

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF FREDONIA
REGULAR MEETING
MEETING MINUTES
9-11 Church Street
Fredonia, NY 14063
June 23, 2025**

A. CALL TO ORDER-MAYOR FERGUSON

I call this meeting to order on Monday June 23, 2025 at 7:13 PM

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

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-

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 June 9, 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

Andrew Ludwig-There have been three weeks since the water report. He would like to be convinced of the best course of action for the Village and their water. Has heard multiple different versions of information. Fredonia State gives no details on the deterioration of the dam. The County paid LaBella to tell us to buy water from the North County Water District. "Less expensive to upgrade our own plant for residents." How do we make important decisions with incomplete information?

Sam Drayo-Has concerns with LaBella doing the SEQRA. The resolution doesn't include a cost not to exceed. The Village needs to do its own SEQRA. Who is paying for this viability study and how much does it cost? The water study was done in May of 2025, there has not been enough time to review this report in its entirety and make these important decisions.

E. CORRESPONDENCE-

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A letter of resignation was received from Timothy Winters, retiring as a firefighter/paramedic with the Village of Fredonia Fire Department, effective June 27, 2025

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the resignation of Timothy Winters, Lakeview, NY as a full-time firefighter and paramedic with the Village of Fredonia Fire Department is hereby approved, effective June 27, 2025.

F. MAYOR'S REPORT-

Pucci's is looking at the interrogation room to see what it would cost so the sewer can be repaired. Had a meeting with AgriAmerica over their water usage as well as the expansion. Took part in Festival Italia. On July 1st, National Grid is changing over our agreement with the street lighting services, we will be responsible for the maintenance of the poles as well as the fixtures; which was not the original agreement.

G. TRUSTEE/COMMITTEE REPORTS-

Brauchler-No report

Espersen-reviewed PPSD contract with David Felt; working on putting together updated version

Siracuse-No Report

Twichell-Attended Italian festival, thank you to Max Walters for display from the history museum that was displayed. Also participated in the Juneteenth festivities in Dunkirk.

Wandel-Received a quote on upgrades for the waste water treatment plant as well as a backup generator quote for the water treatment plant.

H. TREASURER'S REPORT – No report

I. ADDITIONAL REPORTS-

Police Report May 2025

Fire Dept Report May 2025

J. RESOLUTIONS-

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

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WHEREAS, The Village requires the inspection of the water intake structure at the Water Treatment Plant; and

WHEREAS, Allen Marine Services, Tonawanda, NY provided a quote to perform an underwater video inspection of the existing intake structure and to provide a detail inspection report with a flash drive in the amount of \$4,550 per day; and

WHEREAS, the inspection is necessary for the Village's purpose to maintain the equipment at the water treatment plant; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED the Village Board hereby authorizes Allen Marine Services to perform the water intake structure inspection for an amount not to exceed four thousand five-hundred and fifty dollars (\$4,550.00).

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Espersen and seconded by Trustee Siracuse, the following resolution was approved by a 4 – 1 vote; Trustee Twichell voting No:

BE IT RESOLVED that Jacob Galas, Orchard Park, NY, is hereby appointed, as a full-time Firefighter/Paramedic with the Village of Fredonia Fire Department effective June 9, 2025; with a probationary period of six months after completing a year provisionally. This employment will be at a rate of twenty-six dollars and sixty cents (\$26.60) per hour pursuant to Civil Service Rules & Regulations after successfully passing the civil service exam.

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Espersen and seconded by Trustee Wandel, the following resolution was approved by a 4 – 1 vote, Trustee Twichell voting No:

WHEREAS, the Village continues to review ways to improve its water system in order to maintain safe and reliable drinking water for its residents; and

WHEREAS, the Village's Engineer of Record, LaBella Associates, has the professional expertise to provide environmental compliance work as required under the State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA"); and

WHEREAS, the Village desires to engage LaBella to perform environmental compliance work pursuant to SEQRA and in accordance with the potential improvements to the Village Water System.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that as further planning and investigation into available alternatives, and specifically reserving the right to investigate and ultimately choose any viable alternative, and while not committing to any definitive compliance services to be performed by the Village's Engineer of Record, LaBella Associates, and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Mayor is authorized to execute and accept the proposal of LaBella, supported by its May 2025 Engineering Report, to conduct SEQRA review of LaBella's recommended Alternative 2 and further the Village's investigation into the viability of Interconnection with the North Chautauqua County Water District.

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Twichell and seconded by Trustee Espersen, the following resolution was approved by a 3 – 2 vote, Trustees Espersen and Twichell voting No:

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BE IT RESOLVED that Adam Ahrens, Fredonia, NY 14063 is hereby appointed, as full-time Firefighter with the Village of Fredonia Fire Department effective June 23, 2025, with a probationary period of eighteen (18) months at an hourly rate of twenty-two dollars and seventy-five cents (\$22.75) pursuant to applicable Civil Service Rules & Regulations.

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Siracuse and seconded by Trustee Twichell to table, the following resolution was approved by a 5 – 0 vote:

TABLED

BE IT RESOLVED that the request of Fire Chief Joshua Myers to send Adam Ahrens to Basic Fire Fighter Training (229) at the New York State Academy of Fire Science, 600 College Ave, Montour Falls, NY 14865, at a cost of Three-thousand Four-hundred sixty-five dollars (\$3,465.00) is hereby approved. The academy starts on July 21, 2025 and graduates on October 30, 2025.

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Brauchler and seconded by Trustee Siracuse, the following resolution was approved by a 5 – 0 vote:

WHEREAS the annual elections of the Volunteer Fire Company occurred on May 5, 2025, now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED the following individuals and positions take effect on May 5, 2025

First Assistant Chief: Chuck Ortolano
Second Assistant Chief: Ken Haas
Third Assistant Chief: Adam Ahrens
Lieutenant: Joshua Foster

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the request from DPW Supervisor Scott Marsh to place two “NO PARKING” signs one on Castile and one on Skyeandro Drive.

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Espersen and seconded by Trustee Brauchler, the following resolution was approved by a 3 – 1 vote, Trustee Twichell voting No, Trustee Siracuse recusing herself:

WHEREAS, the Village of Fredonia (“Village”) and the Fredonia Professional Fire Fighters Association Local 2931 of the International Association of Fire Fighters (“Union”) are parties to a collective bargaining agreement (“Contract”), which is current and in effect, and

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WHEREAS, the current Contract provides for a certain level of staffing with particular positions; and

WHEREAS, due to an upcoming retirement and firefighter who is attending paramedic school there may be times when meeting the staffing requirements may be difficult or impossible; and

WHEREAS, the parties are in agreement to set forth a Memorandum of Understanding that will apply during this temporary period to address the potential difficulty/impossibility with staffing; and

WHEREAS, the parties desire to set forth their mutual understanding.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Village and Union agree to the following understanding:

1. Purpose:

The purpose of this understanding is for firefighter staffing as it relates to current staffing levels which are below the required minimum.

2. The parties agree to incorporate the following understanding to be applied to Section 1.04 Firefighter Staffing of the Contract during the relevant time period of this Memorandum:

In an effort to achieve compliance and conformity with NFPA and OSHA standards, the Village agrees that a minimum of three (3) firefighters are to be on duty at all times; one of these firefighters scheduled shall be a Lieutenant or Captain, or in their absence, a firefighter designated as an Acting Lieutenant pursuant to Section 4.10.

The Village agrees that a minimum of two (2) firefighters with an AEMT-Critical Care or Paramedic certification will be staffed on duty at all times with additional firefighters beyond the aforementioned minimum having either an EMT Basic, Advanced EMT, AEMT-Critical Care, or Paramedic certification.

In the event that no firefighter with an AEMT-Critical Care or Paramedic certification is available to maintain the minimum, a firefighter with an EMT-Basic or Advanced EMT certification may be used to fill the shift. It will be considered that no firefighter with an AEMT-Critical Care or Paramedic certification is available only when all firefighters refuse the shift or there have been two (2) unsuccessful attempts to contact them by phone.

In the event that all part-time firefighters have been utilized to cover open shifts and firefighter with an AEMT-Critical Care or Paramedic certification has worked 216 hours in a single work period, a firefighter with an EMT Basic or Advanced EMT certification may be used to fill the open shifts. In the event that a firefighter with an EMT Basic or Advanced EMT

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certification has worked 216 hours in a single work period, a firefighter with AEMT-Critical Care or Paramedic certification with 216 hours or more will be used to fill the shift.

In the event that a firefighter with an AEMT- Critical Care or Paramedic certification is working with two (2) firefighters with an EMT-Basic or Advanced EMT certification, the firefighter with an AEMT-Critical Care or Paramedic certification will be compensated with an additional one dollar (\$1.00) per hour added to their uniform allowance for additional wear and tear.

3. Term:

The parties agree that term of this Memorandum is temporary and shall only be effective from June 15, 2025, through the time when the new firefighter returns from paramedic school or October 4, 2025, whichever is sooner. This term may not be extended unless agreed upon by both parties in writing.

4. Past Practice:

This Memorandum is without precedential basis. It shall not be cited by the Village or Union in any future grievance, arbitration, or proceeding except as necessary to enforce its terms. The parties further agree and acknowledge that this Memorandum does not constitute a past practice.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION-None

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Espersen and seconded by Trustee Siracuse, and carried unanimously, the Board adjourned the Board Meeting at 7:54 pm.

L. MEETING SCHEDULE-

The next Village of Fredonia Board of Trustees Workshop and Board Meeting will take place Monday June 23, 2025 6 PM in the Trustee Room, second floor, Village Hall, Board Meeting to follow.