

Minutes of the Franklinville Town Board Meeting held on August 11, 2026, at 7:00 P.M., at the Town Hall, 11 Park Square, Franklinville, NY.

ROLL CALL:

Catharyn Campbell.....Supervisor
Sharon Hahn.....Councilwoman
Terry McClory.....Councilman
Dave Furman.....Councilman
Mike Forward.....Councilman
Scott Stanbro.....Highway Supt.
Andrea Stanbro Town Clerk

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Campbell at 7:00 P.M.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Campbell made a motion to accept August 11, 2026, minutes, seconded by Mrs. Hahn.
Motion carried Ayes-5 Campbell, McClory, Hahn, Forward, Furman
Nays – 0

Approval of Abstracts

Mr. McClory made a motion to pay Abstract #8 General vouchers # 175-196 in the amount of \$11,690.16 and Highway vouchers # 93-107 in the amount of \$232,220.34, seconded by Mr. Furman
Motion carried Ayes-5 Campbell, McClory, Hahn, Forward, Furman
Nays – 0

Petitions and requests from the floor

None

Highway Superintendent

Mr. Stanbro reported:

- There have been issues with being able to collect data from the fuel system. We haven’t been able to retrieve data from the middle of June. Working with the pump doctor, GasBoy technology is at end of life as of last year. Upgrading the cloud system will be \$7,341.54 with a yearly charge around \$3,000. Discussion on purchasing the upgrade vs. a different company ended with Ms. Campbell motioned to repair/upgrade the system and stay with the same company seconded by Mr. McClory
- Motion carried Ayes-5 Campbell, McClory, Hahn, Forward, Furman
Nays – 0
- Discussion on the extended warranty on the wheel loader prices, \$5,677 for 48 months or 2,000 hours, only the power train and hydraulics, no emissions. Mr. McClory, Mr. Furman and Mr. Stanbro all agree that its not worth it without the emissions.
- Meeting with companies to spec out the 10-wheeler next week.
- Mr. Stanbro would like to enter executive session for discipline, employment history and employment matters of personnel for highway and cemetery.

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- Cemetery zero turns will need at least one leaf shredder vacuum. The previous contractor had two units and it would take them 6-8 weeks to pick all the leaves up. The Village said they could help pick up what is by the road. We can try to get away with one machine and use the blowers to push leaves to the road for this year and see how it goes. Discussion on purchasing the leaf unit because of the sudden change with contracting, Mr. McClory motioned to purchase one leaf shredder vacuum, seconded by Mr. Forward
- Motion carried Ayes-5 Campbell, McClory, Hahn, Forward, Furman
Nays – 0
- Garbage can at Case Lake is being utilized and saving about half an hour of work for employees picking up trash with a bucket before mowing. Discussion to order another one next year.
- The paving project on Bryant Hill Rd went well, the Village and many Towns came to help.

Cemetery Sexton

- Water line estimate is not current, last year it was \$700-\$800 Mr. Stanbro suggested a \$1,000 to be safe.
- The second set of steps have been poured and are still closed till the top soil settles. Railings are not built yet but they will get done.
- In need of more topsoil.

Code Enforcement Officer

None

Dog Control Officer

- Great Dames have caught one dog that didn't seem to have a home and are in the process of catching a black dog near the Minors Cabin.
- The Dog enumeration is still ongoing and will be wrapped up by the end of October.

Town Clerk

Mrs. Stanbro reported:

- MEGA sent in information to look over for cheaper utility rates, Mrs. Stanbro questions if this is a legitimate company, Ms. Campbell will take this information to the upcoming supervisors meeting.
- The 5th Bash will be this year along with the 150th celebration of the Franklinville Volunteer Fire Department, will be held August 21 and 22. Mr. Stanbro reported the department would like one of the town trucks there for the water ball Saturday Morning to be used as an anchor. All board members were good with that.

Justices

None

Supervisor

Supervisor Campbell reported:

- Regarding the 10-wheeler, I think we should maintain the five-year equipment rotation, but look at the financing separately and determine what gives the Town the best overall financial position. The excess sales tax we previously set aside is on the town-outside highway side, while this truck debt is townwide, so I do not believe we should assume that money is available to pay this debt. Our available townwide highway fund balance is approximately \$149,000. Discussion on keeping the front-line large trucks in a 5-year rotation due to finding parts when the trucks are 15-20 years old gets difficult, Supervisor Campbell gave the go ahead to spec out a truck, town board all agreed. Keep on paying on the current bond with making extra payments.

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- Ms. Campbell asked Mr. Stanbro where the 1-ton status is. Mr. Stanbro stated that the frame on the new 2026 1-ton is wider than previous years builds. Viking Cives has had to re-engineer the plow frame to fit. Possible date is in November tentatively.

- Mike and I attended the Cattaraugus County Comprehensive EMS System Planning meeting. The County is beginning the process of developing a countywide comprehensive EMS plan, as now required under New York State law. The intent is to bring municipalities, fire departments, EMS agencies, and other stakeholders together to evaluate how emergency medical services are currently being provided and determine what changes may be necessary to make the system reliable and sustainable long-term. The County will continue gathering information and working with the municipalities and EMS/fire agencies to develop the required comprehensive plan. At this stage, this is a planning and fact-finding process, not a proposal for the Town to take over EMS or commit to a particular funding structure. For Franklinville, I think our role at this point is to stay involved in the process and make sure the Town and our local fire/EMS providers have a voice in whatever countywide recommendations are ultimately developed. The key question going forward is how we maintain reliable emergency medical response for our residents while developing a system that is financially and operationally sustainable.

- Discussion and readings of resolutions 62-64.

- The Village of Franklinville submitted a communication letter the Town Board August 10, 2026.

Snow removal—The first request concerns Townwide snow-removal costs. The Village's position is that Village residents already pay the Village to plow Village streets and therefore should not also pay the Townwide portion of the Town's snow-removal expense. The important point for us to understand is that their proposal does not identify approximately \$70,000 in Town expenses that would go away. Their calculations show approximately \$69,900 being removed from Village taxpayers and approximately the same amount being added to Town-outside taxpayers.

The Village also presented individual property examples to show why they believe things have become out of balance. Their proposal produces about an 84-cent-per-thousand reduction in the Village rate and about a 41-cent-per-thousand increase in the Town-outside rate.”

That example demonstrates what happens after you move the \$70,000. Village examples go down and Town-outside examples go up—that is what the proposal is designed to do.

Another issue is the comparison of Village and Town tax rates. Those rates don't tell the entire story because both municipalities are using fund balance to support their budgets.

The Village's 2026–27 General Fund budget is \$1,237,460, with \$221,765 coming from fund balance—about 17.9% of that budget. The Town is using \$39,380 across its four main General and Highway funds.”

We also used fund balance to help control the Town-outside levy and stay within the tax cap. So I'm not criticizing the Village simply for using fund balance. The point is that comparing today's tax rates without looking at how much savings each municipality is using doesn't give taxpayers the complete picture. The Board agreed that this is primarily a shift in who pays the expense rather than an actual reduction in the Town's expenses and does not support making that change.

Court—The second major request involves the court. The Village is again asking about operating a Village Court, using Town courtroom space, or some form of joint arrangement. Their letter also connects this to the Village Police Department. They argue that because the Village pays for the Police Department and Village Police generate many of the cases, the enforcement, court processing, costs and revenues should be more closely connected to the Village.

They also make statements about Village employees receiving incorrect information, unnecessary delays and negative impacts from the current court arrangement.

-Discussion between Mr. Peterson, Mr. McClory, Ms. Campbell, Mr. Duncan, Ms. Hahn, Mrs. Graham, Ms. Messer key points:

-Village residents already paying for the court

-Town helping out the Village paving, salt shed use, fuel depot

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- abolishing the police department
- village residents needing to use state, county and town rds to get out village
- village ordinances
- town roads in great condition
- where to find the town and village budgets
- Erie county towns and villages consolidating

The Board still stands by their decision to not rent the court room for the Village Court. We still do not believe duplication is fiscally smart for the entire town, including village.

Our proposal: We continue having discussions about snow, courts, police, staffing and which taxpayers should pay which expenses. Instead of continuing to look at these issues one at a time, I think we should consider asking the Village to participate with us in an independent study to determine whether consolidation or Village dissolution could reduce the overall cost of government.

For more information, please see attached letters with the Town Board's response.

Law Review Workshop dates for the local zoning laws:

- **Workshop date: August 25th 5-6:30pm. Topic Fee Schedule**
- These workshops are open to the public
- Law Review Committee Workshop dates for the local zoning laws:
- Because we have limited time during these workshops, it would be helpful to receive any suggestions regarding the zoning laws in writing or email prior to the meetings.

Communications/Calendar

- Court Dates: No Court Sept 7th Misdemeanors and Felonies, September 21 for Violations and Infractions.
- Case Lake Park rented for Private Event:
- Veterans Service Agency:
 - September 15th, 2026, 1:30-4pm Appointments required
- The Franklinville Volunteer Fire Department Bash by the Creek/150th year Celebrations, August 21-22, 2026

Reports from Board members

Mr. Forward has done some reading on a possible grant for the project at Case Lake, the grant writer could write it just need to do some more research if we can apply for the grant.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Resolutions

Resolution # 62-2026

On a motion of Mr. McClory, seconded by Mr. Forward, the following resolution was Motion carried Ayes-5 Campbell, McClory, Hahn, Forward, Furman

Nays – 0

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Resolution proposing a Local Law amending the Town of Franklinville Zoning Law to establish a temporary moratorium on Data Centers, Artificial Intelligence Computing Facilities, Cryptocurrency Mining Facilities, and Similar High-Intensity Computing Uses.

Resolution # 63-2026

On a motion of Mr. McClory, seconded by Mr. Furman, the following resolution was

Motion carried Ayes-5 Campbell, McClory, Hahn, Forward, Furman

Nays – 0

A RESOLUTION CLASSIFYING THE ENACTMENT OF A LOCAL LAW AS A TYPE I ACTION AND DECLARING THE INTENT OF THE TOWN OF FRANKLINVILLE TO BE LEAD AGENCY PURSUANT TO THE STATE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW ACT

Resolution # 64-2026

On a motion of Mr. Forward, seconded by Mr. Furman, the following resolution was

Motion carried Ayes-5 Campbell, McClory, Hahn, Forward, Furman

Nays – 0

A RESOLUTION INTRODUCING PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. 3 OF 2026 AND SCHEDULING A PUBLIC HEARING

Mrs. Hahn made a motion at 8:55pm to enter executive session for discipline, employment history and employment matters of personnel for highway and cemetery, seconded by Ms. Campbell

Ms. Campbell made a motion at 9:19pm to exit executive session and re-enter regular session, seconded by Mr. Forward

-Ms. Campbell announced that the Town of Franklinville will be position for a full-time CDL driver/laborer position due to retirement. Applications are due by August 31, 2026.

Adjournment

Mrs. Campbell made a motion to adjourn at 9:20pm, seconded by Mrs. Hahn.

Motion carried Ayes-5 Campbell, McClory, Hahn, Forward, Furman

Nays – 0



Town Clerk

August 11, 2026



CATTARAUGUS COUNTY REAL PROPERTY SERVICES

207 Rock City Street, Suite 101 • Little Valley, New York 14755 • (716) 938-2224 • Fax (716) 938-2758

Elizabeth Lerow, Assessor

Assessor@cattco.org

TO: Town of Franklinville Supervisor & Board
FROM: Your Assessor
DATE: August 5, 2026
RE: Monthly Report for July

The July report is as follows:

- The 2026 roll year has been finalized as of July 1.
- Owners of 7180 Hillbrandt Rd, Dennis Greene, 2361 Rushford Rd, Kathleen & Larry Graham, and owners Kimberly Conner & Michael Fields of 3605 Wenrick Hill Road have filed Small Claims Assessment Review. Upon completion of all SCAR hearings, the town will be notified of the determinations.
- **Article 7/Tax Criteria Lawsuits** – these are lawsuits typically brought on by large commercial or industrial property owners. We get perhaps a dozen per year all across the county. In years past, this burden would have been solely put onto the town's shoulders to pay for the defense. Since you contract with the county, we help defend these values with no extra cost being paid by you. With that being said, you can still have your town attorney involved if you wish. We will also reach out to the school to see if they wish to get their attorney involved as well. In all cases we will fight for everyone whether or not they choose to get involved. In all cases we will defend the value or come up with a settlement. We are happy to report that we have never offered refunds in any settlement case. That is an undue burden for the municipalities and one that we strive to not have happen.
This year you have no cases.
- The Assessing Office has corresponded with several property owners about their assessments, tax bills, and exemptions.
- There were 25 property transfers in June. You can find more information about these sales here: <https://www.cattco.org/real-property-and-gis/sales>

Thank you.

END OF REPORT



8.10 Town Board Response to Village
Communication.pdf board.pdf



Village of Franklinville

8/10/2026

Incorporated May 28, 1874



Dear Members of the Town Board:

The purpose of this letter is to re-open the lines of communication as it relates to pursuing a fairer and more equitable tax structure for village taxpayers. We are specifically asking for two things.

- 1- Pass a resolution to exempt village taxpayers from snow removal costs on town outside village roads because they fund 100% of snow removal costs within the village.
- 2- Work with us to create a court model that is fair to all taxpayers.

New York State law provides a basic town-taxation framework that assumes towns deliver certain municipal services within villages. Some villages, including ours, provide these services independently, so the statutory default does not reflect our actual service relationship. Town Boards across New York State have the authority to set different tax rates for each tax base and adopt resolutions that account for these circumstances. Using that authority responsibly ensures a tax structure that is lawful and accurately aligned with how services are delivered.

Despite being two separate governments, our communities are one, and this is evident every day in how our residents interact and rely on one another. We believe the town's current financial structure sets the tone for our relationship and unintentionally creates an unnecessary divide. A structure that acknowledges the distinct responsibilities of each government would strengthen our shared community. Aligning our tax model with how services are delivered also allows each government to focus on what it does best: the Village providing higher-level services in a densely populated area, and the Town delivering essential, broad-coverage services across a much larger geographic area. Adopting a tax structure that reflects these realities would build on the progress both of our administrations have made and reinforce the cooperative relationship our residents expect and deserve.

Franklinville	Population (2020 Census)	Square Miles
Village	1,701 (60% of all town residents live in the village)	1.01
Town	2,802 (1,101 live in town outside village)	51.98

We would like to formally invite you to a joint meeting on Monday September 28th at 7PM to discuss this communication and any additional topics in a formal setting. Please let us know if you can attend by end of day Monday August 31st. Our entire village team looks forward to continuing productive discussions that help us move forward together and strengthen the way we serve our community.

Sincerely,

Ashley Schumaker, Mayor

Steve Pockey, Trustee

Scott Hillman, Deputy Mayor

Carissa Vincent, Trustee

19 Pennsylvania Avenue

Franklinville, NY 14737

(716) 676-3010

Town Snow Removal Expenses:

Based on 2025 Town Budget

Basic Information:

- The townwide taxable \$ in 2025 was \$250,129,651.16.
 - o Roughly 31.82% (\$79,589,245.59) of property tax revenue is from village properties
 - o Roughly 68.18% (\$170,540,405.58) of property tax revenue is from town outside village properties
 - o Roughly 2.5% (\$6,056,300) have a seasonal residential property class code in the town. This does not include additional residential property where owners' primary residence is outside Franklinville.
- Budgeted town outside village snow removal expenses in 2025 were \$215,145.
 - o Roughly \$68,457.41 was paid with tax revenue from village properties
 - o Roughly \$146,687.59 was paid with tax revenue from town property outside the village
- These monies fund snow removal costs on town-owned roads outside of the village. They do not cover costs of snow removal on village, county, or state roads located within the Town of Franklinville.
- Exempting village taxpayers from snow removal costs would result in the following changes:
 - o Town outside village taxpayer increase of roughly .41 per 1K assessed
 - o Village taxpayer decrease of roughly .84 per 1K assessed

The chart below outlines the actual versus proposed revenue and tax rates.

	\$ from Taxes	\$ from Village		\$ from Town Outside Village	
		\$ from Taxes	\$ per 1K	\$ from Taxes	\$ per 1K Assessed
Actual	\$ 860,446.00	\$ 273,787.00	\$ 3.44	\$ 586,659.00	\$ 3.44
Proposed	\$ 860,446.00	\$ 203,865.44	\$ 2.60	\$ 656,580.56	\$ 3.85
Change	\$ -	\$ (69,921.57)	\$ (0.84)	\$ 69,921.57	\$ 0.41

Real Examples:

The below comparisons illustrate just how out of balance and inequitable the current system has become.

1. Impact on highest assessed residential property in town and village

- a. Important Note: The town property is assessed \$384K (40%) higher than the village property

Location	Address	2026 Assessed \$	Est. Annual Change	Est. Monthly Change
Town	4915 NYS Route 242	\$966,800	\$396.39 increase	\$33.03 increase
Village	13 Crestview Dr	\$582,700	\$489.47 decrease	\$40.79 decrease

2. Impact on higher-end equally assessed property.

Location	Address	2026 Assessed \$	Est. Annual Change	Est. Monthly Change
Town	6971 Town Line Rd	\$330,800	\$135.63 increase	\$11.30 increase
Village	1136 Mount Pleasant Ave	\$336,900	\$283.00 decrease	\$23.58 decrease
Town	3605 Wenrick Hill Rd	\$315,000	\$129.15 increase	\$10.76 increase
Village	1308 Mount Pleasant Ave	\$315,700	\$265.19 decrease	\$22.10 decrease
Town	7016 Bennett Rd	\$274,600	\$112.59 increase	\$9.38 increase
Village	53 Chestnut St	\$274,400	\$230.50 decrease	\$19.21 decrease
Town	3079 NYS Route 98	\$233,900	\$95.33 increase	\$7.94 increase
Village	35 Maple Ave	\$232,500	\$196.48 decrease	\$16.37 decrease

3. Impact on other equally assessed property.

Location	Address	2026 Assessed \$	Est. Annual Change	Est. Monthly Change
Town	2120 Cemetery Hill Rd	\$192,000	\$78.72 increase	\$6.56 increase
Village	32 First Ave	\$191,300	\$160.59 decrease	\$13.39 decrease
Town	7865 Pine St	\$181,400	\$74.37 increase	\$6.20 increase
Village	9 Third Ave	\$181,800	\$152.71 decrease	\$12.73 decrease
Town	3794 Wenrick Rd	\$154,300	\$63.26 increase	\$5.27 increase
Village	29 First Ave	\$154,400	\$129.70 decrease	\$10.81 decrease
Town	2107 Rushford Rd (CR46)	\$148,100	\$60.72 increase	\$5.06 increase
Village	34 S Main St	\$147,800	\$124.15 decrease	\$10.35 decrease
Town	7835 Pine St Ext.	\$117,700	\$48.26 increase	\$4.02 increase
Village	26 Pine St	\$117,000	\$98.28 decrease	\$8.19 decrease
Town	3016 NYS Route 98	\$96,700	\$39.65 increase	\$3.30 increase
Village	22 Green St	\$96,700	\$81.23 decrease	\$6.77 decrease
Town	3538 Bakerstand Rd	\$71,300	\$29.623 increase	\$2.44 increase
Village	9 Washburn Ave	\$71,300	\$59.89 decrease	\$4.99 decrease

Town & Village Court Expenses:

Based on 2025 Town & Village Budget

Our Asks:

- Accept our request to rent the Town of Franklinville courtroom OR re-open discussions and move forward with planning a joint town and village court with shared expenses.

Basic Information:

- The current court model is inequitable and does not best serve village taxpayers. When a village funds and operates its own police department, maintaining a village court ensures that enforcement, case processing, costs, and revenues remain aligned, efficient, and accountable to the same taxpayers. As with the snow-removal model, any change to the court structure significantly benefits village taxpayers while only minimally impacting town-outside-village taxpayers.
- Except Franklinville, almost all NYS villages that operate and fund a police department (executive branch of government) operate and receive revenue from a village court (judicial branch of government).
- This topic has been a point of contention between village and town administration for decades with no resolution. Over the last two years, increased conversations on both sides show we are getting closer to finding common ground. The Village Board remains open to changes that benefit both the town and village, and our actions have consistently reflected that commitment.
- Village taxpayers should not be penalized because they receive higher-level services. Without the Village Police Department, the Town would have minimal cases to hear yet would still be required to operate and fund a court. It is not the responsibility of village taxpayers, who fund the police department, generating most of the cases, to subsidize town court operations at their own expense.
- Operations between the Town Court and Village Government are not smooth. Village employees at all levels have repeatedly been misinformed by town court staff, creating inefficiencies, unnecessary delays, and negative impacts on the residents we serve. A structure that aligns responsibility with authority would reduce these friction points.
- Community surveys from both village and town residents show overwhelming support for maintaining a local police force. This demonstrates that the service is valued across the entire community, not just within village boundaries.
- A village police department plays a critical role in protecting the safety and quality of life of all residents, not only those living within village boundaries. Because the village is the population center of the town, most commercial activity, traffic volume, and community events occur within the village, making a local police presence essential for timely response, proactive enforcement, and community-based policing. This work directly benefits town-outside residents as well: village officers routinely assist with incidents that originate outside the village (free of cost to town taxpayers, support county and state agencies, and help maintain overall public safety throughout the town. By handling the highest-volume enforcement activity in the area, the village police department reduces demand on county and state resources and contributes to a safer, more stable environment for the entire Franklinville community.

The Numbers:

**All numbers are rough estimates based on data available.

Category	Total \$	Village Share	Town Outside Village Share
2025 Town Court Revenue	\$62,133	\$19,261.23	\$42,871.77
2025 Town Court Expenses	\$47,355	\$14,680	\$32,674.95
2025 Town Net Gain	\$14,778	\$4,581.18	\$10,196.82
2025 Village Police Expense	\$333,003	\$333,003	\$0



Morgan Hall

*Town of Franklinville, New York
11 Park Square
P.O. Box 146
Franklinville, New York 14737*

August 12, 2026

Dear Mayor and Village Trustees:

We appreciate the Village's efforts to identify opportunities to reduce costs for its residents. The Town shares that goal. However, the Town Board's responsibility extends to residents both within and outside the Village. When considering any proposal, we must therefore look not only at whether it reduces costs for one group of taxpayers, but whether the expense itself is actually reduced or simply transferred to another group. That distinction is central to the Town Board's concerns regarding the proposals currently before us.

We understand the concern that Village taxpayers pay Village taxes for snow removal on Village streets while also contributing toward certain Townwide highway expenses. It is important to clarify that these are not two charges for plowing the same roads. The Village is located within the Town, and Village properties are therefore part of both municipalities. Certain Town expenses are appropriately spread Townwide, while others are charged only to properties outside the Village.

For highway purposes, **DB – Highway Part-Town** pays for certain expenses associated with Town roads outside the Village. Village taxpayers do not pay those costs. **DA – Highway Townwide** pays for certain highway expenses spread across the entire Town tax base. The Town's snow-removal appropriation is budgeted within this Townwide fund. The Village separately maintains and plows Village streets.

The Village's calculations indicate that the proposed change would reduce the amount paid by Village taxpayers by approximately **\$69,900**, while increasing the amount paid by Town-outside taxpayers by approximately the same amount. From the Town Board's perspective, this is the central issue.

The proposal does not identify approximately \$70,000 in snow-removal expenses that would no longer exist. The Town would continue to incur substantially the same expense, but that expense would be collected from a smaller tax base. We understand why that change would be beneficial to Village taxpayers. At the same time, the Town Board must consider what the corresponding increase would mean for residents outside the Village. We support efforts to reduce costs wherever possible. Our concern is whether the proposal creates an actual savings or primarily changes which taxpayers are responsible for the expense.

The Village's individual property comparisons and current tax rates should also be viewed in the context of fund balance. For the current budgets, the Village appropriated approximately **\$221,765** in fund balance, while the Town appropriated approximately **\$39,380** across its four primary General and Highway funds, including approximately **\$37,935** in the General Town-Outside and Highway Part-Town funds. There is nothing improper about either municipality responsibly using fund balance. However, it is important when comparing tax rates to recognize that the amount of fund balance used can significantly affect the tax rate in a particular year.

A significant additional shift to Town-outside taxpayers could put pressure on the Town's ability to maintain its current services while remaining within the property tax cap. That is something the Town Board must take seriously.

We have also carefully considered the Village's concerns regarding court services and its interest in establishing a separate Village Court. The Town currently maintains the Town Court. Cases heard by the Court may originate from Village Police, the Sheriff's Office, State Police, code enforcement, dog control, and other enforcement sources.

We recognize that the Village funds and operates its Police Department and that Village Police generate cases that are heard in Town Court. The Village and its residents receive the primary benefit of having a dedicated Village Police Department.

We also recognize that Village officers may assist other law-enforcement agencies or respond to incidents outside the Village when appropriate. That cooperation can benefit the broader community, but it does not change the fact that the Village Police Department is a Village service established, funded, staffed, and controlled by the Village.

Police and courts, however, perform different governmental functions. Police enforce laws, while courts independently hear and decide the cases brought before them. The Town's concern with creating a separate Village Court is primarily financial. A Village Court would not eliminate the Town Court. The Town would still be required to maintain its court and its associated costs. A separate Village Court would potentially add another judge, court staffing, records, technology, security, training, facilities and administrative expenses. Village residents would also remain Town residents and continue to share in applicable Townwide costs. For these reasons, the Town Board has not seen a financial analysis demonstrating that creating a second court would reduce the overall cost to Franklinville taxpayers.

The Village has also raised concerns regarding communication involving Village ordinance matters handled through Town Court. We understand the importance of communication between the municipalities, particularly when the Village is seeking information about the status of an ordinance matter.

At the same time, the Town Board does not control individual court proceedings. Once a matter is before the Court, scheduling, appearances, pleas, adjournments and disposition are part of the judicial process. Some cases are resolved quickly, while others take longer depending upon the circumstances.

The Town and Village have previously discussed how these matters proceed through the Court, including a recent matter brought to the Town's attention. If there are specific situations in which the Village believes incorrect information was provided or a procedural problem occurred, those examples can be identified and reviewed through the appropriate channels. A case remaining pending or taking longer than anticipated does not, by itself, establish that an unnecessary delay or error has occurred.

Our goal should be to make sure both municipalities understand the process and that legitimate communication concerns are addressed without interfering with the independence of the Court.

The Town Board also does not share the Village's characterization that prior discussions indicate the two Boards are moving toward agreement on establishing a separate Village Court. The Town Board has considered the proposal and discussed it with the Village, but those discussions should not be interpreted as agreement.

The discussions regarding snow removal, court services, and other municipal costs raise a broader question:

Are there opportunities to reduce the overall cost of local government rather than moving expenses between taxpayers or creating additional governmental operations?

The Town Board does not believe that question can be answered fairly without a complete financial analysis. That is why we believe an independent professional dissolution and consolidation feasibility study deserves consideration.

The Town Board is not proposing that the Village dissolve. We are proposing that both municipalities obtain independent information about what dissolution or greater consolidation of services would actually mean for Franklinville. Participation in a study would not commit either Board or the residents to any future action.

A meaningful study should examine what would happen to the services and expenses currently handled by both municipalities. This would include employees and benefits, administration, highway and public works, police, courts, code enforcement, buildings and equipment, debt, assets, fund balances, water and sewer, and other municipal responsibilities.

The Village's adopted 2026–27 General Fund budget is approximately **\$1.237 million**. This does not mean that amount would disappear through dissolution. Many Village services would remain necessary and would still have to be funded.

Instead, the study would determine which costs would continue, which responsibilities and expenses could transfer to the Town or another governmental structure, what additional costs the Town might assume, and what costs could actually be reduced or eliminated. The Town's finances would need to be reviewed in the same manner, including any additional costs the Town could assume for services currently provided by the Village. Most importantly, the study should separately show the financial effect on current Village taxpayers and current Town-outside taxpayers. Only after both municipalities are fully analyzed can anyone reasonably determine whether consolidation or dissolution would produce sustainable savings.

If the study shows that maintaining the current Town and Village structure is the more economical and effective option, that is important information for both Boards and the public. If it shows that services could be provided at a lower overall cost through consolidation or dissolution, that information is equally important.

Before committing local taxpayer funds, the Town would like to determine what New York State funding and technical assistance may be available for this type of study.

If the Village is willing to participate, the next step would be to identify available professional assistance and funding and agree upon the scope of the study before proceeding.

The Town Board respects the Village Board's responsibility to advocate for Village residents and carefully manage Village finances. The Town Board has a similar responsibility to residents both inside and outside the Village. That responsibility may lead the two Boards to different conclusions about how an expense should be allocated or a service provided.

Rather than continuing to revisit the same individual cost-allocation questions, we believe an independent review of the broader financial picture would provide both Boards and the public with better information about whether opportunities exist to reduce the overall cost of local government.

The Town Board therefore asks the Village Board to advise us in writing whether it is willing to join the Town in exploring an independent dissolution and consolidation feasibility study.

Respectfully,



Catie Campbell

Town Supervisor

Authorized by the Town of Franklinville Town Board