

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE FREEBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Approved February 21, 2023

January 17, 2023

The council of Freeburg Borough, Snyder County, Pennsylvania, held its regular monthly meeting on this date in the meeting room of the Freeburg Community Building. Members of the council present were: Tabbetha VanHorn-Price, Chairperson, presiding; Shawn Hokenbrough, Catherine Dent, Donald Mervine, John Wiegler, Angela Weaver and Weston Hoffman

Others present were: William Hoffman, Regina Moyer, Trent Hoffman, and Wanda Kantz.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by Donald Mervine and seconded by John Wiegler the minutes of December 20, 2022 meeting were approved by the Borough Council.

On a motion by Shawn Hokenbrough the bills to be paid were approved and seconded by John Wiegler the motion was approved by Borough Council. All submitted bills will be paid.

PUBLIC CONCERNS –

Building Permit Request for Fence at 303 East New Market Street – A building permit for a fence installation at 303 East Market Street was reviewed, ***Weston Hoffman made a motion to approve the building request, Donald Mervine seconded the motion and the Borough Council member unanimously approved the motion.*** Wanda Kantz will inform the property owner of the approval.

Request for East & West Makers on Street Signs – Regina Moyer comments that there has been a lot of mis-delivered package to residents due to no east or west markers on the street signs. The Streets and Alleys Committee will work on a plan for this issue.

Questions Regarding Have Bee Hives and Chickens – There are no ordinances regarding bees hives in the borough and chicken would need to be contained in the same way other pets need to be controlled.

Recycling Center Concerns – William Hoffman was present to voice his concerns regarding the proposed recycling center traffic concerns, expenses and etc. The Recycling Committee informed Mr. Hoffman there is a Community Meeting being planned to share and address these issues.

REPORTS FROM FREEBURG FIRE CO. – No Report

PESI REPORT – The January 2023 report from PESI regarding the Waste Water System was reviewed. No issues for Council action this month.

WWTP Corrective Action Plan Response– Josh Owens presented a Memorandum with potential corrective action plans for the WWTP. Josh Owens submitted the CAP response to DEP. **CAP was accepted by DEP on December 9, 2022.**

PA Small Water and Sewer Grant – Josh Owens has begun preparing a grant application for lining sewer line in the Borough, with a \$500,000.00 grant we would be able to complete lining half of the town’s sewer lines. Lining areas will be determined by the CCTV investigation. **Grant application was submitted on December 21, 2022.**

Manhole Inspections – Manhole inspections have begun, the last area to be inspected is on Market Street. The final portion will be coordinated with borough staff to provide traffic control on Route 35.

Smoke Testing – Will begin soon, pending weather. Smoke testing will be posted on Facebook.

CCTV Inspection – CCTV inspection will begin in March 2023, should take 2-3 weeks to complete.

MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY REPORT –

Nitrate Levels –Nitrate levels in the water have been elevated. The community has been made aware of the issue, with notices being mailed to all service units. The FMA is working with DEP and HRG to develop a plan of action for this issue. The Corrective Action Plan (CAP) had been submitted for DEP review and has been approved with minor changes. The next phase of the CAP is to complete the feasibility study. The final report the feasibility study has been submitted to DEP October 2019. The nitrate filtration system has been ordered. Construction bids have been awarded; construction began mid-June due to issues regarding computer chips for the system. Contractors are hoping to begin testing the system soon, then DEP inspection was Sept 15, 2022, DEP issued an operations permit, System start up and test are planned for Oct 2022. The FMA hopes to have the Nitrate Removal System operational by Feb 2023.

Most recent nitrate level testing has the nitrate level at **9.76 mg/l, on October 2022.** Next nitrate level test will be completed in January 2023.

PA Small Water & Sewer Grant – This grant program is for project under \$500,000.00. The FMA has submitted a grant application this grant program. Freeburg Municipal Authority was awarded a grant for **\$418,000.00.**

Project Delay – There may be a possible 6-month delay in the project completion due to computer chip issue, estimated ship date is now March 2023.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PERSONNEL –

Additional Snow Plow Operator Needed – Two application have been received for the snowplow operator position. Wayne Enders and Shawn Hokenbrough. After review of both applications, ***Angela Weaver of the personnel committee made a motion to hire both applicants as needed. Donald Mervine, also of the Personnel***

Committee, seconded the motion, the Freeburg Borough Council members approved the motion with Shawn Hokenbrough abstaining.

Rate of Pay for New Hires - Donald Mervine made a motion to approve an hourly rate of \$23.00/hour for both new hires. Catherine Dent seconded and the Borough Council member approve the new hire rate of \$23.00/hour, with Shawn Hokenbrough abstaining.

Change to the Personnel Committee Members – To avoid any possible conflict of interest Shawn Hokenbrough will be replaced on the Personnel Committee by Catherine Dent.

PLANNING –

Recycling – The recycling committee meet to review other possible locations for the new county recycling center and are planning a community meeting for some time possibly in March 2023. The Committee recommends having a survey done of the wastewater treatment plant area at a cost of \$2,800.00. Donald Mervine made a motion to have the wastewater treatment plant boundary survey completed, John Wiegler seconded, the Borough Council unanimously approved the motion. Wanda Kantz will contact Stahl, Sheaffer Engineering to begin the survey process.

STREETS & ALLEYS –

Forks for Skid Steer- The new forks for the skid steer have been purchases.

Lawn Mower – The Hustler Super Z – 27 hp Kawasaki, 60' deck lawn mower has been purchased from Hilly Ridge.

East & West Street Signs – The Committee will look into sign options for this issue.

Bridge repairs – The Committee will review the bridge survey report and make a recommendation for bridge repairs for the 2023 construction season.

2023-2024 Season Salt Order – It is time to place the 2023-2024 winter season salt order through Co-Stars. Wanda Kantz recommends purchasing 22 tons of salt for the 2023-2024 winter season. *John Wiegler made a motion to approved the 22 tons order for 2023-2024 season, Donald Mervine seconded, the Borough Council unanimously approved the motion.* Wanda Kantz will submit the 2023-2024 salt order.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS – January 2023 Income \$792.00

Drainage Issue at Soft Ball Field - After review and discussion, Wanda Kantz has contacted Penn DOT and Penn DOT will schedule this project.

Electric Scoreboard – Trent Hoffman coordinating this project.

Security System – Security cameras have been purchased and will be install in the near future.

Playground Issues – Since, the trees have been trimmed, it has been suggested to install landscape timbers, landscape stones and a flower bed in the area under and between the trees. Shawn Hokenbrough will donate the topsoil and landscape stones, Tabbetha VanHorn-Price will donate the flowers in the Spring of 2023 and Randal Witmer will determine how many landscape timbers will be needed.

Handicap Ramp for Borough Office Entrance. – There have been several requests for a handicap ramp at the borough office entrance. Trent Hoffman will get estimates for this project and report back to the council at a future meeting. Possible funding for this project could come from county block grants.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY – Nothing to report.

PUBLIC INFORMATION –

Borough Website – Weston Hoffman, Angela Weaver and Catherine Dent are working on the website creation.

Hometown Hero Banners – A total of 22 additional banners have been ordered.

NUISANCE PROPERTY ISSUES

205 East New Market Street–*This property has been posted by Keystone COG.* Hess Landscaping will maintain this property for the 2022 season.

6 East Market Street –*Keystone COG has also been contacted about the property. Property is currently for sale. Keystone COG should have issued a 3rd summons.*

206 East Market Street- Construction permit is valid until March 2023. Rental inspection was due the beginning of August 2022. *Keystone COG has been contacted about this property.*

4 West Front Street –There is accumulated junk and debris being stored on the porches and in the rear of this property. This property has been an ongoing problem for several years. *Keystone COG has been contacted about this property, Wanda Kantz will contact Keystone COG and ask them to give the property owner a firm deadline of Oct 1 to have the issues resolved.*

200 West Market Street – This property has been an issue for several years with unregistered vehicles, unregistered boat and other misc. debris. *Keystone COG has been contacted about this property. Wanda Kantz will contact Keystone COG and ask them to give the property owner a firm deadline of Oct 1 to have the issues resolved.*

10 East Front Street – There have been concerns regarding the ambulance setting in the rear of this property for several years. The ambulance is not registered. Wanda Kantz sent a first violation notice. A second violation letter has been mailed.

309 East Market Street – This property has sustained fire damage. According to Keystone COG an electrical permit has been granted and electrical repairs have been made and inspected. Repair are continuing on the exterior of the property.

New Code Inspection Agency – There have been discussions about looking into different code inspection agency, since Keystone COG has been lacking in enforcement in borough council members opinions. This issue will be discussed at future council meetings.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

CORRESPONDENCE –

NEW BUSINESS –

2022 Statement of Financial Interest are Needed - Statements of financial Interest have been distributed to council members. These forms are at the February 21, 2023 meeting.

Special Election – Jan 31, 2023 - There will be a special election held on Tuesday, January 31, 2023, to fill the vacant seat of PA state senator district 27 seat.

COUNCIL, MAYOR, SOLICITOR, EMPLOYEE CONCERNS –

DISC Golf Course – Weston Hoffman is working a disc golf course plan. He will present more details of this project in the future.

The next regular meeting of the Borough Council will be Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 7 pm.

A motion was made by John Wiegler, seconded by Donald Mervine to adjourn. Motion carried. The Borough Council meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm

Respectfully submitted, Wanda Kantz, Secretary