

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

<b>Approved March 21, 2023</b>
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**February 21, 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; Catherine Dent, Donald Mervine, John Wiegler, Angela Weaver and Weston Hoffman

Others present were: Fred Moyer, Mayor; Attorney Cravitz, Joshua Owens, PESI; Trent Hoffman, Thomas Gingrich, Gene Kreamer, Justin Barlup, USA Poultry and Wanda Kantz.

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

***On a motion by Angela Weaver and seconded by Catherine Dent the minutes of January 17, 2023 meeting were approved by the Borough Council.***

***On a motion by Donald Mervine 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 –**

**Lawrence Gingrich Lot Addition Plan** – Gene Kreamer presented a lot addition plan for 5-7 East New Market Street. This plan would divide the property into 3 lots. ***After review, Donald Mervine made a motion to approve the lot addition with a variance waiver required for the 10-foot property line offset requirement, John Wiegler seconded, and the Borough Council member unanimously approved the motion.*** Wanda Kantz will inform the property owners of the approval.

**Storm Water Run-off from possible development of Property on West Academy Street** – Thomas Gingrich shared his concerns regarding storm water run-off if the property on Academy Street is developed. The Borough Council will require a storm water plan if this property is developed.

**USA Poultry** – USA Poultry has requested 2 (two) EDUs of sewer service for the property at 400 East Front Street. The Freeburg Municipal Authority has already approved 2 EDU's of water service for this property at their February 16, 2023 meeting. ***Donald Mervine made a motion to approved the requested 2 EDUs of sewer service for the USA Poultry at 400 East Front Street, Angela Weaver seconded and the Borough Council members unanimously approved the motion.*** All cleaning/disinfection water must be hauled away, and USA Poultry must provide records is requested for review. Wanda Kantz will send USA Poultry an approval letter.

**REPORTS FROM FREEBURG FIRE CO.** – The Fire Company report from January 17 to February 21, 2023 was: 3-calls in the borough, 10 calls in the township and 2 mutual aid call for a total of 15 calls during the reporting period.

**PESI REPORT** – The February 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 and on individual properties.

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

**Electric Brown Out – February 9, 2023** – There was a wide spread electricity brown out on February 9, 2023, that cause damages at the waste water treatment plant, i.e., blown fuses, generator issues and a damaged blower motor. PESI and Wanda Kantz are working on the repairs and submitting an insurance claim for the damages.

## **MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY REPORT –**

**Nitrate Levels** –The Corrective Action Plan (CAP) had been submitted for DEP review and has been approved with minor changes. 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 2022 due to issues regarding computer chips for the system. DEP inspection was Sept 15, 2022, DEP issued a manual operations permit. The new computer chip has been installed Feb 2023 and the system was tested, with a few issues being found. Programmer is working on the computer issues.

Most recent nitrate level testing has the nitrate level at **10.0 mg/l, on January 19, 2023.** Next nitrate level test will be completed in April 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.**

**Source Water Protection Meeting** – There will be a meeting of the Source Water Protection Steering Committee on Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 2 pm

**Dirt Bikes Riding on FMA Property** – The community youth have been riding dirt bikes and ATVs on the municipal authority land again since the warmer weather. The FMA will look into way to possible deter this activity.

**Water Meter Reader** – Wayne Enders has been hired by the FMA to read water meters at a rate of \$23.00/hour.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**PERSONNEL** – Part Time employees will be giving a copy of the revised job description and a schedule of dates that they will need to submit their hours for payroll.

### 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 Wiegle seconded, the Borough Council unanimously approved the motion. Wanda Kantz will contact Stahl, Sheaffer Engineering to begin the survey process. There is a tentative community meeting scheduled for **Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm** in the gym to discuss recycling.

### STREETS & ALLEYS –

**East & West Street Signs** – Weston Hoffman did a survey of the town and we will need 27 east and west sign for all the street intersections. Wanda Kantz will research possible sign options for this project.

**Bridge repairs** – The Committee reviewed the bridge survey report and made a recommendation to start with the Front Street Bridge between Willow & Center Square Street. ***Donald Mervine made a motion to approve advertising for bids for this project, Catherine Dent seconded, and the Borough Council members unanimously approved the motion.*** Wanda Kantz will work on advertising for project bids.

### BUILDING AND GROUNDS – February 2023 Income \$839.00

**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. Wanda Kantz will contact the county community block grant manager for information to prepare an estimate for this project.

#### **PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY –**

**Local Police Coverage** – Tabbetha VanHorn-Price would like to check into having local police coverage in our borough. Tabbetha VanHorn-Price and Fred Moyer, Mayor will contact the Middleburg Police Department to discuss possible police coverage options.

#### **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.*

**6 East Market Street** –Keystone COG has also been contacted about the property. Property is currently for sale. ***Wanda Kantz has received complaints regarding this property from potential purchasers, Keystone COG has been contacted regarding the concerns and they will investigate.***

**206 East Market Street**- Construction permit is valid until March 2023. ***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 –**

**2022 Financial Interest Forms are due.**

**CORRESPONDENCE** – None

**NEW BUSINESS –**

**Open Borough Council Position** – There are 3 borough council position up for re-election this year. Primary election is May 16, 2023. Petitions for placement on the May ballot are due March 7, 2023

**DISC Golf Course** – Weston Hoffman presented a disc golf course plan at the baseball fields. There will be minimal cost for this project since most of the supplies have been donated. There is one modification to the proposed plan, due to not being able to throw a disc across a state road (South Street/ Reservoir Hill Road). The Council recommends that Weston Hoffman present this plan to the Rec. Association for their approval first and the Council will review and approve the plan.

**COUNCIL, MAYOR, SOLICITOR, EMPLOYEE CONCERNS –**

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

***A motion was made by Catherine Dent, seconded by Donald Mervine to adjourn. Motion carried.*** The Borough Council meeting was adjourned at 8:11 pm

Respectfully submitted, Wanda Kantz, Secretary