

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF FREDONIA
SPECIAL MEETING
9-11 Church Street
Fredonia, NY 14063
Thursday February 13, 2024
9 AM**

A. CALL TO ORDER-

Roll Call of Trustees: Trustees present: Brauchler, Espersen, Siracuse, Twichell and Wandel

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-

C. APPROVAL OF MEETING

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

WHEREAS notice of this meeting was given to the Board of Trustees and the news media as required by law, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that a special meeting of this Board of Trustees be held at this time to discuss the 2025-26 budget and hiring of personnel. The Board of Trustees may decide to discuss and/or act on any other subject that may come before the Board.

D. PUBLIC PORTION

This portion of the meeting is for public comment. Any member of the public wishing to speak, once recognized, shall stand at the microphone, and state their name and address. Speakers will be allowed three (3) minutes if speaking for themselves or five (5) minutes if speaking on behalf of a group. 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. Graham Blair stood to address the Board regarding cutting money from the library's budget line, and to please not touch their line. Maxwell Walters, curator of the Barker Library Museum, stood to address the Board to ask that the Village consider the museum an "identity" to the Village and of its importance. The mayor closed the public portion.

E. RESOLUTIONS?

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Wandel and seconded by Trustee Siracuse, the following resolution passed by a 3 -2 vote: Trustee Siracuse and Brauchler voting Nay

BE IT RESOLVED Amy Jonsson, Lord Street, Dunkirk, NY is appointed as Clerk II, to serve in the Code Enforcement Office for the Village of Fredonia, effective February 17, 2025, with a probationary period of 6 months at an hourly rate of **Eighteen Dollars and Eleven cents (\$18.11)** pursuant to Civil Service Rules & Regulations.

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Mayor Ferguson spoke about a hiring freeze after the code enforcement office hired their clerk and the Police Department was brought to full staff.

Trustee Wandel spoke about addressing the issue at the water treatment plant's chlorination system and how we cannot afford to wait any longer or we will face another water boil.

The Board made a motion to pass a resolution to go out to bid for an engineer to repair the chlorination system.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of Fredonia is hereby authorized to ask for Requests for Proposals for updating our chlorination system at the Water Filtration Plant, including but not limited to, converting from tablet to liquid chlorine.

The Board discussed the budget with a handout from the Village Treasurer – see attached. They discussed the losses from the last four years. Compensation loss, what we can expect from the state regarding workers compensation.

More discussion regarding revenue ideas for the Village. Chief Price stated that traffic fines and collection are set by the State of New York. We have no say in what the fine rate will be, or what comes back to the Village.

75% of budget is contractual. That leaves 25% that the Board can somehow work with. The Village borrowed 825 million with a RAN, plus interest. The Treasurer explained the handout we were all looking at. (see attached) certain budget lines are way over budget and cannot be used any longer. Utilities and telephone lines should be looked at. If no changes are made, we are looking at a 57.44 tax rate. Trustee Twichell suggested a raise in rate for the Pomfret, Portland, Dunkirk Sewer district contract. The initial idea of getting rid of the cleaner and having the staff clean their area's will not work because of seniority with the unions and DPW. The library budget line was discussed, and Trustee Siracuse said further discussion will have to wait until this year's budget meetings.

Trustee Espersen asked the rep from the library, how the quarterly payment of \$22K affect the library if they did not receive it. They will get back to him with an answer. Trustee Brauchler asked if it was possible to fund the library through the school budget. Graham said they are looking into it.

The ambulance service and lack of revenue was discussed.

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Espersen and seconded by Trustee Siracuse and carried unanimously, the Board adjourned the special meeting and entered executive session to discuss Fire Department personnel at 10:00 am.

ANNEMARIE JOHNSTON
VILLAGE CLERK