

Village of Franklinville

8/10/2026



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

Scott Hillman, Deputy Mayor

Steve Pockey, Trustee

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