

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

April 18, 2023

Approved May 16 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, Shawn Hokenbrough and Weston Hoffman

Others present were: Attorney Cravitz, Joshua Owens, PESI; Kevin Meiser, Christine Meiser, Larry Troutman and Wanda Kantz.

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

On a motion by Shawn Hokenbrough and seconded by Donald Mervine the minutes of March 21, 2023 meeting were approved by the Borough Council.

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

PUBLIC CONCERNS

Building Permit Request for 7 East Market Street – The Property owners are requesting approval for construction of a pole building garage. After review, ***Donald Mervine made a motion to approve the permit request with a variance for the 10 ft property line offset since the requesting owner owns both properties, John Wiegler seconded, the Borough Council unanimously approved the building permit for 7 East Market Street.***

Bailey Corner Property, East Church Street & North Willow Street – Larry Troutman, property owner questioned the possibility of have water and sewer hook-up at this property. Mr. Troutman was informed that he would need to submit a letter of request for service hook-ups to the Freeburg Water Authority for water connection and to the Freeburg Borough for sewer connection, stating his intentions for developing the property.

REPORTS FROM FREEBURG FIRE CO. – The Fire Company report from March 21 to April 17, 2023 to was: 3-calls in the borough, 5 calls in the township and 2 mutual aid call for a total of 10 calls during the reporting period.

Washington Township EMS Service Areas Change – Kevin Meiser report that Washington Township has no received any complaints or report regarding Freeburg Fire Company service this month.

Upcoming Fire Company Events-

Mr. Sticky – April 19th; Mother’s Day Dinner – May 14th;

Carnival June 28th – July 1st, Parade 29th 7 pm. No rides at the carnival this year.

PESI REPORT – The April 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. **A CAP update was submitted April 28, 2023. Ordinance education and remediation survey will be included with the 2nd quarter water & sewer bills, on June 30, 2023.**

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 been completed. Reports are being reviewed

Smoke Testing – Smoke testing has been completed. Reports are being reviewed.

CCTV Inspection – CCTV inspection has been completed. Reports are being reviewed.

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.

Future Waste Water Treatment Plant Project – The WWTP area has been surveyed to help facilitate planning for future WWTP projects.

Blower #2 – Blower #2 needs repaired. Joshua Owens will get an estimate for the repairs for the next council meeting

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. **The Nitrate Removal Systems is currently running, issues are being trouble shot as they arise.** DEP required completion date is June 30, 2023.

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**.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PERSONNEL –

Coverage for Brough Secretary - Regina Moyer is interested helping to cover for Wanda Kantz's vacations, etc. She will job shadow with Wanda Kantz to see what is involved in the position.

T-shirts & Sweatshirts for Staff - Wanda Kantz is working with a new supplier for T-Shirts and sweatshirts for the borough staff.

PLANNING –

STREETS & ALLEYS –

East & West Street Signs – Weston Hoffman did a survey of the town and we will need 27 east and west signs for all the street intersections. Wanda Kantz suggested using the 2023 County Aid distribution for this project. Wanda Kantz will submit the 2023 County Aid Project application.

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. Penn Dot stated there is not enough info on the report to compile a bid notice. Wanda Kantz has reached out to Stahl, Sheaffer for additional info for the bids.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS – April 2023 Income \$917.00

Drainage Issue at Soft Ball Field - After review and discussion, Wanda Kantz has contacted Penn DOT and Penn DOT will schedule this project. Wanda Kantz will meet with Penn DOT on Tuesday, April 25th regarding this project.

Security System –Security cameras have been purchased and will be install in the near future. Currently Trent Hoffman is working on running the wiring for the security cameras.

Ballfield Issues – Diamondtex has been purchased for both ball fields, \$900.00. Electronic score board has been installed and is operational, cost for installation \$1,000.00. Fencing repairs have been completed at a cost of \$1,300.00. All costs has been covered by the Recreation Assoc.

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. Randal Witmer estimates it will cost between \$1,000 to \$1,600 for landscape

timbers for the project. **After discussion the council decided to use railroad ties instead of landscape timber due to the expense. Three tires will be used as flowerbeds in the area the trees were removed to limit vehicle access to the playground.**

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.

Disc Golf Course – Has been approved, needs to be installed.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY –

Dogs – There have been a few dog bite issues in town again, this issue will be discussed at a future meeting.

PUBLIC INFORMATION –

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

Hometown Hero Banners – Tabbetha VanHorn Price is working on packets for the Hometown Hero Banners, listing all of the Hometown Heroes that have honored. She would like to possibly have the community church bells rung at 3 pm in honor of all veterans. **Banners will be hung on Friday, May 12th & Saturday, May 13th.**

NUISANCE PROPERTY ISSUES

205 East New Market Street–***This property has been posted by Keystone COG.*** The Borough has received an EPA complaint regarding this property. Wanda Kantz and Attorney Cravitz will look into the possibility of condemning this property and possible selling it in the future. There is a property maintenance company oversee this property, Cypress Services, LLC

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,***

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.***

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.

CORRESPONDENCE – None

NEW BUSINESS –

Memorial Day Events – Tabbetha VanHorn Price has contacted several food trucks and arranged for them to be open after the Memorial Day parade. Food Truck lined up are, Windy Wagon, Rolling Cones & Uncle Dave’s BBQ.

EMS Week - Seven Mountains EMS Council would like all borough to proclaim EMS week from May 21 to 27, 2023. *Angie Weaver made a motion for Freeburg Borough to proclaim WMS week from May 21 to May27, 2023, Donald Mervine seconded, the Borough Council unanimously approved the motion.* Wanda Kantz will post a notice on Facebook for EMS Week.

COUNCIL, MAYOR, SOLICITOR, EMPLOYEE CONCERNS – None

The next regular meeting of the Borough Council will be Tuesday, May 16, 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 8:22 pm

Respectfully submitted, Wanda Kantz, Secretary