

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF FREDONIA
WORKSHOP
9-11 Church Street
Fredonia, NY 14063
October 14, 2025
6:00 P.M.**

A. RESOLUTIONS

1. Abstract 779-782
2. NYCOM Membership
3. Double A Specialties-*erosion problem on Chestnut Street, encroaching on private building. We do not have the equipment do fix and it is located on Village land. If it becomes a disaster, we will be responsible.*
4. Budget Transfer
5. Part-time Fire Fighter
6. TI Sales Water Meter Reader

Dr. Matthew Purtill from SUNY Fredonia made a presentation on logging and the potential for landslides.

B. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Code Enforcement Office-*variance schedule for Crosby's tomorrow night. Had another good month in August.*

DPW- *Gardner Street is all paved, thankful that the weather is holding out. Still working on some patching. Retiring on the 24th, thankful for the years that were put into the Village.*

Fire Department- *Absent*

Police Department- *Absent*

Recreation Department-*Trunk or Treat October 25 11am-1pm*

Wastewater Treatment Plant-*rebuilt shock absorption system. Penn Power was in for semi-annual inspection. Moley removed screw pump three so they can diagnose and repair, waiting to hear back.*

Water Treatment Plant-*H&K getting set up for chlorination project, should begin within the next week.*

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Budget Review-*at the workshop on Wednesday*
2. Halloween Trick or Treat Hours *Oct 31st 4-7pm*
3. *Issue Water conservation order for the Village. Let DOH know, we are going to proceed with this.*
4. *County meeting with PPD contract on Oct 30th.*

D. OLD BUSINESS

- 1.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF FREDONIA
MEETING MINUTES
9-11 Church Street
Fredonia, NY 14063
October 14, 2025**

A. CALL TO ORDER-MAYOR FERGUSON

I call this meeting to order on Tuesday October 14, 2025 at 6:47 PM

Roll Call of the Trustees: Present Trustee Brauchler, Siracuse, Espersen, Wandel, and Twichell

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-

Took a moment of silence for Firefighter, Carl Brandt

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES-

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Twichell and seconded by Trustee Brauchler; the following resolution was approved by a 5-0 vote:

WHEREAS members of this Board have read the Official Minutes of the Board of Trustees Regular Meeting of September 29, 2025 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 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

Mike Lee-348 Chestnut Street, questions, and concerns on logging. Appreciates that the Board tabled the logging especially until the change in the water source occurs. We are not aware of what effects that would have on the land from that project, so we do not want to add extra disruption to it.

Andrew Ludwig-one of the "your" supporters wrote to the Observer in response to my article. My article was about getting an interconnect working so they can be used in emergencies. Instead of using the situation to unite, it was used to call names. Wants to be clear that does not hate anyone on the board. The letter writer is more concerned with hurting people's feelings instead of holding the Village officials accountable. Wishes the board and mayor would listen and tell the truth.

Mark Twichell-would like to speak on logging and thank the board for doing more research before they make their decision. Appreciates allowing the speakers to discuss the issues that come with logging. There is a Facebook group with 157 members called "Don't log the Fredonia Reservoir" which is made of individuals who are against logging at the reservoir.

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James Lynden-would like to address the mayor's discussion on the radio this morning. Cannot believe the gull of the mayor to come out and speak against those that have the right in questioning the board and the procedure that the board was following. If the board followed the correct procedure the first time, the \$32,000 in legal fees would not exist.

Mitch Cummings-would logging devalue the property at the reservoir? Wonders if the state would be willing to take over the property and decommission the reservoir; which would take the financial burden off from the village.

Patrick Prawel Sexton-70 Spring Street-this is a great opportunity to make the connection with scientists in this field and apply this to the wet lands property in Cassadaga that we are paying taxes on.

E. CORRESPONDENCE-

Correspondence dated October 8, 2025 was received from Department of Public Works Supervisor Scott Marsh, retiring from his position effective October 24, 2025.

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Siracuse and seconded by Trustee Espersen; the following resolution was approved by a 5-0 vote:

BE IT RESOLVED that the retirement of Scott Marsh as Department of Public Works Supervisor with the Village of Fredonia is effective October 24, 2025.

F. MAYOR'S REPORT-

G. TRUSTEE/COMMITTEE REPORTS-

Brauchler-none

Espersen-EFC emergency funding approved for cost of the chlorination project. It is a no interest, with one year to pay. It may turn into grant funding. There is no progress with the FEMA grant due to the lawsuit that was filed. Thanks to Erlyssa for getting application in and taking care of the EFC funding.

Siracuse-none

Twichell-Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy letter included

Wandel-On 10/8 met with Mayor and Treasurer to complete and update DOH with where we are at with deficiencies. Met with Luis and H&K on chlorination project, should be completed by February 2026. The notice to proceed was signed and submitted. The Town of Pomfret building permit was issued.

H. TREASURER'S REPORT – none

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I. ADDITIONAL REPORT-

JUSTICE REPORT SEPTEMBER 2025

J. RESOLUTIONS-

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Brauchler and seconded by Trustee Twichell; the following resolution was approved by a 5-0 vote:

BE IT RESOLVED that the regular and overtime payrolls of the various Village Departments and bills approved by the Finance Committee and set forth in Abstract #779 through #782 are hereby approved and directed paid and available in the Village Clerk's office, 9-11 Church Street, Fredonia, NY.

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Siracuse and seconded by Trustee Espersen; the following resolution was approved by a 5-0 vote:

WHEREAS the Village of Fredonia has maintained a membership with New York Conference of Mayors (NYCOM); and,

WHEREAS, the NYCOM annual dues is due in the amount of **four thousand two hundred eighty-three dollars** (\$4,283.00); therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the membership for NYCOM is hereby approved in the amount of \$4,283.00 for the annual membership.

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Espersen and seconded by Trustee Wandel; the following resolution was approved by a 5-0 vote:

WHEREAS the Village of Fredonia requires bank stabilization in Risley Creek behind Chestnut Street; and,

WHEREAS, Double A Specialties, Forestville, NY has offered a quote in the amount of **three thousand dollars** (\$3,000) to perform the stabilization services; and,

WHEREAS, the services are necessary for the Villages' purpose; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board authorizes Double A Specialties, Inc to perform the mobilization work necessary in Risley Creek in the amount of \$3,000.

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Brauchler and seconded by Trustee Twichell; the following resolution was approved by a 5-0 vote:

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

- \$5,000 from F8340.1 Distribution Personnel to F8330.44 Distribution Contractual

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Upon motion duly made by Trustee Twichell and seconded by Trustee Espersen; the following resolution was approved by a 5-0 vote:

BE IT RESOLVED that Daniel Berg, of Hamburg NY, 14075 is hereby appointed as part-time Firefighter with the Village of Fredonia Fire Department, effective immediately at a rate of **twenty-eight dollars (\$28.00)** per hour.

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Wandel and seconded by Trustee Espersen; the following resolution was approved by a 5-0 vote:

WHEREAS, the Village of Fredonia requires the upgrading of the Neptune meter reading equipment and software for the Meter Reader as our equipment has become obsolete; and

WHEREAS, TI Sales, Sudbury, MA, has supplied a quote for a Neptune R900 Belt Clip Transceiver V3 including battery, Neptune MRX920 Mobile Data Collector, and Handheld Tablet Computer as well as the software and training for a total of \$30,208.32; and

WHEREAS, the Neptune meter reading machine and software are necessary for the Village's needs; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED the Village Board hereby authorizes the purchase of the Neptune equipment as well as the necessary software for \$30,208.32.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION-

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Twichell and seconded by Trustee Espersen entered into executive session at 7:22pm to discuss personnel was approved by a 5 – 0 vote.

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Siracuse and seconded by Trustee Espersen to exit executive session at 7:43pm was approved by a 5 – 0 vote.

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Siracuse and seconded by Trustee Espersen, and carried unanimously, the Board adjourned the Board Meeting at 7:44 pm.

L. MEETING SCHEDULE-

The next Village of Fredonia Board of Trustees Workshop will take place Wednesday October 22, 2025 at 9AM and Board of Trustees Meeting on Monday October 27, 2025 at 6 PM in the Trustee Room, second floor, Village Hall, Board Meeting.

**ERLYSSA LEBEAU
DEPUTY CLERK**

Dr. Jonathan Townsend
jonathanptownsend@gmail.com
716-790-9141
8852 Glasgow Road
Fredonia NY, 14063

Dear Village of Fredonia Representatives,

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my concerns over a proposal to conduct a timber harvest at the Village of Fredonia's reservoir forest. I am an adjacent landowner to the Village's reservoir forest at 8852 Glasgow Road, and my wife and I own and operate Royal Fern Nursery at 8888 Glasgow Road. I am also an experienced biologist with a background in land management, biological surveys, and invasive species control.

Since 2021, I have made several statements regarding plans to conduct timber harvests at this property. Last November, I attended a Village Board meeting and voiced concerns regarding ecological impacts to this forest associated with tree clearing activities. In that meeting I noted that the forest is in a healthy state, and removal of trees would open the canopy allowing invasive species to flourish while potentially creating conditions that would lead to erosion. At that time, the Village decided to hold back on approving a timber sale, as a recent geological survey of the property showed that the reservoir forest is situated on top of landslide-prone soils, and a timber harvest on such soils could trigger fresh landslides.

While the potential ecological impacts to this mature, healthy forest are still on my mind, I am writing today regarding the issue of landslides. The fact that the Village is once more discussing a timber harvest at this site is deeply concerning. The Village's reservoir continues to struggle with sedimentation, and the area highlighted for potential timber removal appears to be situated above and upstream from the reservoir. My property is poised at the top of the escarpment, and there is a real possibility that landslides at the reservoir forest could trigger mass wasting events that impact mine and other residences along Glasgow Road.

The Village has an opportunity to lead on several fronts:

- Listen to the scientists cautioning about the risks associated with these landslide-prone soils or ecological impacts to the forest and vote no on this proposal.
- Place the reservoir forest under more stringent conservation protections to protect the site in perpetuity.
- Work with outside stakeholders to place the forest in a carbon sequestration program that would provide annual revenue without timber harvests.
- If the Village would like to generate revenue from timber sales, the Village could work to develop a "Community Forest" program that would acquire tracts of land that may be more appropriate for forestry actions. There are multiple funding streams to support the planning, acquisition and management of such forests.

The above actions would position the Village as a leader in the region regarding land preservation and sustainable forestry best management practices without putting the drinking water supply for 10,000 Village residents at further risk.

As I have noted in the past, I want to be sure I stress that I am here to help. I love Fredonia, Pomfret and Chautauqua County and am happy to do what I can to protect this forest while proactively pursuing alternatives to timber harvests.

Please let me know what I can do to help in any way.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jonathan Townsend

CC:Village Mayor: Mike Ferguson; Village Board of Trustees: Ben Brauchler, Jon Espersen, Nicole Siracuse, Michelle Twichell, Paul Wandel; Village Clerk: Annmarie Johnston

October 8, 2025

To: The Mayor and Village Board of Trustees

Village of Fredonia

Fredonia, New York

Dear Mayor and Members of the Village Board,

After much thought and consideration, I am retiring from the Village of Fredonia Department of Public Works, effective October 24, 2025. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve this community for the past 27 years, with the last four as Superintendent of Public Works.

I am grateful for the support I've received from the Mayor, Village Board, other department heads, and the community throughout my career. It has been truly rewarding to contribute to the growth and success of Fredonia.

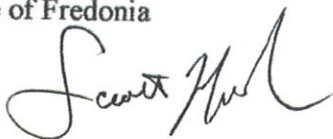
Thank you again for the opportunity to serve this great community. Fredonia will always hold a special place in my heart.

With sincere appreciation and respect,

Scott Marsh

Superintendent of Public Works

Village of Fredonia

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Marsh", written in a cursive style.



CHAUTAUQUA WATERSHED CONSERVANCY

PO Box 45
71 E. Fairmount Avenue
Lakewood, NY 14750
716-664-2166

www.chautauquawatershed.org
info@chautauquawatershed.org

Preserve and enhance the quality, scenic beauty and ecological health of the Chautauqua region's lands and waters for our community.

To the members of the Fredonia Village Board and Mayor Ferguson,

This has been brought to your attention previously, but bears repeating for the greater good.

The steeply sloping wood lands surrounding the Fredonia reservoir play a vital role in protecting both water quality, habitat quality, and regional climate resilience. In addition, these lands provide untapped outdoor recreation potential. All these environmental benefits translate directly into economic benefits to the village, the region, and its community now, and well into the future.

Harvesting timber in this area may provide a short-term financial windfall, but it will be very small given the current lumber prices. However, logging the slopes surrounding the reservoir and the impact of the equipment needed to do so will greatly increase the risk of soil erosion, sedimentation, and nutrient runoff—threats that can quickly compromise the integrity of nearby water sources. When tree cover is removed, rainfall strikes bare soil directly, dislodging sediments that wash downhill into reservoirs. This not only causes negative water quality impacts and increased water treatment costs, but the anticipated surface level runoff will also carry phosphorus and other nutrients into the reservoir that can trigger harmful algal blooms, degrading aquatic ecosystems and water quality. The marginal monetary gain of a timber sale would erase all regional environmental benefits and the potential for recreational activation that this area provides for decades to come.

Beyond erosion control, intact forest cover regulates local hydrology by slowing runoff, promoting groundwater recharge, and maintaining more stable stream flows during droughts or heavy rains. The roots of mature trees anchor the soil and act as natural filters, capturing pollutants before they reach the water. Removing them or cutting down the trees that provide such critical ecosystem functions will disrupt these natural defenses and undermine the long-term stability of the watershed.

The loss of forest canopy also weakens regional climate resilience. Trees moderate temperature extremes, store carbon, and sustain the moisture balance that influences local weather and growing conditions. Logging steep slopes can lead to hotter, drier conditions that reduce forest regeneration potential, encourage growth of non-native invasive species, destroy wildlife habitat, and further stress regional ecosystems.

Protecting the woodlots around the Fredonia reservoir is therefore not just an ecological concern—it is an investment in public health, climate stability, and the long-term security of clean water resources for the entire region. Responsible stewardship demands keeping these slopes forested to safeguard both the land and the communities it supports.

Sincerely,

Dr Twan Leenders, Director of Conservation
Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy
Twan@chautauquawatershed.org



- Sound Finances
- Ethical Conduct
- Responsible Governance
- Lasting Stewardship

Executive Director: Whitney A. Gleason *Directors Emeriti:* Michael K. Lyons Arthur D. Webster *Director Ex-Officio:* John S. Ford
Board of Directors: Kaitlyn L. Bentley Janis L. Bowman Michael E. Jabot William R. Locke
Cheryl E. Mawhinney Deborah E. Moore Rebecca L. Nystrom Kristofor G. Sellstrom Robyn R. Steele
Mary Beth Southwick Deborah C. Trefis William J. Ward Ruth T. Wahl Jeanne E. Wiebenga

VILLAGE OF FREDONIA JUSTICE COURT

Chautauqua County

9-11 Church Street
Fredonia, New York 14063
Phone: (716) 679-2312

Michael R. Cerrie
Village Justice

Nancy A. Dietzen
Associate Justice

TO: Village Board
Village of Fredonia

Dear Board Members:

The following is the report for the month of SEPTEMBER 2025.

Total number of cases closed: **157**

VEHICLE & TRAFFIC

CRIMINAL CASES

VILLAGE ORDINANCES

82

70

1

CIVIL CASES

ABC LAWS

N.Y.S. LAWS

4

0

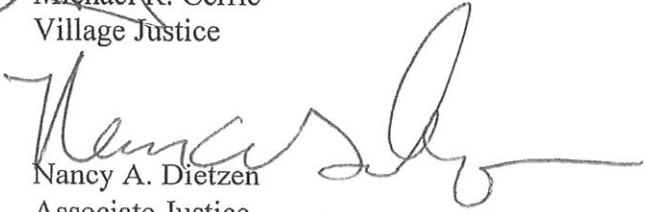
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TOTAL FINES & SURCHARGES \$ 4,298.00

PARKING TICKET FINES \$ 947.00

TOTAL \$ 5,245.00


Michael R. Cerrie
Village Justice


Nancy A. Dietzen
Associate Justice