**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**OF THE VILLAGE OF FREDONIA**

**WORKSHOP**

**9-11 Church Street**

**Fredonia, NY 14063**

**January 8, 2023**

**6:30 P.M.**

**A. RESOLUTIONS**

1. Approval of Appointed/Re-appointed Village Officials.

2. Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisore Approval

3. Resolution Rescinded Approval

4. Official Bank Designation

5. Official Newspaper Designation

6. Proposed Schedule of Workshops for 2024

7. Approval to Hire Full-Time Police Officer

8. Emergency Dispatcher Approval

**B. DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Code Enforcement Office-

DPW-

Fire Department-

Police Department-

Recreation Department-

Wastewater Treatment Plant-

Water Treatment Plant-

**C. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Town of Pomfret (TOP) Workshop with Village regarding Phase 2 and 3 of North End Water District Expansion

2. Festivals Fredonia Future dates for 2024 Schedule of Events

3. Trustee Committee Assignments

4. Southern Tier West Dues/Membership

5. Any other old business

**D. OLD BUSINESS**

1. Procedure for submission and creation of all resolutions passed in 2020.

2. Any other Old Business

**E. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**OF THE VILLAGE OF FREDONIA**

**REGULAR ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**9-11 Church Street**

**Fredonia, NY 14063**

**January 8, 2024**

**7:30 P.M.**

At a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Fredonia, duly called and held on the 8th day of January 2024 at 7:30 PM. in the Trustee Room, second floor, Village Hall in Fredonia, New York and public notice of the time and place of this meeting has been given to the news media and conspicuously posted in one or more designated public locations in accordance with Section 104 of the Open Meetings Law.

**A. CALL TO ORDER-MAYOR FERGUSON**

I call this meeting to order on Monday January 8, 2024 at 7:30 PM

Mayor Ferguson gives special thanks to previous Mayor, Doug Essek, for the smooth transition, Jim Lynden for his time served working for the Village, Dave Bird for his service, and the returning Trustees; Nicole Siracuse and Jon Espersen. Thanking the DPW for their services. Wants public to keep in mind that the service of the Village departments and Administration is done for the love of the Community; nothing more and party administration is not a part of it.

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

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-**

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES-NONE**

**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-30 Ryan Place asking to please rescind the resolution and let the public decide via public referendum.

Sedota here to represent all of us in the Village. It is the responsibility of the Board to represent and listen to its constituents.

Jim Lynden-55 Castile; rescind the December 26th resolution. The Board has a fiscal responsibility to be fiscally responsible. Who do you work for? Be responsible and fix this. Violation of open meetings law. This diminishes public participation and access.

Jim Sedota-Leon Place. Hire a professional accountant to run numbers using the Village budget and engineering report.

Rob Clark-East Main Street; there are more people bothered by vote. The Board has rejected Treasurer’s numbers, hiding information, and bias. Who still has the Village in their sights?

Sam Drayo-options need to be reviewed and analyzed; study the report thoroughly. Pomfret depends on the Village for water supply. We should continue with our own water.

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Gus Potkovick-why are we not using Army of Engineers? Will we be able to get another way to produce our own water? Who is financing this, are we financing Dunkirk’s position? Why can County not help Village with paying for the Village’s system? Would like to see contract.

Susan Parker-82 Newton Street; Village going with Dunkirk has been recommended since 1967. Should pursue that route.

Douglas Essek-18 Ventura Circle; urges Board to not rescind the vote. This is a decades old issue and needs to be addressed. This was not the first major decision made by an exiting Board. This occurred two years ago with a cannabis vote. The proposed plan will give the Village a finite source of water; no matter what the costs are much higher and rates will increase.

Nick Lenne-4 Lowell Place; not necessary to rescind the resolution. Would like to keep reservoir and plant. The redacted report did not give enough information for anyone to decide and have knowledge of the cost of implementation. Does not believe there is collusion, but believes pressures are being implemented.

Marsha Johnson-138 Cushing Street; there are many fictions/conspiracies and we will never know how much something is going to cost until you move forward with the project. We must move forward. People are afraid of change.

Marie Sedota-22 Susann Ct; why would we give up a source of water; drinking water?

Patrick Stokes-41 Risley Street; was a member of the Chautauqua Regional Development Organization and insists the Village needs to go out and get all the information that is out there. This has been an issue for many years and needs to be dealt with.

Ray-15 Bennett Drive; The Spectator Editor spoke on needing to work together and not allow the divided parties to be an issue in a small village.

Natalie Whitman-Chautauqua County Health Department; Part five of NYS sanitary code states that the Village needs to have a plan in place to put corrective action in place. If vote is rescinded then the Village is in violation and will have to put out a type one notification. This goes out to the newspapers, each water user, and all the public.

**E. CORRESPONDENCE-**

**F. MAYOR’S REPORT-**

There are several meetings scheduled and will be changing the start times to 7pm as well as the workshop will be moved. This is not to hide anything, but to allow the Board to gather all the information needed to make decisions. This is to be transparent with the residents. A board of citizens will be formed to assist with the NY Main Street Report

**G. TRUSTEE/COMMITTEE REPORTS-**

Wandel-No report

Brauchler-Nothing to report

Espersen-Clarifying many inaccuracies that Trustee Twichell had published in the paper. Twichell’s

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**REGULAR ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

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claims in the newspaper were not factual and she was involved in the meetings that took place and did not speak up if she wanted more information. Her claims on the information that were published were not accurate and did not give the whole story. Twichell says that Dunkirk is unable to pay their bills; this is not true at all.

Pollutants of the City of Dunkirk were stated in the publication; but did not put the information in about the Village. They are very close in quality, with Dunkirk’s being a little bit better. No contracts have been signed, contemplated, or discussed.

Siracuse-Nothing to report

Twichell-addressed the special meeting. The mayor did not answer with enough detail and did not seem like it was an emergency for the Board. The meeting was called within three hours and should have been 72 hours. Letting everyone know there was a special meeting and no minutes were issued. Spoke to Mayor Ferguson saying he is not aware of the all the rules of the meetings.

Ferguson responded with the meeting was regarding a letter addressing that the Village is in support of bringing in a doctor to the hospital.

Melanie Beardsley; Village attorney, references section 104 of municipal law. The law states that the general requirement is 72 hours before a meeting shall be posted in public locations and notice to the news media. If the time frame is not possible, it needs to be done as quickly as possible to make the public aware.

**H. TREASURER’S REPORT**

**I. ADDITIONAL REPORTS**

1. Code Enforcement Report for the month of December 2023 was read and ordered filed.

**J. RESOLUTIONS**

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the following appointed officials and employees are hereby appointed/reappointed to their respective positions and at their present salaries and benefits or salary and benefits as modified by Board resolution or budget adoption for the ensuing official year commencing January 8, 2024 and ending January 8, 2025 unless sooner removed from office or employment as provided by the Charter or other applicable law:

1. Chief Inspection Officer, Building

Inspector, Zoning Enforcement Officer Chuck LaBarbera

2. Parks and Recreation Director Francesca Sysol

3. Receiver of Taxes Erlyssa LeBeau

4. Streets Supervisor/Commissioner Scott Marsh

5. Associate Village Justice Nancy Dietzen

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**BOARD OF TRUSTEES-OF THE VILLAGE OF FREDONIA**

**REGULAR ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

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**CONTINUED**

6. Police Chief David Price

7. Records Management Officer Village Clerk

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees further reserves all rights under the Charter and Section 75 of the Civil Service Law for removal or other disciplinary action for any past or future acts or conduct of employees or officers of the Village which may fall within the purview of Section 75 of the Civil Service Law or the Charter.

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 David Felt, Dunkirk, NY is hereby appointed, provisionally, to the full-time position of Chief Operator at the Wastewater Treatment Plant for the Village of Fredonia at a rate of $75,000 annually, effective January 11, 2024, subject to all Civil Service Rules and Regulations.

Upon motion made by Trustee Twichell, the following resolution was dead due to no second:

WHEREAS, the Village Board of Trustees adopted a resolution at its December 26, 2023

meeting to decommission the Water Treatment Plant and draw down the reservoir; and

WHEREAS, following the December 26, 2023, Board meeting one or more trustees has received comments from Fredonia citizens who strongly disagree with the Board’s decision regarding the Water Treatment Plant; and

WHEREAS, such comments include statements that the resolution was adopted hastily before the Village Board had the opportunity for due diligence and that the Board did not answer specific questions which are not detailed in the LaBella report such as cost analysis specific to the requirements to construct infrastructure allowing for distribution of water from Dunkirk, and why public engagement did not include referral to the Fredonia Planning Board or the NY State Environmental law, and what is the after plan for the reservoir and its surrounding forest.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board of Trustees hereby rescinds the resolution adopted by the Board on December 26, 2023, a copy of which is included as Attachment A; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village Board of Trustees shall adopt a responsible timeframe to move forward, which shall be established later.

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 following banks pursuant to Village Law section 4-4, are hereby designated the Official Banks for the Village of Fredonia for the year beginning January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2024:

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**BOARD OF TRUSTEES-OF THE VILLAGE OF FREDONIA**

**REGULAR ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

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Manufacturers & Traders Trust Co. 1 E. Main Street, Fredonia, New York

MBIA Municipal Investors Service Corporation, of Denver Colorado

J.P. Morgan Chase & Co., of New York, New York

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

BE IT RESOLVED that The Observer West Second Street, Jamestown, NY is hereby designated the Official Newspaper of the Village of Fredonia for the year beginning January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2024.

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Espersen and seconded by Trustee Brauchler, the following resolution was approved by a 4 – 1 vote:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Schedule of Workshops of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Fredonia for the period of January through June 2024 (SEE ATTACHED), as set forth and attached to these minutes, as amended, is hereby approved, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Village Clerk is hereby authorized to publish said notice in the and to mail a copy of said schedule to WDOE radio, the Dunkirk Observer, as amended.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that Stephen Aldrich, Water St., Fredonia is hereby appointed to the position of full time Police Officer, per his eligibility on the Civil Service Certification of Eligible Candidates with the Village of Fredonia Police Department at an hourly rate of $27.34 subject to Civil Service rules and regulations and subject to a probationary period of fifty-two weeks.  This appointment shall be effective January 8, 2024.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that Douglas Sanderson, Westfield, NY is hereby appointed to the position of full time Emergency Dispatcher Trainee at an hourly rate of $20.14 subject to Civil Service rules and regulations and subject to a provisional appointment until meeting the requirements of New York State Civil Service.  This appointment shall be effective January 22, 2024.

**K. EXECUTIVE SESSION-**

**L. MEETING SCHEDULE**- The Next Village of Fredonia Board Meeting will take place Monday January 22, 2024 at 7:00 PM in the Trustee Room, second floor Village Hall.

A Board of Trustees Workshop will take place on Wednesday January 17, 2024 at 9:30 AM.

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Twichell and seconded by Trustee Siracuse, and carried unanimously, the Board adjourned the Board Meeting at 8:48 pm.

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