

**VILLAGE OF FREDONIA
VILLAGE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 17, 2022**

President Dohrwardt called the Public Hearing to order at 7:00 p.m.

Board members present: Don Dohrwardt, Dan Gehrke, Bill McLarty, John Long, Rick Abegglen, Josh Haas, and Bruce Paape.

Staff/Officials present: Village Administrator Christophe Jenkins and Village Clerk Melissa Depies.

Others present: Eric Paulus, Sandi Tretow, Ken Watry, and other concerned residents.

Public Hearing on the proposed 2023 budgets for the Village of Fredonia General Fund, Capital Projects, Debt Service, Fire Department, TID No. 3, Water and Sewer Utilities.

Sandi Tretow commented that a 20+% increase in a year of a 40 year high in inflation; she feels bad for the residents.

Rudy McCormick, questioned why the taxes continue to increase every year. The Village needs to curtail its level of spending. He questioned: in this economy where does this level of spending end? He suggested when the board approves the levy they do it by roll call vote so people know who voted to raise taxes.

Village Administrator Jenkins stated that the previous mill rate was \$5.21, the proposed mill rate will be \$6.52. He noted that the biggest change in the mill rate was due to the debt levy. Administrator Jenkins explained that in previous years not all the debt was claimed on the Municipal Levy Worksheet which caused the Village to pay the debt out of the general fund. There are no new expenses, the overall impact on expenses has not changed. The increase is due to properly identifying the debt levy.

Sandi Tretow reported on the increases of neighboring communities, noting the Village of Fredonia and the Town of Fredonia were the highest.

President Dohrwardt stated that the reason for the increase is properly reporting the debt levy and removing the debt from the general fund.

It was questioned how the Village was able to hire a Village Administrator without a referendum to increase taxes.

President Dohrwardt explained that the tax increase is not due to the hiring of the Administrator. The increase was a result of properly reporting the debt levy and removing it from the General Fund.

Village Administrator Jenkins agreed that if the general fund was increased to fund a position it would need to go to referendum; however the general fund was not

increased, the debt levy was properly reported removing that amount from the general fund freeing up those dollars.

Motion by Trustee Haas, seconded by Trustee Abegglen, to adjourn the public hearing portion of the meeting. Motion carried.

The public hearing was closed and the regular Village Board meeting was called to order at 7:19 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Trustee Abegglen, seconded by Trustee Haas, to approve the November 3, 2022 Village Board meeting minutes, and the General Fund, Water and Sewer bills including additional bills provided. Motion carried unanimously.

Open Session for Citizen Questions and Comments

Sandi Tretow stated that at the November 3, 2022 Village Board meeting an ordinance was proposed to eliminate three standing committees. She noted that the Village Code requires each trustee to chair a committee and if these committee are eliminated the board is in violation of the code.

Sandi Tretow also stated that there was a proposal to pay board members a flat fee of \$2,000 per trustee and \$6,000 for Village President. She stated that based on quick math this would be an increase for each board member. It was her understanding that the hiring of a Village Administrator would take some of the responsibilities off the board; therefore trustee pay should be reduced rather than increased.

Ken Watry stated that he would like to sell vehicles on his vacant land that fronts Fredonia Avenue. He noted that from the mid 1950's to the early 1990's this land was used to sell tractors and other agricultural equipment.

Mr. Watry explained that this was discussed and denied at the Plan Commission meeting on November 7, 2022. He questioned why Jimmy B's was allowed to sell vehicles on his vacant property. Mr. Watry is requesting this to be reconsidered at the next Plan Commission meeting.

Report on Operations of Village by Village President

President Dohrwardt announced that he will not be running for Village President again; however he will run as Village Trustee. President Dohrwardt stated that he will be endorsing another person who will be announcing soon their intent to run for Village President.

Report on Operations of Village Administrator

Administrator Jenkins highlighted his report stating that he continues to work with the realtors on offers and developers agreements for projects in the TID.

Administrator Jenkins stated that he drafted and initiated a RFP for engineering services and hopes to have a recommendation at the December 15, 2022 meeting.

Administrator Jenkins, Village Clerk Depies, and Trustee McLarty held interviews for the Public Works Superintendent and will be making a recommendation for hire.

Report on Operations of Village by Village Marshal

Marshal Davel was not present. Board members reviewed the report provided.

Report on Operations of Village by Fire Chief

Fire Chief Weyker was not present, there was no report.

Report on Operations of Village by Public Works/Wastewater Treatment Plant

No DPW staff was present. Board members reviewed the report provided.

Report on Operations of Village by Clerk/Treasurer

Clerk Depies highlighted her report stating that the election went very well. The Village had 1,117 voters, 88 election-day registrations, and 148 absentee voters. Clerk Depies gave credit to the great team of poll workers for a successful day. Gearing up for tax bill creation and audit work.

Report by Ozaukee County District 2 Supervisor

Supervisor Haas reported that the Public Safety Committee is interviewing for the Medical Examiner position. They have narrowed the field down to 2 potential candidates.

Report of Plan Commission – D Dohrwardt

President Dohrwardt highlighted the Plan Commission minutes stating that Plan Commission reviewed and approved Dollar General recommending that a parking variance be approved by the Board of Appeals.

Trustee Long stated that Mr. Watry is questioning why Jimmy B's is allowed to sell vehicles on his vacant property and he is not. Mr. Watry has indicated that he would like to erect a building on this property. The building would have no electricity or water.

Trustee Long stated that the vehicles that Mr. Watry was selling were not licensed or titled to him. A person can sell up to 5 vehicles per year without a license however those vehicles must be licensed to that person.

President Dohrwardt stated that a conditional use is given based on location and Fredonia Avenue is not a place the Village wants to have used cars sold. This is the gateway to the Village and this use is just not appropriate.

Administrator Jenkins will reach out to the Village Attorney.

Report of Architectural Control Board – J Long

Trustee Long highlighted the minutes of the Architectural Control Board meeting held on November 16, 2022, stating a fence at 202 Fox Glen was approved, the property has a

We Energies easement, however the property owner is aware and does have permission from We Energies.

The board approved a home addition at 445 Emerald Hills Drive and a new home construction at 217 Wilson Street. Dollar General was also approved, requiring the long side facing Fredonia Avenue include the dark brown banner/canopy go the entire length of the wall.

Trustee Paape was concerned about the traffic that Dollar General may bring to this corner. Trustee Long stated that semi's will have room to turn around on the property, they will not be backing in off of Fredonia Avenue and should not cause any backups.

Items for Discussion and/or Action

Motion to approve the 2023 Capital Improvement Projects

Motion by Trustee Haas, seconded by Trustee McLarty, to approve the 2023 Capital Improvement Projects.

Administrator Jenkins stated that the proposed Capital Improvement Plan is 5 year plan that will be reviewed every year. Approval of the plan only approves the 2023 projects.

Trustee Paape stated that he does not agree with the splash pad. It was his opinion that the ARPA Funds should be used for infrastructure.

Trustee Abegglen stated that ARPA Funds cannot be used in the TID. He noted that this is a unique opportunity for the Village to provide something positive that has been asked for by the community.

President Dohrwardt stated that initially he was not in favor of a splash pad; however does believe that the Village needs to do something positive and this is a good thing to do.

Trustee Paape stated Park & Rec is going good things, however he is still resistant to the splash pad. He again stated that the funds should be used for building community sidewalk and/or infrastructure.

Trustee Gehrke stated that people have stated that they want a place where they can come together; this would be an investment on the future. A splash pad may bring other things/events to the Village.

Trustee McLarty stated that the Capital Improvement Plan is nothing more than a road map. Each project will be individually approved or denied, we are just approving the plan.

Trustee Long had issue with the plan stating that the Highland Drive sidewalk needs to be done now and it is not in the plan until 2025. The Village needs to put this sidewalk in so people can safely walk to Dollar General. Roof repairs and tuck pointing the exterior

wall at the Marshal's office is not slated until 2025 and this too needs to be done now. Additional sidewalk and security cameras should also be part of the plan.

Administrator Jenkins stated that projects can be moved into 2023; however that same dollar amount must also be removed to keep a balanced budget.

Motion to approve the 2023 Capital Improvement Project was carried 6 to 1.
Trustee Long Nay.

Motion to approve Resolution 2022-I Adopting Village of Fredonia 2023 Levy

Motion by Trustee Abegglen, seconded by Trustee Haas, to approve Resolution 2022-I Adopting the Village of Fredonia 2023 Levy.

Trustee Gehrke stated that as long as he has been a resident here in Fredonia he has heard the complaint, why isn't the grass cut, why is this not done, why is that not done. The Public Works Crew does not have enough people. Does the Village want to make things better or do we stay status quo? The increase in the levy is partly due to increasing staff, however we need staff for better services and a better quality of life.

Trustee Haas stated "we don't want taxes to go up". It has been an unusual world since 2020 and in his opinion this Board has accomplished a lot; and the Village needs to add staff to help build a better community. He also noted that while everyone compares the increase in the tax levy, no one looks at the increase in the water and sewer rates. The Village has zero increase while Port Washington water and sewer rates are going up 33 percent. Inflation has hit the Village as well, this is not easy however it has to be done.

Trustee Abegglen stated "we are not only raising your taxes, we are raising our taxes". This is not easy; however it is for the greater good.

Motion to approve Resolution 2022-I Adopting the Village of Fredonia 2023 Levy was carried unanimously.

Motion to approve the Village of Fredonia 2023 Annual Budget

Motion by Trustee McLarty, seconded by Trustee Gehrke to approve the Village of Fredonia 2023 Annual Budget. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve Subrecipient Agreement between Ozaukee County and the Village of Fredonia as recommended by Attorney Michael Herbrand

Motion by Trustee Haas, seconded by Trustee Abegglen to approve the Subrecipient Agreement between Ozaukee County the Village of Fredonia as recommended by Attorney Michael Herbrand.

Trustee Long questioned why the grant funds and expenses for the paramedics are not shown as part of the 2023 budget, stated that Village staff and auditors will be tracking all costs therefore should be included.

President Dohrwardt stated that this is simply a pass through account. The income and expenses will be handled completely separate.

Trustee Haas stated that these funds are not just Fredonia, they include the Town and Village of Belgium as well as the Town of Fredonia.

Motion to approve the Subrecipient Agreement between Ozaukee County and the Village of Fredonia was carried unanimously.

Motion to approve Fire Protection Services Agreement between the Village of Saukville and the Village of Fredonia Fire Department

Motion to approve Agreement between the Town of Belgium and Village of Fredonia Fire Department for Ambulance services

Motion to approve Agreement between the Village of Belgium and the Village of Fredonia Fire Department for Ambulance services

Motion by Trustee Abegglen, seconded by Trustee McLarty, to approve Fire Protection Services Agreement between the Village of Saukville and the Village of Fredonia Fire Department; an agreement between the Town of Belgium and the Village of Fredonia Fire Department for Ambulance services; and an Agreement between the Village of Belgium and the Village of Fredonia Fire Department for Ambulance services. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve request to carryover unspent 2022 operating budget towards future squad purchase

Motion by Trustee McLarty, seconded by Trustee Haas, to carryover unspent 2022 operating budget towards future squad purchase. Motion carried unanimously.

Convene to closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c) for considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility – Approval of DPW Superintendent and Clerk/Treasurer Duties

Motion by Trustee McLarty, seconded by Trustee Gehrke, to convene to closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c) for considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility –

Approval of DPW Superintendent and Clerk/Treasurer Duties. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

The board convened to closed session at 8:29 PM to discuss and approve the applicant for the Public Works Superintendent position as well as splitting the Clerk/Treasurer duties.

Adjourn closed session and reconvene into open session

Motion by Trustee Gehrke, seconded by Trustee Haas, to reconvene into open session at 9:02 PM. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Approval of DPW Superintendent

Motion by Trustee Haas, seconded by Trustee Gehrke, to approve the DPW Superintendent as discussed in the closed session. Motion carried unanimously.

Charter Ordinance eliminating the Consolidated Clerk-Treasurer position and establishing separate positions of Village Clerk and Village Treasurer

Motion by Trustee Haas, seconded by Trustee Abegglen, to adopt an Ordinance eliminating the Consolidated Clerk-Treasurer position and establishing separate positions of Village Clerk and Village Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

Convene to closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session – TID district #3 Contract Negotiations

Motion by, Trustee McLarty, seconded by Trustee Haas, to convene to closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session – TID district #3 Contract Negotiations. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

The board convened to closed session at 9:04 PM to discuss offers to purchase and developers agreements on parcels in TID #3.

Adjourn closed session and reconvene into open session

Motion by Trustee Haas, seconded by Trustee Abegglen, to reconvene into open session at 9:16 PM. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Discussion and possible action on TID district #3 offer letters and development proposals

Motion by Trustee Haas, seconded by Trustee Gehrke, to proceed as discussed in closed session. Motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence

None

Items for Future Consideration by the Village Board

Trustee Long stated that Representative Brooks will be in attendance at the December 1, 2022 Board meeting. He suggested sending a packet of information to the property owners on Wilson Street and inviting them to the meeting.

Trustee Haas stated that this crew has accomplished a lot. He gave credit to the Board and staff stating that he appreciates everyone on the board.

Adjournment

Motion by Trustee Haas, seconded by Trustee McLarty, to adjourn the meeting at 9:19 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Melissa Depies
Village Clerk