

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE FREEBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL  
March 21, 2023**

<b>Approved April 18, 2023</b>
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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: Fred Moyer, Mayor; Attorney Cravitz, Joshua Owens, PESI; Kevin Meiser, Christine Meiser, Angela Rice, Keith Rice and Wanda Kantz.

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

***On a motion by John Wiegler and seconded by Angela Weaver the minutes of February 21, 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** – None

**REPORTS FROM FREEBURG FIRE CO.** – The Fire Company report from February 22 to March 21, 2023 to was: 5-calls in the borough, 8 calls in the township and 2 mutual aid call for a total of 15 calls during the reporting period.

**Washington Township EMS Service Areas Change Discussed** – Kevin Meiser informed the borough council that Washington township requested the Fire Company leadership to attend the most recent township supervisors meeting to discuss a possible change of service area assignment for EMS calls. The Township supervisors cited several complaints regarding EMS service through the Freeburg Fire Company, but they would not comment on any details regarding the alleged complaints. Several fire company personnel shared their versions of the meeting and that the Township decided to put the Fire Company on a 6-month review of this issue. After discussion, ***Catherine Dent made a motion to send a letter to the Washington Township supervisors requesting detail of the complaints and the sharing that Freeburg Brough Council doesn't support this possible change, Donald Mervine seconded the motion, the Borough Council unanimously approved the motion.*** Attorney Cravitz will draft a letter to the Washington Township Supervisor regarding this issue.

**Freeburg Firemen's Carnival - June 28 to July 1, 2023, Parade will be July 29<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.** ***Weston Hoffman made a motion to approve the parade date for a special event permit to be submitted, Catherine Dent seconded, the Borough Council unanimously approved the motion.*** Wanda Kantz will submit the special event permit to Penn DOT.

## **Upcoming Fire Company Events-**

Gift Card Bingo – April 16, \$20.00; Mr. Sticky – April 19<sup>th</sup>; Mother’s Day Dinner – May 14<sup>th</sup>

**PESI REPORT** – The March 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 been completed, PESI working on final report.

**Smoke Testing** – Smoke testing will be done on March 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>, all service units will be posted and the dates will also be posted on Facebook.

**CCTV Inspection** – CCTV inspection will be beginning of April 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.

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

**Sewer Line Repair at 104 East New Market Street** – The lateral sewer line under New Market Street collapsed and required emergency repairs. While completing the repairs the water line was also broken. Both lines have been repaired.

## **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. **DEP required completion dated is July 1, 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.**

**Source Water Protection Meeting** – There was a meeting of the Source Water Protection Steering Committee on Tuesday, March 14, 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.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**PERSONNEL** – Nothing to Report

**PLANNING** –

**Recycling** –The tentative community meeting scheduled for **Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm,** will be cancelled.

**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 suggested using the 2023 County Aid distribution for this project. ***Weston Hoffman made a motion to submit this project for the 2023 County Aid program, Angela Weaver seconded, and the Borough Council unanimously approved the motion.*** 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.

**Running Boards for Truck** – Randy Witmer got an estimated for sunning boards for the borough truck of \$225.15. ***Weston Hoffman made a motion to purchase the running boards at a cost of \$255.15, Angela Weaver seconded and the Borough Council unanimously approved the motion.*** Wanda Kantz will process the check for the running boards.

**BUILDING AND GROUNDS – March 2023 Income \$1,946.00**

**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** – The score board has been installed, electrical work to be completed soon.

**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.

**Disc Golf Course** – Weston Hoffman presented a revised disc golf course for approval. After review, ***Weston Hoffman made a motion to approved the proposed disc golf course, with the Fire Company's approval, Catherine Dent seconded and the Borough Council unanimously approved the motion.***

#### **PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY –**

**Local Police Coverage** – Tabbetha VanHorn-Price met with the Middleburg Police Department regarding coverage of our borough and at this time they do not have enough man power to provide the requested services. Police coverage in the borough is tabled at this time.

#### **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.

#### **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.

**6 East Market Street** – **This property has been sold.**

**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.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS –**

**2022 Financial Interest Forms are due.**

**CORRESPONDENCE – None**

#### **NEW BUSINESS –**

**Memorial Day Parade – May 29<sup>th</sup> at 11 am, Donald Mervine made a motion to approve the Memorial Day Parade for May 29<sup>th</sup> at 11am for a special event permit application, John Wiegles seconded, the Borough Council unanimously approved the motion.** Wanda Kantz will submit the Memorial Day Parade Special Event Permit application.

**\*\*Amendment to Agenda** – Purchase of T-Shirts and Sweatshirt for Borough Employees.

***Donald Mervine made a motion to amend the March 21, 2023 Council Meeting Agenda to discuss the purchase of T-shirts and Sweatshirts for Borough Employees. Catherine Dent seconded; the Borough Council unanimously approved the motion.***

Wanda Kantz suggested purchasing T-shirts and sweatshirts for the borough employees for safety purposes. ***Donald Mervine made a motion to purchase 2 T-shirts and a Sweatshirt for each borough employee in the safety green color, John Wiegles seconded; the Borough Council unanimously approved the motion.*** Wanda Kantz will order the T-shirts and sweatshirts.

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

**The next regular meeting of the Borough Council will be Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 7 pm.**

***A motion was made by Weston Hoffman, seconded by Donald Mervine to adjourn.  
Motion carried.*** The Borough Council meeting was adjourned at 8:14 pm

Respectfully submitted, Wanda Kantz, Secretary