

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE VILLAGE OF FREDONIA  
REGULAR MEETING  
9-11 Church Street  
Fredonia, NY 14063  
April 1, 2024  
7:00 P.M.**

At a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Fredonia, duly called and held on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2024 at 7:00 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, April 1, 2024 at 7:02 PM- Mayor Ferguson had a moment of silence for John J. Sullivan from the Fredonia Fire Department who passed away on Monday March 25, 2024.

Roll Call of the Trustees: Trustees present: Brauchler, Espersen, Siracuse, Twichell and Wandel.  
Mayor Ferguson is also present.

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-**

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES-**

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

WHEREAS members of this Board have read the Official Minutes of the Board of Trustees Regular Meeting of March 18, 2024 now, therefore

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. Rob Clark stood and addressed the Board regarding management of resources and obligations; Transparency is an obligation of the Board. He discussed the relationship of the Board and Josh Myers, Fire Chief. James Lynden stood to address the Board regarding keeping the reservoir and road blocks; the City of Dunkirk's position. He also discussed the budget and the 18.91 % tax increase, is absurd. He would like the Board to get the Village down to the 3.1%. Richard Leone stood to address the Board regarding buying our water directly from Dunkirk, why are you so adamant about it. Put the money into our own water system. Mark Twichell stood to address the Board regarding the budget process and changing the law to change the Code Enforcement Office. He is critical of the approach and process. Mayor Ferguson closed the Public Portion of the meeting.

**E. CORRESPONDENCE-**

**F. MAYOR'S REPORT-** He reported that on Tuesday March 19<sup>th</sup> he met with LaBella officials to discuss the applications for the NYMS project; He participated in the Brooks Hospital Community Forum;

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He attended the meeting for the 56<sup>th</sup> annual Farm Festival being held in Barker Common; Met with Rob Clark and Trustee Espersen to discuss the water project; He met with John Jablonski about new entries into Canadaway Creek for fishing; On the 20<sup>th</sup> he participated in a NYCOM Zoom meeting and then participated in an Eclipse meeting at the 1891 Opera House. He reminded the public that free eclipse glasses are available still. He met with a resident re: current laws on the books for dogs and cats limits; March 22 he met with LEMG regarding grant opportunities for fishing in Canadaway Creek. Budget meetings will continue this week; on March 26<sup>th</sup> he met with Chautauqua Hospice to discuss their expansion in our area and he toured the WCA home with the Ranch Grange Group and a Lt Colonel Martin to discuss a possible VA Home at that location.

**G. TRUSTEE/COMMITTEE REPORTS-**

**Brauchler** – he attended the Eclipse presentation; he has been attending budget hearings as well.

**Espersen** – the WTP plant outflow meter is accurate; he is waiting for LaBella to help decide where to put the meter that will gauge the water coming into the plant; met with the County Health Dept to discuss a possible boil water notice for April 16<sup>th</sup>, when divers are in our clearwells for overdue cleaning; many communities have code enforcement duties falling under the Fire Department.

**Siracuse** – hoping we do not have to do a boil water notice, that is what the conserving water request is for; the restructuring of the Code Enforcement Office is not changing anyone's role; it will also save the Village money.

**Twichell** – Met with LEMC re stabilizing the bank behind the Fire Hall; budget hearings underway; she is concerned about moving the Code Enforcement to the Fire Department; another budget hearing is scheduled for April 5<sup>th</sup> at 9 am;

**Wandel** – he has been meeting for budget hearings this week; still meeting with WWTP Supervisor to discuss solving some current issues

**H. TREASURER'S REPORT** – Please see attached

**I. ADDITIONAL REPORTS-**

**J. RESOLUTIONS**

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

WHEREAS pursuant to section 5-508(3) of the New York State Village Law, a public hearing must be held on the Tentative Budget for the Village fiscal year commencing June 1, 2024 with 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 15<sup>th</sup> day of April 6:30 P.M. in Village Hall, 9-11 Church Street Fredonia New York, to receive comments on the 2024 fiscal year Tentative Budget which will be on file at the Office of the Village Clerk of the Village of Fredonia, on Monday April 8, 2024, 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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Upon motion duly made by Trustee Siracuse and seconded by Trustee Espersen and carried unanimously, the following resolution was moved to be tabled:

BE IT RESOLVED that the request of Village Trustees, Ben Brauchler, Jon Espersen, Nicole Siracuse, Michelle Twichell, and Paul Wandel and Mayor Ferguson to attend the NYCOM Annual Meeting and Training 2024 at the Sagamore Bolton Landing, 110 Sagamore Rd, Bolton Landing, NY 12814 is hereby approved at a cost not to exceed **Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000)**. This Conference is sponsored by the New York State Conference of Mayors.

**K. EXECUTIVE SESSION-** Upon motion duly made by Trustee Siracuse and seconded by Trustee Espersen and carried unanimously, the Board entered Executive Session to discuss matters of employment within the Village of Fredonia at 7:36 pm.

Upon motion duly made By Trustee Siracuse and seconded by Trustee Espersen and carried unanimously, the Board exited Executive Session with no vote taken at 7:45 pm.

Upon motion duly made By Trustee Siracuse and seconded by Trustee Brauchler and carried unanimously, the Board adjourned the Regular Meeting at 7:46 pm.

**L. MEETING SCHEDULE-** The next Village of Fredonia Workshop will take place on Wednesday April 10, 2024 at 9 AM in the Trustee Room, second floor Village Hall.

The Next Village of Fredonia Board Meeting will take place Monday, April 15, 2024 at 7 PM in the Trustee Room, second floor Village Hall.