BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF FREDONIA
WORKSHOP AGENDA
9-11 Church Street
Fredonia, NY 14063
November 2, 2026
4:30 P.M.

Representatives from the Chautauqua County Health Department provided a detailed timeline of events starting on October 21st, when the chief water operator identified elevated organic material, including algae, in the reservoir due to seasonal fluctuations. This led to a boil water order and a subsequent conservation order. Health officials explained the rationale for these measures, noting that while standard tests for bacteria and E. coli were performed, the preventative order accounted for other potential pathogens that are not logistically or financially feasible to test for constantly. By October 31st, officials were able to lift the boil water order following two consecutive days of clean samples, though the conservation order remained in place to ensure continued progress at the plant. The board discussed the role of orthophosphate in water pipes, confirming that it serves as a protective barrier to prevent corrosion and heavy metal leaching, particularly in older cast iron mains. Board members also inquired about long-term solutions, such as joining the North County Water District, and immediate preventive actions, with experts recommending the replacement of aging filter media.

A. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Code Enforcement Office

Reports a couple of upcoming projects. This includes a new 40-by-7-foot building at the site of the former Casino or Tube location, and a minor subdivision for a property on Central Avenue where a house is being removed to improve conformity with the local residential zoning district. Additionally, the officer mentions that Walmart is planning two projects, including a fuel cell and a convenience store.

DPW

Reported on recent maintenance, noting that they successfully completed a ditch job on Carol and a challenging water main break repair on Sunset. This repair was particularly difficult because it occurred where the resident's tap connected to the main, necessitating a specialized sleeve and complex copper adaptation; however, the team managed to complete it without shutting off the water. The department also upgraded equipment by acquiring new tires for a plow truck and purchasing a transmission jack. Additionally, updates were provided on the AgriAmerica project, which is pending clearance from National Fuel Gas, and the ongoing discussions regarding the North County Water District transition.

Fire Department

Reported that approximately 12–14 hours were dedicated to emergency management efforts during the recent water issue, which took time away from his regular Fire Chief responsibilities. He expressed appreciation to the Police Chief, Walmart, and Home Depot for helping secure two pallets of water, which were distributed to residents in need. He also commended the excellent communication and coordination between himself, Lewis, Fred, and the Health Department throughout the situation. Additionally, he reported that Fredonia hosted a successful state training session at the Opera House the previous Wednesday, lasting approximately four to four-and-a-half hours. He thanked the Opera House for hosting the event, the instructors for providing the training, and those who continue to invest in departmental training and professional development.

Police Department

Reported attending the County Traffic Safety Board meeting in Jamestown, where concerns were raised regarding the accessibility of the Water Street project for visually impaired pedestrians and individuals using guide dogs. Arrangements will be made to have members of the Blind Association evaluate the area, and the Chief also reported that the audible pedestrian crossing signals at Central Avenue and Temple Street are not functioning and need attention. Additionally, he discussed repeated damage to the temporary stop sign on Church Street and plans to work with the County to improve its visibility with reflective materials. The Chief also provided an update on the department's new hybrid patrol vehicles, noting that the first vehicle is averaging approximately 17.9 miles per gallon compared to 8 miles per gallon with the older vehicles. The second new patrol vehicle is expected to be delivered this week.

Recreation Department

Reported that the annual Trunk or Treat event was very successful and thanked all participants and trustees who helped organize and attend the event. The Chief also announced that recruitment for the NFL Flag Football program, a four-week program scheduled to take place in the community next July, will begin in late November. Additional information will be available on the Village website and Facebook page. The mayor also noted that a workshop is being planned for late November, following Thanksgiving, to discuss ideas for expanding community recreation programming.

Wastewater Treatment Plant

Reported that Aeration Tank No. 3 has been cleaned out, with leak testing of the airlines scheduled for the following day to determine whether any repairs are needed. The department also confirmed that the ordered grit pumps have shipped and are expected to arrive shortly. H&K has been notified and will be handling the installation.

Water Treatment Plant

Reported that Agent K was on-site last Monday to connect the bleeder and address the airlock issue. The pump is now operating within its design specifications. The old pump was evaluated by Dunkirk Electric, but the damage was determined to be too severe to repair. Chemical levels remain satisfactory, and the plant's inspection is scheduled for Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.

B. RESOLUTIONS

1. Residential Water Service Connection – 5215 W Main Rd

The Board discussed a new water service connection for a facility located at 52 West Main Street, clarifying that it is a new service rather than new construction and requires Board approval. It was also noted that this project is unrelated to the properties currently being discussed with the Town.

Additionally, the Town plans to transition its Route 60 connection to Sheridan over to the regional water system, potentially beginning Friday. This change is expected to reduce demand on the Village's water system, while the Village anticipates gaining new water customers in the Berry Road area once the transition is complete. The Town provided the required advance notice of the change last year.

2. Budget Transfer

The Board reviewed a $1,600 budget transfer representing the 10% seller's fee from the $16,000 sale of the fire truck. The fee was charged through Garage.com, the online platform used to facilitate the sale.

3. Joshua Savali appointed to Laborer Position
4. Chief Myers to attend Career Fire Chief Training

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Darwin R Barker Library Lease Renewal

The Board discussed the library lease renewal, which is due November 21st. It was noted that the lease has remained largely unchanged, and there does not appear to be a need for an increase at this time. Board members were asked to review the lease and consider any proposed changes before discussing it at the next workshop, with the goal of having the renewal ready for approval at the next meeting.

The Mayor proposed reducing Board meetings to twice a month, particularly during the upcoming holiday season, with the schedule to be revisited in January. He noted that the Board, during his administration, has done a good job of avoiding repeatedly tabling agenda items, which had been an issue under past administrations and contributed to delays with certain projects. The Mayor emphasized that this proposal was his own idea and was being offered as a compromise, recognizing the Board's improved efforts to address items in a timely manner. He will work to develop the proposed schedule to be presented for Board consideration and a vote at the next meeting. The proposed schedule would include a 4:30 p.m. workshop followed by a 6:00 p.m. regular meeting, with workshop discussions taking place approximately two weeks before the corresponding voting meeting to allow adequate time for preparation and review of agenda items.

The meeting touched on administrative business, specifically plans for updating the village's Zoom policy and a request for board members to assist in testing a new, duplicate website that is currently being developed.

The Mayor reported that electric vehicle charging stations are expected to be installed in the Water Street parking area by the end of the month. The stations will include both high-speed and standard charging options for public use, encouraging visitors to charge their vehicles while shopping or dining downtown.

D. OLD BUSINESS

1. NCWD

The Mayor reported that discussions regarding the North County Water District are ongoing. He has been reviewing the existing agreement and working with Trustee Lazarony to identify and compile outstanding questions involving the responsibilities and expectations of the Village, North County Water District, and County. Additional work is expected to continue through the week before the parties can move forward with the next steps.

2. Boardwalk Sidewalk

The Mayor provided an update on the deteriorating concrete wall and sidewalk, sharing an assessment from Matt Zarbo, Director of Engineering at Square Engineering. The assessment identified significant deterioration in one section of the wall, along with frost cracking in other areas, and recommended evaluating the entire wall rather than making repeated repairs. Square Engineering proposed a $4,000 assessment memo that would include a more detailed structural evaluation, repair and replacement options, and preliminary cost estimates. The Board discussed concerns regarding ownership of the wall and sidewalk, as existing easement documentation has not yet been located, leaving responsibility for the repairs undetermined. Members agreed that the issue should be addressed proactively due to potential safety and liability concerns. The Board also discussed possible funding through grants, contributions from the building owners, or alternative options, including removing the sidewalk while maintaining access to underground utilities. Further research into property ownership, easements, and existing utility infrastructure is needed before determining how to proceed.

The Mayor reported that he spoke with Wade Forester, the current Dog Control Officer for the City of Dunkirk and Town of Pomfret, regarding potential dog control services for the Village. The Village currently has $3,000 budgeted for this service, and Mr. Forester is willing to discuss the arrangement, although other municipalities are paying more. The Board also discussed legal considerations under the Agriculture and Markets Law, which indicates that payments for dog control services should not exceed the fees collected. Since the Village does not collect dog licensing fees, as those are collected through the Town, the Board agreed that this should be carefully considered before entering into a service agreement. The Village's local law was also reviewed but does not provide much additional guidance on the matter.

Trustee Mulholland reported that work is underway with Erlyssa to revamp the Village website. A duplicate site is being developed behind the scenes, allowing the current website to remain unaffected while navigation and overall layout are improved to make it more user-friendly. Trustee Mulholland is seeking Board members and volunteers to help test the updated website and provide feedback before it goes live, with a target launch date of January 1st. He also noted that Erlyssa and Emily will ultimately be responsible for maintaining and updating the website, so training will be provided to ensure they are comfortable managing the new layout. A new college student may also assist with the testing and development process.

E. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Cruz-Keefe and seconded by Trustee Wandel, and carried unanimously the board entered into executive session for Personnel at 5:55 pm.

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Cruz-Keefe and seconded by Trustee Brauchler, and carried unanimously the board exited executive session at 6:04 pm.

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Wandel and seconded by Trustee Cruz-Keefe, and carried unanimously the board adjourned the meeting at 6:04 pm.