

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF FREDONIA
MEETING MINUTES
9-11 Church Street
Fredonia, NY 14063
August 18, 2025
6P.M.**

A. CALL TO ORDER-MAYOR FERGUSON

I call this meeting to order on Monday August 18, 2025 at 6 PM

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

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES-

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Twichell and seconded by Trustee Siracuse; the following resolution was approved by a 4-0 vote:

WHEREAS members of this Board have read the Official Minutes of the Board of Trustees Regular Meeting of August 4, 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. 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.

William Barnes-Would like to know the forecast for the next budget. Would like homeowners to have more of an idea of how this is going to go moving forward. The public must have more discourse. It is an abomination what happened, a sixty-percent tax (60%) increase and no hard decisions have been made. What is the Board doing to make sure this does not happen again? Hard choices need to be made; positions need to be eliminated.

E. CORRESPONDENCE-

Correspondence dated August 8, 2025 was received from Fire Chief Joshua Myers requesting Tara Whitfield be removed from the Active Roll of the Volunteer Fire Department.

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Upon motion duly made by Trustee Espersen and seconded by Trustee Twichell; the following resolution was approved by a 4-0 vote:

BE IT RESOLVED that the name Tara Whitfield be removed from the Active Roll of the Fredonia Volunteer Fire Department, Incorporated.

Correspondence dated August 13, 2025 was received from Police Officer Adam Tanner resigning his position from the department, effective August 28, 2025.

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Siracuse and seconded by Trustee Wandel; the following resolution was approved by a 4-0 vote:

BE IT RESOLVED that the resignation of Adam Tanner as a full-time Police Officer with the Village of Fredonia is effective August 28, 2025.

F. MAYOR'S REPORT-

End of summer wrap up for the Recreation program. Would like to thank Kayla, all of those who worked the program, the Town of Pomfret, John Gullo, and all of those who donated to the program.

August 5th, Dewey's 100th Birthday Celebration.

Worked with Trustee Wandel and met the upcoming candidates to show them around at the Water Treatment Plant as well as the Dunkirk Water Treatment Plant.

In the process of working on an upcoming Water Treatment Plant Review.

Attended a Rotary Meeting where Patrick Stokes, who is a Relief maker discussed how he assisted others with his work in Ukraine.

Thank you to the DPW who is closing the work on the paving projects for the year. Going to be meeting to discuss the plan for next year's potential streets and projects.

G. TRUSTEE/COMMITTEE REPORTS-

Brauchler-Absent

Espersen-The chlorination project has been approved by the New York State Department of Health; which was much quicker than anticipated. We are working on getting the documents to the Town of Pomfret Code Enforcement Department for their approval to keep the chlorination project moving forward. Also attended a meeting with the Governor's assistant who would like us to submit for as much funding as we can this year because he is not sure that there will be nearly as much funding available next year.

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Siracuse-The Farm Festival will be taking place this upcoming weekend. We would like to remind residents that Village Hall is closed on Friday August 22nd for the setup of the Farm Festival.

Twichell-The cable department is requesting a couple pieces of equipment to record a live stream of the Farm Festival. This will allow those who are not in attendance to view the festival.

Wandel

Aug 5 Water Comm. Met w Labella Engineering and the CCDOH via Zoom. Discussion included: Status of WTP Chlorinator upgrade project.

Labella will now pursue contractors.

Labella has encouraged the village to pre purchase the chlorinator pump at \$20K and the 2K ga. sodium hypochlorite storage tank at \$20K. Because of timeline concerns and long lead times.

Also discussed was mapping the logistics and timelines of the Alternative 2 track.

Aug 5 Cable Board Mtg.

Equipment upgrades for remote video broadcasts were presented. This item will allow live streaming video broadcasts wirelessly within a 1 mile line of sight radius.

Paul W. suggested that our Treasurers reports be presented at village board meetings on the big screen and in graphical format. The benefits are a more user friendly presentation of village finances for both those in attendance at the meeting and those watching remotely (virtually).

Aug 6 .

The two democrat primary winners and candidates for village trustee elections this November were invited to the village hall mayor's office to discuss current issues the village is experiencing. They are LeAnn Lazzeroni and Kristine Cruze Keefe.

After about one hour of discussions, we toured the Village WTP and then soon followed by the Dunkirk Lakeshore WTP. Each tour lasted about one hour and was led by the WTP supervisors. The objective of the tours was to provide a close-up look at the operations at each plant and to give them insight to best evaluate the WTP operations and processes.

Aug 7 Water Comm.

I called a meeting with Trustee Esperson and Mayor Ferguson.

The objective of this meeting was to communicate water project details in regards to our Alternative options along with corresponding timing and dates.

The 1 hour meeting was helpful to insure the Water comm. team was effectively communicating.

Aug 11 Water Comm

I conducted a one hour phone meeting with Labella Engineers. They are: Oliver Sugerman- civil engineer and Tim Zuch – electrical engineer.

The objective was to identify and specify BU generator requirement for the village WTP. The goal is to replace the existing rental 25Kva BU gen with a pre-owned unit that the village would own and eliminate rental costs which are currently ongoing for about 2 years.

This requires an electrical load study of intermittent and continuous load devices at the plant to insure adequate capacity of the gen.

Labella provided me a fairly comprehensive inventory list of all plant devices they had compiled for the original Labella PER report 2 years ago. I will be meeting the WTP supervisor this week on Tuesday, to do the required data gathering.

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That is then followed by a load study to specify correct equipment sizing and then followed by searching the marketplace and then providing 3 quotes for equipment purchase.

Aug 13 WTP Meeting with Luis Fred

This meeting was the second, to kickoff my SOP project for supporting the supervisor to have in place a complete set of SOPs and process policies launched for all WTP activities.

Currently, 2 SOPs are complete with an additional 6-8 more outstanding.

I am estimating another 2-3 weeks for completion of this project.

Personal commentary:

On Feb 18 of this year, the CCDOH transmitted a correspondence to the Fredonia water committee. It regarded the village water supply assessment. The CCDOH conducted a site inspection of our village WTP just prior to that date. The inspection is based upon NYSDOH sanitary standards and codes.

Therefore, the status and health of our existing village WTP and reservoir are evaluated against these standards.

I thoroughly reviewed it again this past weekend and quickly realized I must communicate the key points to you today.

There is some good news. A total of 11 deficiencies were successfully addressed based on a May 2023 inspection. The CCDOH commended the WTP and village officials for that work.

However, there are a number of significant outstanding deficiencies based on the 2025 inspection report.

The list covers 7 pages including the status of our reservoir, dam, spillways, piping and numerous WT plant deficiencies. I specifically noted that many were considerably dated.

In fact, there were deficiencies noted since 2008 (or 17 years ago). 2016 (9 years ago). 2012 (13 years ago). 2003 inspection (22 years ago).

Inspection Report Year	Years Past	Number of Deficiencies
2016	9	1
2012	13	1
2008	17	5
2003	22	1

What makes the inspection data so astounding? The fact that it exists and these deficiencies are still not yet resolved.

In summary, my point is this. Degrading infrastructure issues don't heal by themselves. Do the worn out brakes and tires on your car improve with time? Of course not. A good steward will maintain, periodically check for minor and especially major issues and invest the time and money to insure performance, longevity and safety.

The village of Fredonia has historically had an extremely poor record of infrastructure maintenance, upgrades and improvements. Yes, there have been some. But ask yourself, has it been enough? Here is one example to illustrate my point, The village has had 7 water boils in the past 5 years.

The good news is we can turn this Fredonia ship around and head it in the right direction. This is our challenge and the time has come.

Making very wise decisions, aggressively pursuing available NYS and Federal grant funding, working with adjacent communities inter-municipally, sharing services, to name a few. All will help to improve and optimize our village government functions.

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In summary, these efforts will get us pointed in the right direction. Our future is here and our future is now.

H. TREASURER’S REPORT – NONE

I. ADDITIONAL REPORT-

**CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT JULY 2025
JUSTICE COURT REPORT JULY 2025**

J. RESOLUTIONS-

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Siracuse and seconded by Trustee Twichell; the following resolution was approved by a 4-0 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 #771 through #774 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 Wandel and seconded by Trustee Espersen; the following resolution was approved by a 4-0 vote:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the training request of Luis Fred, Chief Operator at the Water Treatment Plant, to attend the 2025 Tiff Water Supply Symposium, Syracuse, NY on September 16-18, 2025 is hereby approved in an amount not to exceed \$1,000.

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Siracuse and seconded by Trustee Espersen; the following resolution was approved by a 4-0 vote:

WHEREAS pursuant to section 20 of the Municipal Home Rule Law of the State of New York, a public hearing must be held on the adoption of proposed local law 4 of 2025 - “A local law amending Section 287-2A of the Code of the Village of Fredonia to provide a change in Water Rates.”. Notice of such public hearing published in the official newspaper, (Observer), now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Fredonia hereby schedules a public hearing on the 2nd day of September, 2025 at 5:00 P.M. in Trustees Room, second floor in Village Hall, 9-11 Church Street Fredonia New York, to receive comments on the proposed local laws. and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Village Clerk is hereby directed to publish notice of said hearing pursuant to Village Law.

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LOCAL LAW NO. 4 OF 2025

This local law shall be entitled “Local Law Amending Section 287-8A of the Code of the Village of Fredonia to Provide for an Increased Water Rate.”

Be it enacted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Fredonia as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 287-8A of the Code of the Village of Fredonia, last amended on February 19, 2024, by Local Law No. 1 of 2024, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 287-8A. Rates for metered water service within the Village of Fredonia:

A. For water supplied by the Village of Fredonia from and after September 2, 2025 and for each quarterly period thereafter, the following rates are hereby fixed and shall be collected on all water metered service within the Village of Fredonia: a minimum charge of \$30 per quarter and at a rate of \$7.60, per 1,000 gallons.

Note: Water Rates to the Town of Pomfret and Town of Dunkirk Water Districts or other outside of Village water customers shall be increased accordingly as provided by the contracts with the Village of Fredonia and such outside water customer.

SECTION 2. This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State of the State of New York as required by law.

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Espersen and seconded by Trustee Twichell; the following resolution was approved by a 4-0 vote:

WHEREAS pursuant to section 20 of the Municipal Home Rule Law of the State of New York, a public hearing must be held on the adoption of proposed local law 5 of 2025 - “A local law amending Section 237-15D of the Code of the Village of Fredonia to provide a change in Sewer Rates.”. Notice of such public hearing published in the official newspaper,

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(Observer), now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Fredonia hereby schedules a public hearing on the 2nd day of September, 2025 at 5:15 P.M. in Trustees Room, second floor in Village Hall, 9-11 Church Street Fredonia New York, to receive comments on the proposed local laws. and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Village Clerk is hereby directed to publish notice of said hearing pursuant to Village Law.

LOCAL LAW NO. 5 OF 2025

This local law shall be entitled “Local Law Amending Section 237-15D of the Code of the Village of Fredonia to Provide for an Increased Sewer Charges.”

Be it enacted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Fredonia as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 237-15D of the Code of the Village of Fredonia, last amended on September 1, 2022, by Local Law No. 5 of 2022, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 237-15. Sewer rents; Sewer meters.

B. For sewer supplied by the Village of Fredonia from and after September 2, 2025 and for each quarterly period thereafter, the following rates are hereby fixed and shall be collected on all water metered service within the Village of Fredonia: a minimum charge of \$30.00 per quarter and at a rate of \$8.00, per 1,000 gallons consumption.

Note: Water Rates to the Town of Pomfret and Town of Dunkirk Water Districts or other outside of Village water customers shall be increased accordingly as provided by the contracts with the Village of Fredonia and such outside water customer.

SECTION 2. This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State of the State of New York as required by law.

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Upon motion duly made by Trustee Espersen and seconded by Trustee Wandel; the following resolution was approved by a 4-0 vote:

WHEREAS pursuant to section 20 of the Municipal Home Rule Law of the State of New York, a public hearing must be held on the adoption of proposed Local Law #6 – “A local law establishing Chapter 350 of the Village Code entitled “BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM”. Notice of such public hearing published in the official newspaper, (Observer), now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Fredonia hereby schedules a public hearing on the 2nd day of September, 2025 at 5:30 P.M. in Trustees Room, second floor in Village Hall, 9-11 Church Street Fredonia New York, to receive comments on the proposed 2025 local law which is on file in the Office of the Village Clerk of the Village of Fredonia, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Village Clerk is hereby directed to publish notice of said hearing pursuant to Village Law.

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Twichell and seconded by Trustee Wandel; the following resolution was approved by a 4-0 vote:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor has permission to sign the award acceptance of the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) Wastewater Infrastructure Engineering Planning Grant (EPG) in an amount not to exceed \$50,000; with the Village’s portion to be twenty percent (20%).

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Siracuse and seconded by Trustee Twichell; the following resolution was approved by a 4-0 vote:

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

- \$770.25 A2770 Misc Income Grants to H8989.2 Cable Equipment

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Twichell and seconded by Trustee Wandel; the following resolution was approved by a 4-0 vote:

WHEREAS, The Village received a grant through the franchise agreement for new equipment for the Cable Department; and

WHEREAS, the Cable Department has selected to purchase an Accsoon CineView Master 4K SDI/HDMI Wireless Transmission System and Genaray Batteries and Charger Kit for \$770.25; and

WHEREAS, the cable equipment is suitable for the Village’s purpose; therefore

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BE IT RESOLVED the Village Board hereby authorizes the purchase of an Accsoon CineView Master 4K SDI/HDMI Wireless Transmission System and Genaray Batteries and Charger Kit for \$770.25.

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Espersen and seconded by Trustee Twichell; the following resolution was approved by a 4-0 vote:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fire Department has permission to use the following vehicles for training purposes and will no longer be part of the Village's asset inventory:

2003 L200 Saturn VIN number 1G8JU54F13Y580301

2017 Ford Explorer VIN Number 1FM5K8AR7HGC56727

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Wandel and seconded by Trustee Espersen; the following resolution was approved by a 4-0 vote:

WHEREAS, the Village of Fredonia and the Town of Dunkirk have previously entered into an agreement whereby the Village provides water and sewer services to the Plaza 59 Water District; and

WHEREAS, this agreement was previously renewed on August 31st, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the term of the current agreement expires on August 31st, 2025; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, the Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to execute a five-year extension of the current agreement, ending on August 31st, 2030.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION-

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Siracuse and seconded by Trustee Espersen, and carried unanimously, the Board adjourned the Board Meeting at 6:34 pm.

L. MEETING SCHEDULE-

The next Village of Fredonia Board of Trustees Workshop will take place Wednesday August 27, 2025 at 9AM and Board of Trustees Meeting on Tuesday September 2, 2025 at 6 PM in the Trustee Room, second floor, Village Hall, Board Meeting.