

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF FREDONIA
MEETING MINUTES
9-11 Church Street
Fredonia, NY 14063
September 28, 2026
6 P.M.**

A. CALL TO ORDER-MAYOR

I call this meeting to order on Monday September 28, 2026, at 6 PM

Roll Call of the Trustees: Lazarony, Cruz-Keefe, Brauchler, Wandel

B. PLEDGE O.F ALLEGIANCE-

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES-

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Cruz-Keefe and seconded by Trustee Brauchler, and carried unanimously the following resolution was approved.

WHEREAS members of this Board have read the Official Minutes of the Board of Trustees Regular Meeting of September 14, 2026, and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves the minutes as entered into the Official Minutes, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the reading of the minutes be dispensed with.

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Lazarony seconded by Trustee Wandel, and carried unanimously the board entered executive session for personnel at 6:02pm.

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Lazarony seconded by Trustee Cruz-Keefe, and carried unanimously the board exited executive session at 6:26pm.

D. PUBLIC PORTION-

This portion of the meeting is for public comment. Any member wishing to speak shall sign up on the sign-up sheet. Any member of the public wishing to speak, once recognized, shall stand at the microphone and state their name. Speakers will be allowed three (3) minutes to speak, time may not be transferred from one speaker to another. Each speaker may speak once during public comment unless the presiding officer permits additional comment for purposes of clarification. Comments will be addressed to the board as a whole, it is not a question-answer session. I will ask the speakers to refrain from remarks that are in poor taste, slanderous, or not germane to any action taken or contemplated by the Board.

Catherine Nelder-raised concerns regarding the use of municipal resources for private purposes. Specifically, she questioned the use of village personnel and equipment, such as a roller, on private property and expressed objection to the village's involvement in the ball drop event held

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on private land. The speaker cited Article 8, Section 1 of the New York State Constitution, asserting that public assets should not be utilized for private gain.

Randy Sam-expressed safety concerns regarding traffic on Milt Lupian Drive within Russell Joy Park. He highlighted that despite varying posted speed limits (5 mph, 10 mph, and 15 mph), vehicles frequently travel at unsafe speeds, creating a dangerous environment for the high volume of pedestrians, cyclists, and families utilizing the park. Mr. Sam urged the board to address these traffic risks, noting that the current situation is unsustainable given the park's popularity.

Mark Twichell-presented three primary concerns regarding the proposed water improvement project. First, he advocated for legal consultation on intermunicipal agreements to protect the village from vague contractual language. Second, he highlighted concerns from the fire chief regarding the adequacy of water supply if the proposed pressure reduction is implemented on streets served by 4-inch water mains, noting that the village has not yet conducted a comprehensive environmental review. Finally, he questioned the timing of signing such contracts while a lawsuit alleging non-compliance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) is currently under appeal.

Steve Siragusa-addressed the board regarding the implications of reduced water pressure. He expressed concerns about how this change would affect fire safety on the 56 village streets currently serviced by 4-inch water mains, asking specifically about the necessity for costly fire pumps and towers for larger buildings. Furthermore, he inquired about the potential impact of these infrastructure changes on the village's fire insurance rating.

Dadie Sedota-urged the board to reconsider the decommissioning of the village reservoir. She presented three primary arguments against shifting to the North County Water District: the financial risks associated with long-term debt, the preservation of the village's prior \$2.5 million investment in the water treatment plant, and the importance of maintaining local control over the reservoir as a vital natural asset. She also expressed concern regarding a perceived rush in the decision-making process and encouraged the board to conduct further analysis before proceeding.

Andrew Ludwig-requested an update regarding the resolution passed on August 31st, which authorized a \$12,400 expenditure for repairs to the reservoir's water intake structure. He inquired about the project's status, the specific intake being addressed, and whether the work effectively remediated issues with the lower intake, which had been previously reported as silted and inoperable. Furthermore, he sought clarification on the system's operational functionality in the event that a shutdown is required to utilize external water interconnects.

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James Lynden-expressed significant concerns regarding the proposal to join the North County Water District. He highlighted potential red flags, including the district's reported financial losses, the questionable reliance on a complex water rate formula, and uncertainties surrounding how the district intends to supply water to various town districts through existing village infrastructure. He also argued that these issues, combined with unresolved legal and safety concerns regarding new municipal buildings, warrant a cautious approach and further investigation before the village enters into any binding contracts.

E. CORRESPONDENCE-

Letters attached below

F. MAYOR'S REPORT-

Mayor Ferguson provided updates on several key village initiatives. He noted participation in a recent placemaking workshop and announced that the village was accepted into the Paint CHQ mural program for the upcoming year, with potential sites currently under consideration. The mayor also reported on his attendance at the Fredonia State University bicentennial proclamation ceremony and his participation in local homecoming festivities. Regarding water infrastructure, he updated the board on progress with the Labella water system improvement project, noting that projected costs have decreased to approximately \$17.7 million. Finally, he mentioned that the village has been contacted regarding the potential for the 2028 Olympic torch to be routed through Fredonia once again. He is scheduled to participate in a follow-up meeting via Zoom later in the week to gather more details about this possibility. Mayor also announced his intention to introduce a resolution at the next board meeting to implement a punch-in/punch-out system for department heads, similar to existing village employee protocols. He explained that this initiative is intended to improve workforce evaluation, assist with accounting processes, and satisfy a recommendation from the New York State Comptroller to enhance internal control points.

G. TRUSTEE/COMMITTEE REPORTS-

Brauchler

Announced that he participated in the interviewing process for new employees at the village's water treatment facility. He noted that the interviews, conducted with Trustee Wandel, the village treasurer, and the department head, yielded several qualified candidates, and he expressed his expectation that the board would proceed with a hiring resolution during the current meeting.

Cruz-Keefe

provided updates from the Darwin R. Barker Library and Museum, noting the success of the summer youth programs and upcoming bicentennial event presentations at the Opera House scheduled for October 3rd. She also announced the village's Trunk or Treat event to be held at

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Russell Joy Park on October 24th. Additionally, she stated she is offering new weekly office hours on Wednesday afternoons at the library or via Google Meet to increase accessibility for village residents.

Mulholland-Absent

Lazarony

shared that she participated in a water system meeting on the preceding Friday, which provided significant information regarding the project. Following that, she met with Trustee Wandel, the Mayor, and a representative from Labella to discuss necessary financing issues, for which she believes a resolution has been identified. While noting that he maintains regular communication with the Department of Public Works, as well as fire and police leadership.

Wandel

Provided a comprehensive update on water infrastructure and operations. He addressed community inquiries regarding the reservoir gate replacement and silt levels, confirming that repairs were underway. He reported on meetings with Labella regarding technical issues at the water treatment plant and summarized the September 25th intermunicipal water meeting, where the board discussed site selection for a shared water tank and the fast-tracking of an intermunicipal agreement to assist with grant funding. Additionally, he shared insights from his attendance at the New York State American Water Works symposium and emphasized the critical need to continue rebuilding the village's aging water distribution infrastructure.

H. TREASURER'S REPORT –

I. ADDITIONAL REPORT-

J. RESOLUTIONS-

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Wandel and seconded by Trustee Lazarony, and carried unanimously the following resolution was approved.

WHEREAS anonymous correspondence may still be shared with the Mayor and Trustees for their review,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees shall not read anonymous correspondence aloud at village meetings. To be read publicly, all submissions must include the sender's name and community location.

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Brauchler and seconded by Trustee Lazarony, and carried unanimously the following resolution was approved.

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WHEREAS, the Chief of Police intends to prefer disciplinary charges against an employee of the Village Police Department pursuant to Section 75 of the New York State Civil Service law; and

WHEREAS, Section 75(2) of the Civil Service Law authorizes the Board to designate a deputy or other person to conduct the hearing upon said charges; and

WHEREAS the Board desires to appoint an independent and qualified individual to serve as the hearing officer to conduct the hearing, review the evidence, make findings of fact, and issue a recommendation to the Board for its review and determination; and now, therefore, it is hereby

RESOLVED, that the Board hereby designates and appoints Brian Doyle, Esq. to serve as the hearing officer pursuant to Section 75 of the New York State Civil Service Law, and to be vested with all powers and duties as prescribed by Section 75 of the Civil Service law, including but not limited to hearing evidence, making a transcript of the proceedings, and issuing a written report of his findings and recommendations to the Board for its review and decision in connection with the charges to be preferred; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the hearing officer shall be compensated for their services at the rate of \$225 per hour, plus reasonable and necessary expenses.

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Lazarony and seconded by Trustee Cruz-Keefe, and carried unanimously the following resolution was approved.

WHEREAS, certain allegations regarding a particular employee of the Village Police Department have been brought to the Board's attention; and

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police has investigated the matter and reported on same to the Board in executive session, and intends to pursue disciplinary charges against said employee under Section 75 of the New York State Civil Service Law; and now, therefore, it is hereby

RESOLVED, that the Board hereby authorizes the Chief of Police to take any and all necessary disciplinary action against said employee, including, but not limited to preferring, executing and serving disciplinary charges and assisting with the disciplinary hearing; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board hereby authorizes the Chief of Police to suspend said employee without pay immediately upon delivery of charges upon him, in accordance with Section 75 of the Civil Service Law.

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Wandel and seconded by Trustee Lazarony, and carried unanimously the following resolution was approved.

WHEREAS the Village of Fredonia requires a new pickup truck for the Street Department, and

WHEREAS Fredonia Ford, Inc., Fredonia, NY has offered a quote in the amount of sixty-nine thousand three hundred and ninety dollars (**\$69,390.00**) for a 2027 Ford F350 4x4 with chassis cab and 9' steel body, and

WHEREAS the new pickup truck is necessary for the Village's purpose and will be

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reimbursed with CHIPS funding, prior approval has been received; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves the purchase of the 2027 Ford F350 4x4 with chassis cab and 9' steel body in the amount of sixty-nine thousand three hundred and ninety dollars (**\$69,390.00**) to be reimbursed with CHIPS funding.

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Cruz-Keefe and seconded by Trustee Brauchler, and carried unanimously the following resolution was approved.

WHEREAS, the Board has received multiple requests for water and sewer relief and has determined that creating a policy would be in the best interest of the village to allow a set of guidelines to follow for these instances, and

WHEREAS, the policy is attached hereto the minutes and will be effective immediately, and

WHEREAS, the policy is titled "Village of Fredonia Municipal Water & Sewer Bill Relief Policy"; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the board hereby approves the "Village of Fredonia Municipal Water & Sewer Bill Relief Policy"; effective immediately.

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Brauchler and seconded by Trustee Lazarony, and carried unanimously the following resolution was approved.

BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to section 5-520 of Village Law, the following budget transfers are hereby approved

- \$12,000 from G8130416 Sewage Treatment Equipment Replace to G8130417 Sewage Treatment Equipment Repair

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Wandel and seconded by Trustee Lazarony, and carried unanimously the following resolution was approved.

WHEREAS, the village requires the replacement of the lower bearing and cast shaft assembly at the wastewater treatment plant, and

WHEREAS, Epic International, Inc., Ashland, VA has provided a quote for a #140 Eco-Friendly Lower Bearing & Cast Shaft Assembly with new High Strength Flange Bolts in the amount of seventeen thousand and seven hundred dollars (**\$17,700.00**), and

WHEREAS, this purchase is necessary for the Village's purpose and necessary for the operation of the screw pump; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the purchase of the #140 Eco-Friendly Lower Bearing & Cast Shaft Assembly with new High Strength Flange Bolts in the amount of seventeen thousand and seven hundred dollars (**\$17,700.00**).

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Brauchler and seconded by Trustee Wandel, and carried unanimously the following resolution was approved. Lazarony obtained from the vote.

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BE IT RESOLVED that Lucas Martin, Brocton, NY is hereby provisionally hired as a Water Treatment Plant Operator Trainee at nineteen dollars and thirteen cents (\$19.13) per hour, effective immediately; all civil service rules and regulations shall apply.

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Lazarony and seconded by Trustee Wandel, and carried unanimously the following resolution was approved.

WHEREAS, the Village board previously approved a 2026 New Holland B110D Backhoe Loader for the Street Department, and

WHEREAS, Larry Romance and Son, Inc. has provided an amended offer which includes the trade in of a Wacker Neuson EW65 excavator in the amount of thirteen thousand dollars (\$13,000.00), and

WHEREAS, the Village no longer uses this piece of equipment and it will reduce the Backhoe Loader price; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the board hereby authorizes to include the Wacker Neuson EW65 in the Backhoe Loader purchase to reduce the Backhoe Loader to fifty-six thousand nine hundred and forty-one dollars (\$56,941.00) which was previously approved on September 14, 2026

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION-

MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Cruz-Keefe and seconded by Trustee Brauchler, and carried unanimously the board entered executive session at 7:28pm for personnel.

MOTION TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Cruz-Keefe and seconded by Trustee Wandel, and carried unanimously the board exited executive session at 8:57pm

MOTION TO END MEETING

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Cruz-Keefe and seconded by Trustee Wandel, and carried unanimously the board adjourned the meeting at 8:58pm

L. MEETING SCHEDULE-

The next Village of Fredonia Board of Trustees workshop will take place on Monday October 5, 2026 at 4:30 PM Trustee Room, second floor, Village Hall. The next Village of Fredonia Board of Trustees Workshop will take place Tuesday October 13, 2026 at 6:00 PM in the Trustee Room, second floor, Village Hall.

J. Rules for Public Comment

Public comment shall be conducted according to the following rules:

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- Any member of the public may speak about Village business, an agenda item, or another matter reasonably within the authority of the Village government.
- The Village Clerk shall make a speaker sign-up sheet available before the meeting. Speakers who have signed up shall ordinarily be recognized in the order listed, followed by any other person wishing to speak. A person shall not be denied the opportunity to speak solely because the person did not sign up before the meeting began.
- Each speaker shall be allowed up to three minutes. The same time limit shall be applied equally to all speakers. Time may not be transferred from one speaker to another.
- Each person may speak once during the public comment period unless the presiding officer permits additional comment for purposes of clarification.
- Comments shall be addressed to the Board as a whole. Public comment is an opportunity for the Board to receive information and viewpoints and is not ordinarily a question-and-answer session. The Mayor, a Trustee, or an appropriate Village official may briefly clarify a factual matter or arrange for follow-up when appropriate.
- Speakers may criticize Village policies, decisions, operations, employees, or elected officials. A speaker shall not be interrupted or ruled out of order merely because the Board disagrees with the speaker's viewpoint or because the comments are critical, uncomfortable, or unpopular.
- Conduct that materially disrupts the meeting is prohibited. Examples include shouting over another recognized speaker, refusing to stop after the allotted time has expired, making a threat of violence, blocking access within the meeting room, or otherwise preventing the Board or the public from hearing or proceeding with the meeting.
- Before directing a speaker to stop or leave the meeting, the presiding officer shall ordinarily identify the rule being violated and provide a reasonable warning and opportunity to comply. Immediate action may be taken when reasonably necessary to address an actual threat or protect the safety of those present.
- These rules shall be administered in a viewpoint-neutral and consistent manner. No person shall receive preferential or unfavorable treatment based upon the person's identity, political position, support for or criticism of the Village, or relationship with a member of the Board

EPIC INTERNATIONAL, Inc.

106 Duncan Street • Ashland, Virginia 23005 • Phone: 804-798-3939
Web Site: www.epicintl.com • e-mail: try@epicintl.com

Fredonia, New York Screw Pump Lower Bearing Assembly

Project : Fredonia, NY
140 Eco-Friendly Lower Bearing Assembly
Engineer : Mr. Dave Felt & Tony Mistretta / City of Fredonia
Section : EPIC Screw Pumps
Quote Date : September 23, 2026

Dear Sirs,

As requested, we are pleased to provide the following Quote.

- A) Eco-Friendly Lower Bearing-Cast Shaft Assembly, Size # 140 :**
One (1) # 140 Eco-Friendly Lower Bearing & Cast Shaft Assembly c/w new
High Strength Flange Bolts:

\$17,700.00

FoB Factory with Shipping Charges Pre-Paid and Added.

Approximate shipping weight is ~ 200#.

Estimated Ex-Works production schedule:

Based upon current conditions, the estimated ex-works production schedule is
approximately 6 – 7 weeks.

Transit time is approximately 2-3 weeks.

Terms of Payment:

All invoices are payable not later than 30 days following delivery of the equipment

All state, local, use and other taxes are by others and are EXCLUDED.

Installation is by others.

Tariffs in excess of those in effect at Quote date will be separately & additionally Invoiced.

The Prices Quoted herein shall remain stable for your acceptance for 30 days from Quote Date

We trust that this quotation meets with your approval. Please let us know when we may
enter these special parts into production and whenever we may be of further assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy R. Young
EPIC INTERNATIONAL, INC

Environmental Products for Innovative Conservation

Good Morning, Tony,

I agree that the oil doesn't look ideal. Can you run it for a week or two and then check again?

If you don't have a spare bearing assembly, it might be a good idea to have one in stock so you can swap it out if the oil is full of water at the next check.

Thanks,

Collin Humphrey

EPIC INTERNATIONAL, Inc.

804-798-3939

try@epicintl.com

Tony,

I called the plant and spoke with David for a while. The warranty on your equipment lapsed in December of 2025, two years after startup.

The lower bearing is sealed, but since it is submerged there will always be some amount of water that gets into the bearing over time. This is why the oil must be changed - to replenish the ability to absorb any moisture and fully lubricate the bearings.

If the bearing is failing, you should have some other symptoms. The alignment will be off, the screw will be hitting the trough, or you'll be pulling higher amps than normal. Since you don't have that now, changing the oil after a week or two will let you know if you have a seal problem that needs to be addressed. In this case, that would require swapping out the bearing. You could then potentially repair this one and keep it as a spare.

Feel free to call me back if you have questions.

Thanks,

Collin Humphrey

EPIC INTERNATIONAL, Inc.

804-798-3932

tcy@epicintl.com

Village of Fredonia
PO Box 31
9-11 Church Street
Fredonia, NY 14063
Budget Transfer Request Form

Date: 9-24-26

Amount:

From Account:

To Account:

12,000

8130416

8130417

Explanation For Budget Transfer:

To cover for replacing the lower Bearing Assembly

Department Head Signature:

David N. Felt



10312 ROUTE 60

(716) 679-1111

FREDONIA, NY 14063

09/24/2026

Fredonia Ford is supplying pricing to the Village of Fredonia on a 2027 Ford F350 Chassis 179inch, Crew Cab XL, 4X4 with the following equipment of the following page. Pricing includes the installation of a 9' Dura Mag Aluminum Service Utility body with rear Hitch Plate. This would be based on an order. Order time would be approximant 8 to 10 weeks.

MSRP: \$61500

Install 9' Aluminum Service Body: \$15750

Install of rear Hitch Plate: \$450

Total MSRP: \$77700

Fleet Pricing: \$69380 TAX EXEMPT Includes the service body and hitch plate. Additional fees are \$175 Doc fee and \$10 NYS for a **TOTAL of \$69390.**

Fredonia Ford

Darwin Burnett

Sales Manager

716-679-1111



Preview Order D061 - W3F 4x4 Crew Chas Cab SRW: Order Summary Time of Preview: 09/24/2026 14:12:16 Receipt: 9/15/2026

EQUIPMENT ON CHASSIS CAB

Dealership Name: Fredonia Ford, Inc.

Sales Code : F44517

Dealer Rep.	Darwin Burnett	Type	Fleet	Vehicle Line	Superduty	Order Code	D061
Customer Name	VILLAGE OF FR	Priority Code	L4	Model Year	2027	Price Level	715

DESCRIPTION	MSRP	DESCRIPTION	MSRP
F350 4X4 CREW CHAS CAB SRW/179	\$56310	SNOW PLOW PREP PACKAGE	\$350
.179 INCH WHEELBASE	\$0	JOB #1 ORDER	\$0
TOTAL BASE VEHICLE	\$56310	TRAILER BRAKE CONTROLLER	\$300
OXFORD WHITE	\$0	350 AMP ALTERNATOR	\$0
CLOTH 40/20/40 SEAT	\$315	DUAL BATTERY	\$210
MEDIUM DARK SLATE	\$0	CONN PKG:1 YR INCL W/FORD APP	\$0
PREFERRED EQUIPMENT PKG.630A	\$0	SECURITY PACKAGE: 1 YR INCL	\$0
.XL TRIM	\$0	XL CHROME PACKAGE	\$425
.AIR CONDITIONING -- CFC FREE	\$0	.BACKGLASS DEFROST	\$0
.AM/FM STEREO MP3/CLK	\$0	.POWER SLIDING REAR WINDOW	\$0
.7.3L DEVCT NA PFI V8 ENGINE	\$0	.FOG LAMPS	\$0
10-SPEED AUTO TORQSHIFT	\$0	.REMOTE START SYSTEM	\$0
.LT275/65R18E BSW ALL SEASON	\$0	.PRIVACY GLASS	\$0
4.30 ELECTRONIC-LOCKING AXLE	\$0	SPECIAL DEALER ACCOUNT ADJUSTM	\$0
SPARE TIRE AND WHEEL	\$350	SPECIAL FLEET ACCOUNT CREDIT	\$0
JACK	\$0	FUEL CHARGE	\$0
FORD FLEET SPECIAL ADJUSTMENT	\$0	NET INVOICE FLEET OPTION (B4A)	\$0
FRONT LICENSE PLATE BRACKET	\$0	PRICED DORA	\$0
PLATFORM RUNNING BOARDS	\$445	ADVERTISING ASSESSMENT	\$0
11400# GVWR PACKAGE	\$0	DESTINATION & DELIVERY	\$2795
50 STATE EMISSIONS	\$0		
			MSRP
TOTAL BASE AND OPTIONS			\$61500
DISCOUNTS			NA
TOTAL			\$61500

ORDERING FIN: QP198 END USER FIN: QP198

Customer Name:

Customer Email:

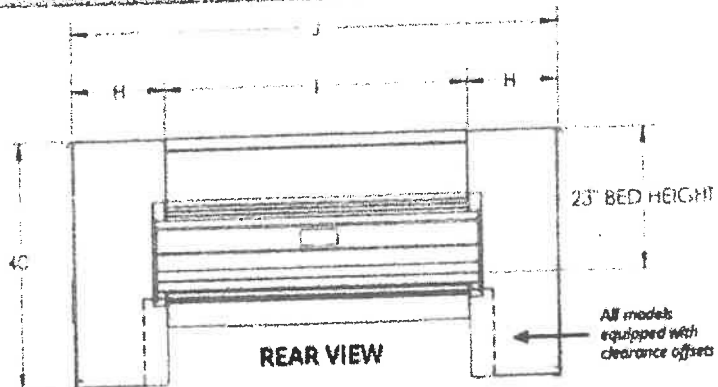
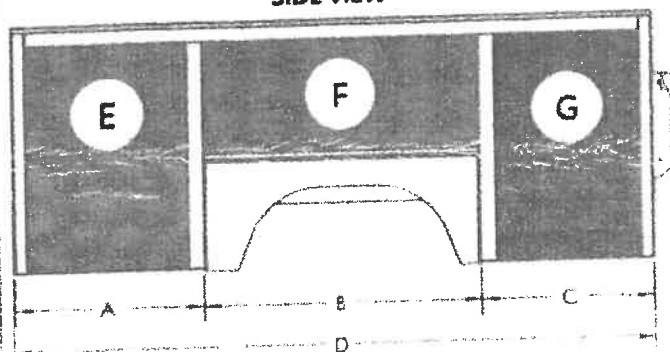
STANDARD FEATURES

- All Aluminum Extruded Box Tube Construction
- Fully Welded Construction – No Bolts to Come Loose
- Extreme Duty .625" Interlocking Extruded Flooring
- Heavy Slam Latch Tailgate
- Inner Bed Walls & Top of Compartments 3/16" Smooth Sheet
- One Piece Sides
- Welded Fender Flares – Superior Strength & Rigidity
- Tread Plate Splash Guards on Front
- 40" Compartment Height
- Radius Corner Traditional Swing Doors (5 Door on Short Bed / 6 Door on 8' & 9' / 8 Door on 11')
- Blind Compression T-Handles
- Heavy Duty Hidden Hinges
- Adjustable Shelf Brackets in All Compartments (One Shelf Included in Each Compartment)
- Pass Through Panel Between Rear & Center Compartments
- LED Marker Lights, Installed
- LED Penny Lights for Compartments, Installed
- Ultra-Thin 5.5" LED STT/BU Body Lights, Installed
- OEM Plug & Play Wire Harness, Body End Only (Adaptors Sold Separately)
- Powder Coated White, Black or Red
- Upfit Hardware Kit, Shipped Loose
- (1) Cast Aluminum Fuel Fill Dish, Installed (Street-side Front on Pickups / Street-side Rear on Cab Chassis)

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Service Book SPECS

SIDE VIEW



S-SERIES

Model	DuraMag Aluminum Weight (lbs)	Comparison Steel Weight (lbs)	% Lighter Than Steel	Cab to Aisle	A	B	C	D	Compartment Door Frame Opening Clearance			H	I	J
									E	F	G			
SB-S-60-STD-SRW**	820	1,238	51%	60"	33"	43-1/2"	31"	113"	27-3/16" x 32-15/16"	42-3/16" x 15-3/16"	25-3/16" x 32-15/16"	15-1/2"	49"	80"

Village of Fredonia Municipal Water & Sewer Bill Relief Policy

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish clear, equitable guidelines for providing financial relief to qualifying residential customers facing **documented high-volume water leaks**. This program is designed to prevent utility disconnection and ensure access to clean water while maintaining the fiscal responsibility of the municipal utility fund.

2. Eligibility Criteria

To qualify for the bill relief program, an applicant must meet **all** of the following requirements:

- **Account Status:** The applicant must be a residential customer with an active account in their name. Commercial, industrial, and institutional accounts are strictly excluded.
- **Primary Residence:** The service address must be the applicant's primary residence.
- **Frequency Limit:** Relief is limited to **one (1) adjustment per property during any three-year period**.

3. Categories of Relief

Category: Hidden Excusable Leak Adjustment

This category applies to excessive bills caused by an underground, wall, or otherwise hidden plumbing failure.

- **Qualification:** The water spike must exceed **100%** of the customer's average historical usage over the previous 12 months. The customer must provide proof of repair (e.g., a plumber's invoice or receipts for parts) within **30 days** of discovering the leak.
- **Relief Provided:** The municipality will forgive up to **50%** of the excess sewer charges above normal historical usage, no water forgiveness will be issued.

4. Exclusions

Relief will **not** be granted under this policy for high usage caused by:

- Negligence, such as leaving faucets running or failing to fix known leaks.

- Seasonal usage, including filling swimming pools, running irrigation systems, or washing vehicles.
- Vacant or abandoned properties where the owner failed to shut off the main water valve.

5. Application Process

1. **Submission:** The customer must submit a completed **Water/Sewer Bill Relief Application Form** to the Water Billing Department.
2. **Timeline:** Applications must be received within 30 **days** of the billing date for which relief is being sought.
3. **Payment During Review:** While an application is under review, the customer is responsible for paying the **average historical amount** of their bill to keep the account in good standing.

6. Administration and Appeals

- **Authority:** The **Board of Trustees** has the authority to approve or deny standard applications matching the criteria of this policy.

Village of Fredonia Municipal Water & Sewer Bill Relief Application

Full Name of Property Owner: _____

Service Address: _____

Mailing Address (if different): _____

Primary Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Water Utility Account Number: _____

Is this your primary residence: Yes: _____ or No: _____

Date Leak Discovered: _____

Date Leak Repaired: _____

Location of Leak: _____ Inside Residence/Building _____ Outside (Yard, Irrigation System, Service Line)

Specific Source of Leak (e.g., toilet, underground pipe, water heater):

Who Performed the Repair (Licensed Plumber/Contractor or Property Owner:

Please provide brief description of leak:

Please provide description of repair:

Required Checklists & Documentation:

- ☐ The leak has been completely repaired
- ☐ Attached proof of repair (Itemized plumber invoice, contractor receipt, or parts store receipts).

- Attached copy of the high utility bill in question
- I understand that this account is limited to one leak adjustment every three years

Certification and Signature:

I certify that the information provided above is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that granting an adjustment is subject to the review and approval of the Village of Fredonia Board of Trustees based on local ordinance guidelines.

Customer Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please submit to:

Village of Fredonia Water Billing Department: PO Box 31, Fredonia, NY 14063 or

treasurer@villageoffredoniany.gov

Sept 16, '28

TO: Village Trustees.

RE: Veterans Picture Signs.

I am not in favor of these signs on our roads.

1. Cost + upkeep. After a few years the signs deteriorate, + need replacement.
2. Clutter. We have enough signs along the roads. No Park, Speed, Crosswalks, etc.
3. When the village is short funds, this seems to be an excess for taxpayers.

It seem to me veterans day is a better means to recognize these people with names on pictures in the Observer.

Sincerely, Wayne Junghaus Veteran.
3 Reese Blv.
Fred.

Memorandum for Flock Cameras under Old Business:

To: Mayor and Board of Trustees

From: Trustee Tim Mulholland

Subject: Consideration of Resolution Regarding Flock Camera Adjacent to Village Hall

During a meeting of the Chautauqua County Public Safety Committee, District Attorney Jason Schmidt acknowledged concerns about the Flock camera in front of Village Hall and stated that he would be *"willing to consider relocating that specific camera if desired."*

I believe we should respond to that opening with a clear statement of the Board's position. Village Hall and Barker Commons are central to civic participation, public assembly, and community events, making this location particularly sensitive for networked surveillance.

I propose the following resolution for the Board's consideration. It would formally request removal from this location and give the District Attorney an opportunity to respond to our concerns consistent with his stated willingness to consider relocation.

—

Proposed Resolution Opposing the Flock Camera Adjacent to Village Hall

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has concerns regarding networked surveillance adjacent to Village Hall and Barker Commons, places central to civic participation and public assembly;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board opposes the continued operation of the Flock Safety camera adjacent to Village Hall and requests its deactivation and removal from this location; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor shall transmit this resolution to Chautauqua County District Attorney Jason Schmidt and request a written response for presentation at the next regular Board meeting.

New Business Items

3 messages

Paul Wandel <trusteewandel@villageoffredoniany.gov>

Sun, Sep 20, 2026 at 9:49 PM

To: Emily <villageclerk@villageoffredoniany.gov>, Erlyssa LeBeau <treasurer@villageoffredoniany.gov>, Michael Ferguson <mayor@villageoffredoniany.gov>, Ben Brauchler <trusteebrauchler@villageoffredoniany.gov>, LeeAnn Lazarony <trusteelazarony@villageoffredoniany.gov>, Christine Cruz-Keefe <trusteecruz-keefe@villageoffredoniany.gov>, Timothy Mulholland <trusteemulholland@villageoffredoniany.gov>

Erlyssa/ Emily,

Could you please include these action items for the Board as "New Business" ?

Thanks,

Paul

1. Village contracts that require attention:

1. NCWD - Priority is immediate.
2. Town of Pomfret Water Contract - Due Dec 2026
3. Shared water tower agreement with the Town of Pomfret
4. City of Dunkirk Vineyard Pump Station contract.

1. This relates to amendments to the existing 20 year contract. Village legal is working on this now.

Paul Wandel

Village of Fredonia Trustee

Erlyssa LeBeau <treasurer@villageoffredoniany.gov>

Mon, Sep 21, 2026 at 7:29 AM

To: Paul Wandel <trusteewandel@villageoffredoniany.gov>

Cc: Emily <villageclerk@villageoffredoniany.gov>, Michael Ferguson <mayor@villageoffredoniany.gov>, Ben Brauchler <trusteebrauchler@villageoffredoniany.gov>, LeeAnn Lazarony <trusteelazarony@villageoffredoniany.gov>, Christine Cruz-Keefe <trusteecruz-keefe@villageoffredoniany.gov>, Timothy Mulholland <trusteemulholland@villageoffredoniany.gov>

Good morning Paul,

NCWD is already listed under old business, but we will add the other items during workshop since today's agenda is complete.

Thank you,

Erlyssa

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Erlyssa LeBeau

Treasurer Village of Fredonia

716-679-2314

Paul Wandel <trusteewandel@villageoffredoniany.gov>

Mon, Sep 21, 2026 at 10:09 AM

To: Erlyssa LeBeau <treasurer@villageoffredoniany.gov>

Cc: Emily <villageclerk@villageoffredoniany.gov>, Michael Ferguson <mayor@villageoffredoniany.gov>, Ben Brauchler <trusteebrauchler@villageoffredoniany.gov>, LeeAnn Lazarony <trusteelazarony@villageoffredoniany.gov>, Christine Cruz-Keefe <trusteecruz-keefe@villageoffredoniany.gov>, Timothy Mulholland <trusteemulholland@villageoffredoniany.gov>

Thanks for the update, Erlyssa.

Paul Wandel

Village of Fredonia Trustee

[Quoted text hidden]

Public reading of anonymous letters

2 messages

rketcham@gmx.com <rketcham@gmx.com>
To: "villageclerk@villageoffredoniany.gov" <villageclerk@villageoffredoniany.gov>

Sun, Sep 20, 2026 at 11:45 AM

Emily,

I am sending this note, which I am requesting be read during the public portion of the Board meeting on September 28, to provide my thoughts regarding the issue about whether anonymous letters, received by the Village, should be read publicly. My goal is to attend the meeting in person, but I am sending this e-mail as I will be out of town until the evening of September 28 and I do not know if I will get back in time.

I believe that reading anonymous letters in a public forum is a very poor business practice. In my professional experience as President and CEO of several hospitals and in my volunteer experience as the Chair and member of dozens of different Boards, I have never seen this practice allowed.

If the reading anonymous letters is allowed, I predict that it will eventually cause unintended negative consequences for the current, as well as future Village leadership.

The decision regarding this topic should not be a political one, but rather it is a decision to follow well established, good business practice. I encourage all Trustees to do so.

Thank you.

Richard Ketcham
22 Bernett Drive
Fredonia

Paul Wandel <trusteewandel@villageoffredoniany.gov>
To: "rketcham@gmx.com" <rketcham@gmx.com>
Cc: "villageclerk@villageoffredoniany.gov" <villageclerk@villageoffredoniany.gov>

Sun, Sep 20, 2026 at 8:47 PM

Hi Rich,

Thank you for sending this correspondence to the clerk. Your professional perspective on this practice is very helpful and I truly appreciate your support on this matter.

Regards,

Paul
Paul Wandel
Village of Fredonia Trustee

[Quoted text hidden]



Michael Ferguson <mayor@villageoffredoniany.gov>

16 Water Street

2 messages

Marissa Griffis <aloeveraeats22@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 28, 2026 at 2:51 PM

To: "mayor@villageoffredoniany.gov" <mayor@villageoffredoniany.gov>, "trusteewandel@villageoffredoniany.gov" <trusteewandel@villageoffredoniany.gov>, "trusteebrauchler@villageoffredoniany.gov" <trusteebrauchler@villageoffredoniany.gov>, "trusteelazarony@villageoffredoniany.gov" <trusteelazarony@villageoffredoniany.gov>, "trusteemulholland@villageoffredoniany.gov" <trusteemulholland@villageoffredoniany.gov>, trusteeacruz-keefe@villageoffredonia.gov

Hi everyone!

My name is Marissa Griffis and I own 16 Water Street, previously Jims Cleaner and Aldriches Drive Thru. I am opening Aloe Vera Eats (market, lounge, and drive thru) and am worried I am going to have some trouble getting people used to not blocking the drive thru.

- For many years there has been no business occupying this space and people have become a custom to parking in the drive thru and blocking the drive thru.
- When I nicely ask people to move most don't and some even yell at me. lol
- I have an additional no parking sign going up and will be working on striping the pavement. I am not confident this is enough... time will only tell...
- I am writing to you all so that maybe this could be mentioned at the board meeting so it is publicly noted that this is indeed my property and that people that block the drive thru may start to be ticketed or towed.
- Any other suggestions or advice on how to make this run smoothly is greatly appreciated!

* Thanks for your time!
Marissa

LeeAnn Lazarony <trusteelazarony@villageoffredoniany.gov>

Mon, Sep 28, 2026 at 3:02 PM

To: Marissa Griffis <aloeveraeats22@gmail.com>

Cc: mayor@villageoffredoniany.gov, trusteewandel@villageoffredoniany.gov, trusteebrauchler@villageoffredoniany.gov, trusteeacruz-keefe@villageoffredonia.gov

Thank you for your information and we will pass it along. Congratulations on your new business.
Sent from my iPhone

> On Sep 28, 2026, at 2:51 PM, Marissa Griffis <aloeveraeats22@gmail.com> wrote:
>
> Hi everyone!
[Quoted text hidden]

FW: Fredonia water

1 message

Sam Drayo <samdrayo@drayolaw.com>
To: Erlyssa LeBeau <treasurer@villageoffredoniany.gov>

Mon, Sep 28, 2026 at 12:11 PM

I should have included you Sam

Samuel L. Drayo, Jr.

Drayo Law Office

31 West main Street

P.O. Box 345

Fredonia, New York 14063

Phone: (716) 673-1381

Fax: (716) 679-0860

From: Sam Drayo**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2026 12:10 PM**To:** Michael Ferguson <mayor@villageoffredoniany.gov>; Lazarony LeeAnn (trusteelazarony@villageoffredoniany.gov) <trusteelazarony@villageoffredoniany.gov>; 'Paul Wandel' <trusteewandel@villageoffredoniany.gov>; Mulholland Timothy (trusteemulholland@villageoffredoniany.gov) <trusteemulholland@villageoffredoniany.gov>; Ben Brauchler <trusteebrauchler@villageoffredoniany.gov>**Subject:** Fredonia water

Dear Mayor and Board,

As I mentioned before, If the NCWD (or Pomfret) constructs a proposed water distribution main to serve the Chestnut Road WD, which will be very costly, who will pay for it? If Fredonia joins the NCWD, Fredonia will be by far the major user of water. As the major consumer of water from the District, Fredonia residents will be paying the NCWD in its water rates the major share of ALL costs of the NCWD whether they benefit the Village or not. Those costs include construction of improvements (water mains, pumping stations, etc), water tower (if owned by the District), repair, operation and maintenance of all improvements (water mains, pump stations, etc), the cost of purchasing water from Dunkirk, even though those costs may not serve or benefit the Village.

Another major concern is how to determine the water rate charged by Dunkirk to the NCWD? The formula in the basic 2010 NCWD contract with the City is virtually impossible to understand. So, how does the Village or NCWD know what the Dunkirk water rate should be?

Fredonia will be the major consumer of water from the District and therefore the major payor of ALL costs of the District, whether or not those costs or improvements are used to benefit the Village. To avoid this result the NCWD municipalities and County will need to agree (if that is even possible) to amend the basic 2010 contract. The contract has a 40 year term.

Joining the NCWD means that the cost of water to Village residents is not determined by the Village and the Village has little to say on what those costs will be or whether any improvements in the District will benefit the Village.

As it stands now, since the Village will be the largest consumer of water from the District, Fredonia will also pay the largest share of all costs of the District. The costs associated with the proposed Pomfret-Fredonia Water tower and the Village's share of those costs is another unknown cost to the Village.

The costs mentioned above, will be in addition to the Village's responsibility to pay for all the costs of maintaining, operating, repairing, construction and reconstruction of the Village's internal water system.

From what has been presented so far, it appears joining the NCWD will be very expensive for Village residents.

Sincerely, Sam

Samuel L. Drayo, Jr.

Drayo Law Office

31 West main Street

P.O. Box 345

Fredonia, New York 14063

Phone: (716) 673-1381

Fax: (716) 679-0860

Equipment Purchase Proposal – Amendment

Village of Fredonia Highway Department Addition of TradeIn Equipment**

Amendment Reference: Addition to Quotation 702221507 **Date:** September 24, 2026
Prepared by: Larry Romance & Son, Inc.

Amendment Purpose

This amendment formally adds an additional tradein unit to the Village of Fredonia's equipment purchase proposal for the New Holland B110D SLA CP 4WD Backhoe Loader.

Added TradeIn Equipment

The Village of Fredonia Highway Department will include the following unit as an additional tradein toward the purchase of the New Holland B110D:

- **Make:** Wacker Neuson
- **Model:** EW65
- **Serial Number:** WNCE1402APAL00816
- **Condition:** Operational municipal unit; evaluated and accepted by Larry Romance & Son, Inc.
- **TradeIn Allowance:** \$13,000

Revised Financial Summary

This amendment modifies the original tradein section and adjusts the net purchase amount as follows:

- **Original Sourcewell Price:** \$124,941
- **Original TradeIn (2019 New Holland B95C):** -\$55,000
- **Additional TradeIn (Wacker Neuson EW65):** -\$13,000

Revised Net Purchase Amount: \$56,941

Acceptance

This amendment becomes part of the official proposal upon acknowledgment by the Village of Fredonia Highway Department and will be included in the final purchase order referencing Quotation 702221507.