


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

**Town of Franklinville – Public Statement on Pending Litigation and Town Operations**

The Town of Franklinville is aware of recent social media posts and videos discussing an ongoing civil lawsuit and other Town matters. Some of these statements contain inaccurate or incomplete information.

In consultation with the Town's legal counsel, the following summary is being provided to ensure residents have clear, factual information regarding these issues.

The civil lawsuit currently involving the Town stems from events that occurred prior to the current administration. The current Town Supervisor and several current officials are not parties to the case.

To ensure proper jurisdiction and oversight, the Town moved the matter to Federal Court for resolution under the appropriate legal authority.

The lawsuit originally included twelve (12) causes of action. To date, ten (10) have been dismissed for lack of legal merit, leaving two (2) under review in the discovery phase.

The **dismissed** claims include:

1. Unreasonable search
2. Procedural due process violation
3. First Amendment retaliation
4. Obstruction of mail
5. Negligence
6. Negligent hiring, training, retention, and supervision
7. Intentional infliction of emotional distress
8. Harassment (as a criminal offense)
9. Breach of fiduciary duty
10. Trespassing

It is important to note that in 2019, a resident was cited for operating activities that required a special use permit under the Town's zoning laws. The case was heard in the Town of Olean Court, which found the individual guilty of violating the zoning code and directed that a special use permit be obtained before continuing the operation. In addition, the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets issued a letter affirming that the same zoning and permitting requirements applied. Despite those directives, the permit was never obtained. This history is part of the public record and is relevant only as background information, not as commentary on the ongoing litigation. The Town will continue to follow its legal obligations and will not discuss details of the current case beyond the facts already established in court proceedings or official documents.

Despite claims of "corruption" by certain disgruntled residents made online, there have been no criminal findings, charges, or new complaints against the Town or any current official.



Morgan Hall

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

The Town recognizes public concern regarding the financial costs of ongoing litigation. It is important to note that this lawsuit was filed before the current Town administration took office, and the Town has been required by law to participate as a named defendant. Claims circulating online suggesting that the Town has spent years and large amounts of taxpayer money to harass a family, are false and misleading. The Town has not initiated or pursued this litigation; it is defending itself as required under court process and state law. Fortunately, the majority of the legal costs associated with this case have been covered by the Town's municipal insurance provider. The Town has not directly paid substantial sums from local tax revenue toward this litigation.

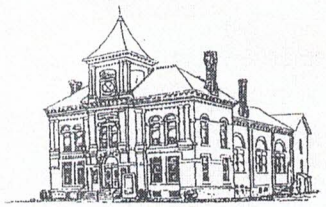
Some online discussions have referenced back pay issued to two former employees—the Code Enforcement Officer and the Dog Control Officer. After a review by the past administration, no official investigations or verified evidence of misconduct were found. Complaints had been filed, but those involved, including the disgruntled residents, were given the opportunity to testify at a formal hearing and declined. With no documentation or testimony to support disciplinary action, the Town was required under New York State Civil Service Law to correct the employment record and issue back pay for the affected period. The Town's legal counsel prepared and executed the necessary reinstatement and resignation agreements to ensure full compliance with State law. Both employees subsequently resigned voluntarily. This correction was a legal and administrative obligation, not a discretionary or political decision by the Town Board or Supervisor.

Following those resignations, one of the former employees applied for a part-time, on-call maintenance position. The Town publicly advertised the opening, received two applications, and appointed both candidates at a Town Board meeting. Afterward, one applicant declined, leaving one individual to fill the role. This on-call position is hourly, limited, and not a highly sought-after role. The individual is supervised entirely by the Highway Superintendent, who assigns work, approves time sheets, and submits payroll to the bookkeeper. The bookkeeper generates paychecks based on those time sheets. The Town Supervisor's only involvement in the process is to sign the checks as part of the routine administrative duties of the office. The Supervisor does not approve hours or manage the employee's assignments.

There has also been confusion regarding the former Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) and the reason for his removal. Under Town Law § 23 and Public Officers Law § 3, this law requires that all members of a Town's ZBA must legally reside within the Town's boundaries to serve. It was discovered that the individual holding the ZBA Chair position did not reside within the Town of Franklinville, making him ineligible to serve under State law. Once confirmed, the Town Board had a legal obligation to correct the appointment and vacate the position. This action was not disciplinary or political, but simply a matter of legal compliance. The Town has since ensured that all appointed members of boards and committees meet residency and eligibility requirements to avoid future issues.

For transparency, the Town Supervisor wishes to address online claims concerning her personal relationship with the adult son of the former Code Enforcement Officer. That individual is not employed by the Town. Under New York General Municipal Law, a conflict of interest occurs only when a public official has a direct or indirect financial or material interest in a municipal action. No such interest exists in this case.

The lawsuit was filed before the Supervisor's election, and she had no role in the actions or decisions that led to it. Her current duties, along with the Town Board, are strictly administrative representing the Town as required by law. The Town's




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

legal counsel has confirmed that no conflict of interest exists. The relationship was disclosed to the Town Board and counsel to ensure transparency, and the Supervisor will continue to seek legal guidance if any related matter arises.

The Town of Franklinville, a community of about 2,700 residents, recognizes that in a small town, personal and professional relationships often overlap. What matters—and what this administration remains committed to—is that all Town business is conducted fairly, lawfully, and transparently.

The final concern I wanted to address is that the New York State Comptroller's Office recently completed an audit of the Town's procurement practices, reviewing the period from January 1, 2022 through February 2, 2024. The report found that prior officials, did not always follow the Town's procurement policy or use competitive bidding. The audit also noted that the prior Town Board was not fully familiar with its claims audit responsibilities, which limited opportunities for cost savings and oversight. The Comptroller's Office recommended that the Town follow its procurement policy, ensure officials are trained on purchasing requirements; and utilize available State training and resources to strengthen compliance. The current administration agreed and immediately began implementing these recommendations to improve accountability and ensure proper financial oversight. It is important to note that State audits are routine accountability reviews conducted across New York to help municipalities improve operations. **They are not criminal investigations, but constructive evaluations to strengthen local government transparency and efficiency.**

The Town encourages residents to rely on official records, meeting minutes, and court filings for accurate information. Social media posts, while widely circulated, often omit important context or include speculation not based on fact.

The Town Board and the Supervisor reaffirm their unwavering commitment to honesty, transparency, and fiscal responsibility in service to the residents of Franklinville. The Town denies any allegation of wrongdoing and will vigorously defend against this litigation.

Issued by Order of the Town Board of the Town of Franklinville
Catie Campbell, Town Supervisor
Date: 11/12/25