIME POLICE OFFICER, OFFERED BY CAROLYN CARNEY, SECONDED BY LINDA MASCHO. ALL APPROVE.

REPORTS RECEIVED

TOWN CLERK REPORT JANUARY 2025

HIGHWAY DEPT JANUARY 2025

POLICE REPORT

WATER REPORT

JUSTICE REPORT

8:05 **MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS UNION CONTRACT/ PERSONNEL OFFERED BY CAROLYN CARNEY, SECONDED BY LINDA MASCHO.**

MOTION TO APPROVE THE UNION DRAFT CONTRACT LANGUAGE AS IS AND TO PRESENT IT TO THE UNION, OFFERED BY KEN BURDICK, SECONDED BY DAVE NORTON. ALL APPROVE.

9:12PM **MOTION** TO GO OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION BACK INTO REGULAR SESSION, OFFERED BY CAROLYN CARNEY, SECONDED BY LINDA MASCHO.

DOG CONTROL

MOTION TO SEND/GIVE NOTICE TO THE DOG CONTROL OFFICER COVERING FRIENDSHIP, TREVOR HALLENBECK THAT HE IS NO LONGER NEEDED, THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE, OFFERED BY CAROLYN CARNEY, SECONDED BY LINDA MASCHO. ALL APPROVE.

9:15PM **MOTION** TO ADJOURN OFFERED BY LINDA MASCHO, SECONDED BY CAROLYN CARNEY.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
PATRICIA SCHURR
TOWN CLERK