

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF FREDONIA
MEETING MINUTES
9-11 Church Street
Fredonia, NY 14063
September 14, 2026
6 P.M.**

A. CALL TO ORDER-MAYOR

I call this meeting to order on Monday September 14, 2026, at 6 PM

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

B. PLEDGE O.F ALLEGIANCE-

At this time the Fredonia Board of Trustees and Mayor presented a proclamation to Brian Rexford honoring his four years of dedicated service as the village's official weather forecaster. The board recognized his commitment to public safety and keeping emergency services informed during inclement weather.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES-

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Cruz-Keefe and seconded by Trustee Brauchler, the approval of minutes was unanimously approved:

WHEREAS members of this Board have read the Official Minutes of the Board of Trustees Regular Meeting of August 31, 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.

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.

Resident Patrick Prawel-Sexton expressed strong concerns regarding the use of Flock cameras in the village, citing potential threats to privacy and questioning their necessity given the village's current crime data. The speaker urged the board to carefully vet the technology and expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of access to the Flock contract, suggesting that the cameras be covered until the agreement is properly reviewed and shared with the public.

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Resident John Pierce addressed the board regarding an unexpected late fee on his village tax bill. He noted that he had not received the original bill in the mail and requested clarification on the situation. The mayor acknowledged his concern and confirmed that the board would investigate the matter and follow up with him.

Resident Marcia Johnson addressed the board regarding village code restrictions on political signs. She argued that these regulations are overly restrictive for residents compared to the protections afforded to corporations under legal precedents like Citizens United. She urged the board to remove these sign restrictions and also reiterated a request to discontinue the use of Flock cameras in the village.

E. CORRESPONDENCE-

Correspondence was received from Joshua Myers, Fire Chief, requesting the closure of Canadaway Street between Main Street and the Municipal lot on October 10, 2026 for the annual Fire Department Open House.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board authorizes the closure of Canadaway Street between Main Street and the Municipal lot on October 10, 2026 beginning at 10am for the annual Fire Department Open House.

Correspondence was received on September 2, 2026 from Mark Dietzen, Silver Creek, NY requesting permission to park the original commander's police car in front of the municipal building from 4:00pm until 8:00pm on October 15, 2026.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves the original commander's police car to be parked in front of the Village Hall building on October 15, 2026 from 4:00pm to 8:00pm.

Letter correspondence received by Andrew Ludwig is attached below

Letter correspondence received by Frances Dudzik is attached below

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F. MAYOR'S REPORT-

The Mayor highlighted recent community developments, including welcoming a new business to the downtown core and observing Senior Living and Assisted Living Week. He praised the Red, White, and Blues Festival for its successful 25th anniversary and reviewed his participation in 9/11 remembrance ceremonies at Fredonia State University and the local fire department. Additionally, the mayor discussed his attendance at the ribbon-cutting for the new Crosby's location and his involvement in a collaborative meeting regarding the City of Dunkirk Water Source Protection Program.

G. TRUSTEE/COMMITTEE REPORTS-

Brauchler-

Congratulated the Festivals Fredonia organization for a successful Red, White, and Blues Festival and noted that the village's sign law has been added to the upcoming workshop agenda for discussion. Additionally, the board welcomed members of the Fredonia High School government class who were in attendance at the meeting.

Cruz-Keefe-

Provided updates on her recent activities, including attending a Chautauqua County Legislature meeting to inquire about the Flock camera system and working to obtain a copy of the contract. She also reported on the September 8 Cable Board meeting, noting that they are developing an acceptable use policy for local programming. Finally, she requested that future workshop and board minutes be provided in a digital-only format to reduce paper and ink usage.

Mulholland-

Shared his positive experience at the Red, White, and Blues Festival and addressed recent comments made by the District Attorney during the August 31st session. He contested the characterization of the village as having rising crime, noting that official data shows a decline in crime rates. Mulholland emphasized that the village remains a safe, community-focused place supported by strong local institutions, educators, and volunteers, rather than relying solely on surveillance technology.

Lazarony-

Echoed the previous sentiments regarding the safety and community spirit of Fredonia, affirming that it remains a welcoming environment for residents and university students. She expressed gratitude toward the volunteers of Festivals Fredonia for their dedication to local events, including the Red, White, and Blues Festival. Additionally, Lazarony reported on her attendance at the 9/11 memorial ceremony at the fire department, reflecting on its emotional significance and emphasizing her pride in the local first responders and the community's collective remembrance of the tragedy.

Wandel-

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Provided a comprehensive update covering recent village activities, including personnel interviews for the Department of Public Works, his participation in the Fredonia Farm Festival, and ongoing coordination regarding the village's major water source project. He discussed meetings with the Chautauqua County Department of Health and Labella Engineering, as well as a facility tour of the Dunkirk water plant. Additionally, Wandel reported on efforts to engage SUNY Fredonia students through networking events, the solicitation of college interns for village marketing, and his collaboration with the village treasurer on priority contracts, including the North County Water District and the City of Dunkirk Vineyard Pump Station agreement.

**H. TREASURER'S REPORT –
TREASURER REPORT AUGUST 2026**

**I. ADDITIONAL REPORT-
POLICE REPORT AUGUST 2026
BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT AUGUST 2026**

J. RESOLUTIONS-

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board approves the elimination of correspondence received without the inclusion of who is submitting the correspondence being read aloud at the village board meetings.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that Luis Fred, chief water treatment plant operator, is hereby approved to attend training for an Operator's Symposium in an amount not to exceed eighty-five dollars (\$85.00).

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the regular and overtime payrolls of various Village Departments and bills approved by the Finance Committee and set forth in Abstract #823 through #825 are hereby approved and directed paid and available in the Village Clerk's office, 9-11 Church Street, Fredonia, NY and our website at www.villageoffredonianyny.gov.

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

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

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WHEREAS Larry Romance & Son, Inc, Sheridan, NY has offered a quote in the amount of one hundred twenty-four thousand nine hundred forty-one dollars (**\$124,941**), and

WHEREAS the Village will be trading in the current 2019 New Holland B95C for a value of fifty-five thousand dollars (**\$55,000**), and

WHEREAS this would reduce the total of the New Holland B11DSC4 4WD to sixty-nine thousand nine hundred forty-one dollars (**\$69,941**), and

WHEREAS the new backhoe loader is necessary for the Village's purpose and will be reimbursed with CHIPS funding; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves the purchase of the 2026 New Holland B11DSC4 4WD backhoe loader and the trade in of the 2019 New Holland B95C for a total of sixty-nine thousand nine hundred forty-one dollars (**\$69,941**) to be reimbursed with CHIPS funding.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION-

MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Lazarony and seconded by Trustee Brauchler and carried unanimously, the Board entered Executive Session to discuss Personnel.

MOTION TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Lazarony and seconded by Trustee Cruz-Keefe and carried unanimously, the Board exited Executive Session to discuss Personnel.

MOTION TO END MEETING

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Cruz-Keefe and seconded by Trustee Brauchler and carried unanimously the Board adjourned the meeting

L. MEETING SCHEDULE-

The next Village of Fredonia Board of Trustees Workshop will take place on Monday September 21, 2026 at 4:30 PM Trustee Room, second floor, Village Hall. The next Village of Fredonia Board of Trustees Meeting will take place Monday September 28, 2026 at 6:00 PM in the Trustee Room, second floor, Village Hall.



Village Clerk <villageclerk@villageoffredoniany.gov>

Correspondence

1 message

Andrew Ludwig <aludwig63@icloud.com>
To: Village Clerk <villageclerk@villageoffredoniany.gov>

Sun, Sep 13, 2026 at 12:01 PM

God Morning.

Please verify receipt of this email and have the letter below read as a correspondence at the Monday, September 14th village board meeting.

Thank You.

Andrew Ludwig
30 Ryan Place
Fredonia, NY 14063
716-490-0457

It may seem odd to some people that I am complimenting Fredonia Village Trustee Paul Wandel on his efforts in overseeing operations at the village's water treatment plant. I have been critical of Wandel's support of the village's current plan to join the North County Water District. I have also been critical of the inaccurate statements and misinformation that Wandel often spreads about this ill-advised water project. But credit should be given where credit is due.

In THE OBSERVER'S VIEW of September 1st, *Water plant upgrades made a difference in the village*, the Observer editor correctly pointed out that there were no boil water orders or other troubles with the village's water system after the heavy morning downpours of rain on August 23rd. This was a good thing and a positive departure from the boil water order that occurred after a very heavy rain a couple of months prior. That rainstorm caused high turbidity at the WTP which resulted in yet another frustrating boil water order. Wandel refuses to admit that the boil order caused by the high turbidity at the plant was actually the result of human error. But his oversight of the WTP has made a positive difference and likely prevented another boil water order on August 23rd.

As stated in the September 1st editorial, Wandel, as head of the water committee, gave a June village board meeting report on the much needed upgrades made at the village's WTP. In his report Wandel spoke about the "new and reliable chlorination system, which should have been installed many years ago" What Wandel did not point out in his report is that the upgrades to the WTP were first started during the Landis administration. Mayor Athanasia Landis and the village board at that time had every intention of upgrading the village's dam, reservoir and WTP and keeping the whole system in operation for many many years to come. Unfortunately Landis was voted out of office before her administration could fully implement their plans to upgrade the village's dam, WTP and reservoir and to replace the ancient water lines that deliver water from the reservoir to village water customers. Imagine how different things might be had Landis been re-elected six years ago.

Wandel was also quoted in this OBSERVER'S VIEW as stating at this June village board meeting that "We are now using a state of the art system that has thus far delivered steady liquid chlorination.... Chlorination breakdown is the primary source and reason for Fredonia water boil advisories.". Frequent boil water orders have been the reason for the water uproar throughout the village. Eliminating the boil orders has also eliminated the outrage. Wandel doesn't realize it but through his fine efforts at overseeing the upgrades and standard operating procedures at the WTP he has shown that joining the NCWD is an unnecessary, foolish and terribly expensive endeavor.

Now that Wandel's positive efforts in overseeing operations at the village's water treatment plant have been recognized, Wandel and the supporters of this plan for the village to join the NCWD need to recognize the bigger picture. Upgrades to the plant have improved the village's production of clean drinking water and eliminated a major cause of boil water orders. Wandel has done an admirable job improving standard operating procedures at the WTP

while at the same time inadvertently showing that joining the NCWD is an unnecessary boondoggle for Fredonia. Trustee Wandel has proven that the village is quite capable of producing reliable, safe, clean and tasty drinking water. The ancient delivery system is now the problem to be solved. Brown water flowing from household taps and frustrating water main breaks have nothing to do with the WTP. These frustrating inconveniences are caused by the ancient pipes that taint the high quality water flowing from the reservoir to village water customers.

The village has already invested more than half a million dollars in this state of the art chlorination system. The trustees continue to pour more money into the WTP systems. Is this investment to be needlessly discarded once the village finishes this foolhardy plan to decommission the reservoir and join the NCWD? Better for the village to keep the water system we have and invest in upgrading the reservoir and water delivery infrastructure. The village of Fredonia does not need to join the NCWD. Here is what the trustees do need to do. Wandel needs to continue his careful oversight of the operations at the WTP and the continued improvements to the system. The village board needs to scrap their plan to join the NCWD. Investment needs to be made in replacing the ancient water mains that often burst and sometimes deliver brown water to villagers. The board should continue to make the necessary upgrades to Fredonia's dam, WTP and reservoir. Now that Wandel's efforts have been recognized perhaps all of Fredonia can recognize that scrapping the NCWD plan and fixing what we have is the most wise, logical and financially prudent thing to do for Fredonia's water.

Subject: Urgent Safety Concerns: Route 20 Streetlight Outages and Main St. UPS Drop Box Winter Access

Dear Members of the Fredonia Village Board,

I am writing to formally request immediate action on two pressing community safety and infrastructure issues in the Village.

First, several streetlights along Route 20 (Main Street) have been completely dark since March. National Grid has confirmed that the maintenance and bulb replacement for these specific lights fall entirely under the Village of Fredonia's jurisdiction. Leaving a major state highway dark for nearly six months is an severe safety hazard for local motorists and pedestrians. The Village must replace these lights immediately before an avoidable accident or injury occurs.

Second, following the recent reconstruction of the Crosby's store on East Main Street, the highly utilized UPS drop box was relocated onto the village-owned grass right-of-way. Because this box sits on the corner of a State highway and a Village side street, it is in direct danger of being buried by snowbanks from both state and local plows this winter. I request that the Village clarify a maintenance plan now to ensure this public-facing utility remains shoveled, accessible, and safe for residents to use without having to climb over frozen plow ridges.

Thank you for your prompt attention to restoring our streetlights and protecting winter accessibility for our residents. I look forward to seeing these items addressed at the next village meeting.

Sincerely,

Frances Dudzic

Fredonia Resident

Village of Fredonia



Erlyssa LeBeau
Village of Fredonia
Treasurer

AUGUST 2026

Beginning Cash Balance:	\$4,049,418.62
Total Monthly Receipts/Deposits:	\$1,061,362.15
Total Monthly Disbursements/Warrants:	\$1,437,582.48
Ending Cash Balance:	\$3,678,280.84
Annual Budgeted Revenue:	\$13,913,138.00
Year to date actual Revenue:	\$7,151,125.74
Remaining Revenue Balance:	\$6,762,012.26
Year-to-date actual expenditures:	\$2,826,866.40
Unexpended budget balance:	\$8,642,667.28
Outstanding Bond Principal:	\$13,052,982.00
Current Fiscal Year Debt Payments Made:	\$246,445.40
Current Fiscal Year Debt Payments Remaining:	\$551,792.60

Erlyssa LeBeau

9/14/2026



FREDONIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

From the Office of the Chief of Police

September 8th, 2026

To: Honorable Village Mayor and Trustees
Re: **MONTHLY REPORT** – August 2026

	June 2026
INCIDENT TYPE	INCIDENTS
Total Incidents Reported	948
Fredonia Central Schools call for Service	4
Accidents	12
Arrests Reported	35
Vehicle and Traffic Stops/Tickets	110/51
Domestic Incidents	26
Parking Tickets	38

Respectfully,

Gregory L. Myers
Chief of Police



CODE ENFORCEMENT MONTH END REPORT

August` 2026

BUILDING

Permits issued	28
Inspections	75
Cert. of Occupancy	55
Cert. of Compliance	26
Violations	
Violations satisfied	

FEES COLLECTED

Building Permit	\$ 9,500.00
Rental fees	\$ 1,595.00
Cert. of compliances	\$ 1,210.00
Plumbing license fees	\$ -----
Hearings,	\$ 600.00
Food & Vendor permit	\$ 300.00
Total fees	\$ 13,205.00

RENTAL

Permit	
Inspection	30
Renewals	26

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Property Maint. Found	-8-	Removed	-2-
Junk cars & Parts Found	-2-	Removed	-2-

MISC.ELLANEOUS

Annual Fire Inspections:	-10-	Fire Notifications:
Appearance Tickets	-0-	
Complaints	8 /6	satisfied
Demolitions	0	
Stop Work Orders	1	

Stop Work Orders are issued because of improper construction practices, or failure to get building permit

Twenty-eight Permits generated \$ 9,500.00 in revenue. The estimated cost of work for the month of August was \$ 810,770.00