

TOWN OF FRIENDSHIP MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 21, 2024

6:50 OPEN OF FUEL BIDS/7:00 REGULAR MEETING

6:50 Opening of Fuel Bids: Only one was received from Rinker Oil.

Motion to accept Fuel Bids from Rinker Oil offered by Steve Ritter, seconded by Carolyn Carney. All approve.

Supervisor Hall calls meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance observed by all.

Roll Call: Supervisor Russell Hall-present
Councilperson-Carolyn Carney-present
Councilperson-Linda Mascho-present
Councilperson-Steve Ritter-present

Also person- Patricia Schurr-Town Clerk
Also present: Attorney David Pullen

Assemblage: Ken Burdick, Les Dahill, Mark Voorheis, Don Weir, George Ritter, Michelle Baker, Karl Kruger, Scott Golden, Jay Golden, David Norton, Oakley Sortore.

Motion to approve the minutes from the Public Hearing of January 17, 2024, offered by Steve Ritter seconded by Linda Mascho. All approve.

Motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of January 17, 2024, offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Carolyn Carney. All approve.

Motion to approve the Supervisor's Report for January 2024, offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Steve Ritter. All approve.

Motion to approve the Audited Bills in the amount of \$235,129.99 for January 2024, offered by Steve Ritter, seconded by Linda Mascho.

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

SUPERVISOR CONCERNS:

Friendship Ambulance Status-Our ambulance is out of service. Need a creative action, need a standby ready agreement. Do not have anyone to do paperwork, and the paperwork is not in order. The newer rig needs a lot of work, can't operate currently.

Ambulance Stand Ready Requirement-MTS has offered to cover Friendship, their fee is \$10,000.00 annually to cover the Town. Paying this would make the budget tight, might be able to negotiate a lower fee. Have to have certificate of medical necessity. Only choice Friendship or MTS. MTS has already been covering and Supervisor Hall voiced he thought they should keep doing it.

Request to rent ambulance bay space-Makes sense to use the bay and rent it out to MTS. People there could help the Friendship ambulance get into compliance. If we can get our ambulance in shape, then maybe we can cover some calls.

Motion to approve the Standby Ready agreement, Supervisor Hall to negotiate the price with MTS to try and get it down to \$8,000.00 and not \$10,000.00, offered by Steve Ritter, seconded by Carolyn Carney. Roll call: Russell Hall-aye, Carolyn Carney-aye, Linda Mascho-aye, Steve Ritter-aye.

Motion to have Supervisor Hall negotiate rental space charge of \$425.00 for MTS to rent the ambulance bay, offered by Steve Ritter, seconded by Carolyn Carney.

Roll call: Russell Hall-aye, Carolyn Carney-aye, Linda Mascho-aye, Steve Ritter-aye.

PUBLIC CONCERNS:

Les Dahill wanted to know if there was money in the Budget for the grounds in the park.

Supervisor Hall advised there were separate lines: parks and the GAR Hall.

Don Weir stated he saw that the “Refuse Law” was tabled last month. Supervisor Hall advised that there was clarification on the wording “Public Works”. The question was whether the Town has Public Works and he found out that we do since the early 1990’s, and the Sewer and Water is under the “Public Works”. We were holding off on Refuse Local Law until we knew this information, the Union Contract was not accurate.

Scott Golden- Still having issues with the Veteran’s exemption that helps reduce his Town/County Tax bill, he is not getting his exemption, and the tax assessor is not giving him any answers. He advises that he has a petition with 26 signatures started. Supervisor Hall stated he is sure there is something on the books; the issue is how it is being applied. Supervisor Hall stated the Town cannot make the assessor do anything. If the state gives us an option, then we can give it. Before there was an assessor the State set the assessment. Supervisor Hall advised that we have to find out what has changed, what did the assessor do, find out the root cause, but we will look into it.

Topics Tabled from last meeting:

#1 Refuse Local Law-Attorney Pullen sent it via email to the Town to be reviewed. The Committee will review it and set a time to meet with the Attorney and go through it.

#2 Dog Control Local Law(kenneling for other Towns)-The Kennels had passed all the inspections. Supervisor Hall advised all Towns that want a shared kenneling must have a kennel of their own plus the prices needs to be increased for kenneling and impound. (Currently 10.00 per dog impound plus \$10.00 per day kenneling.)

Motion to approve Russ Hall, Supervisor to sign the Lease agreement Between the Town of Friendship and the Allegany County Office of the Aging for the use of the GAR Hall for 2024, offered by Steve Ritter, seconded by Carolyn Carney.

Motion to approve BINGO License for the Friendship Fire Dept. for 1 day session only. Offered by Steve Ritter, seconded Carolyn Carney.

Motion to approve the Town's insurance policy and premium (Name change from Evans to Gallagher) THIS IS TABLED D/T NOT HAVING THE INFORMATION FROM THE INSURANCE CO.

Oakley Sortore Topics:

Prior meeting the Board approved that 16 High Street be reduced to one residential o/m & sewer charges however that owner no longer is in that residential home and there was no change yet on the bill, so Supervisor Hall advised to leave it to the 2 Residential charges, per the Town Local Law.

Consideration could be given to the reduction or elimination of the Moss Brook Road service area- 6 residents on Moss Brook Rd. Supervisor Hall will get with attorney Pullen to discuss this for a Legal Opinion.

Discussion for the alternatives that was given by the engineer's presentation from last meeting. It was talked prior that the Town should apply for all they can to start with, not with a reduced amount in mind.

Question how to pay for the securing of the land needed, it is an eligible cost, and the water fund could be reimbursed once funding is secured or it could be considered "local contribution". Supervisor Hall assigned committee on these concerns: Committee: Linda Mascho, Oakley Sortore, Russell Hall.

Report Received:

Town Clerk Report for January 2024
Highway Report for January 2024
Water Report
Dog Control Report
Justice Report
NY.Dept. Ag. Markets-Shelter and DCO Report

8:10 Motion to go into executive session to discuss an employee's status and related matters offered by Steve Ritter, seconded by Linda Mascho.

Motion to for Supervisor Hall to proceed with written Proposal that will be given to the Union to discuss/review and approve, offered by Steve Ritter, seconded by Linda Mascho.
All approve.

9:19 Motion to go out of Regular session and back into regular session, offered by Steve Ritter, seconded by Linda Mascho.

Steve Ritter said he spoke with Wesley Sortore about the bathrooms in the park, they are always getting vandalized, they get fixed and get the doors bashed. Talked about options, tear them down, put in cameras, put in a tall gated fence, to prevent kicking in the doors. Will continue this discussion-table till next meeting.

9:30 Motion to adjourn offered by Steve Ritter, seconded by Carolyn Carney.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Schurr, Town Clerk