

**MNUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE FREEBURG MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY**

**Approve  
May 16, 2024**

**March 14, 2024**

**Members Present:** Robert Heintzelman, presiding; Thomas Gingrich, Bruce Blades and William Hoffman.

**Others Present:** Attorney Robert Cravitz, Josh Owens, PESI; Josh Satteson, HRG; and Wanda Kantz.

Robert Heintzelman called the regular meeting to order.

The February 15, 2024 meeting minutes were available for review. *Thomas Gingrich moved to approve the minutes, Bruce Blades seconded, the FMA members unanimously approved the motion.*

The paid bills for March 2024 were reviewed, *William Hoffman made a motion to approved the March 2024 paid bills, Thomas Gingrich seconded the motion, the FMA members unanimously approved the motion.*

Due to issue with reimbursement from the Pa Small Water Grant there will be a negative balance in the FMA Checking account once approved bills are paid. *Thomas Gingrich made a motion to transfer \$18,000 from the Capital Reserve Account (Tower Income Account) to the General Checking account, Bruce Blades seconded and the FMA members unanimously approved the motion.* Wanda Kantz will transfer the needed funds.

**PUBLIC CONCERNS:**

**Water Main Break 3/12/2024 around 8:15 pm** There was a water main break in the 100 East Market Street block. There was an 8-foot-long break in the water line, with a 14 foot of pipe needing to be repaired. 100,000 gallons of water was lost from the reservoir. Total cost is unknow at this time, estimated around \$15,000.00, Dave Gutielius Excavating, Inc. did the repairs. Boil Water advisory was issues and notices were posted on all service units.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**PESI Report** – The PESI report for March 2024 was reviewed, completed issues PESI has done:

- All the monthly DEP Reports for have been submitted with no violations.
- Addressed issues from FPPE
- Updated monitoring calendar and process control meter calibrations
- Preformed quarterly regulation 334 chlorine meter calibrations
- Water shut off’s
- Enforcement items response to DEP, NSF carts & FPPE discussion with DEP

- Resolved NSF items & assisted with chemical deliveries
- Computer issues

### Action Items:

- Interlock Equipment – The reservoir, plant and clearwell should be interlocked together to provide continue system pressure & supply.
  - This should be completed with upgrades.
  - PESI recommends level sensor with float backup control to ensure minimum runtime of 20k gallons a day for compliance.
- Finished Water Line – Repair work will be scheduled once level monitoring system is completed.
- Reporting – The spreadsheet has been updated to include Galene info, but the reporting has not been changed to match DEP reporting.
- Regulators – 2 of 3 regulators have arrived, waiting for the third to perform installation.
- Filter Items – Pall sent list of required repairs.
- FPPE – Filter Plant Performance Evaluation was conducted November 7 & 8, 2023
  - DEP Exit meeting was held on Jan 30, 2024 at 10 am
  - Waiting for final report

**Water usage for last month: Average GPD: 58,000      Maximum GPD: 71,000**

### Nitrate Level Issues

**Consent Order from DEP** – Consent Order & Agreement (COA) has been terminated by DEP effective June 27, 2023.

**Nitrate Levels** – Current daily nitrate levels are between 4.6 mg/L and 5.5mg/L

**PA Small Water and Sewer Grant** - Grant request has been submitted. Freeburg Municipal Authority was awarded a PA Small Water and Sewer Grant in the amount of \$418,302.00. Robert Heintzelman and Bruce Blades e-signed the documents for the grant. The grant coordinator has been contacted about an extension on the grant program to include time for the level monitoring system to be bid and installed, since the grant committee approved reimbursement of this project though the grant funds.

**Waiting on reimbursement of \$109,790.15**

**Remaining balance on grant is \$42,479.85.**

**Grant had been extended to June 30, 2024**

**Grant extension request #2** - A request for an extension on the PA Small water & sewer grant #1 has been requested due to the scope of the project including the water level monitoring system. William Hoffman made a motion to approve the grant extension letter, Bruce Blades seconded and the FMA member unanimously approved the motion. Wanda Kantz submitted the grant extension request letter on February 29, 2024.

**Line of Credit** – The FMA has received a proposal from The Northumberland National Bank for a \$150,000.00 line of credit, for the construction of the Nitrate Removal System, for a 66-month loan with a 1.99% interest rate. The Northumberland National bank has completed the loan documents, all loan documents have been signed and loan is ready for any needed funds draws. **Current Line of credit balance is \$140,000.00.**

**Salt Usage** – It is estimated that the nitrate removal system will use about 56 lbs. of salt per day to treat 40,000 gallons of water. Monthly salt deliveries have been set up with Cole's Hardware from Selinsgrove, PA.

**PALL Upgrades and Maintenance** – PALL has submitted a report noting repair and possible upgrade issues for review. Estimated cost of repairs is \$12,965.00. PALL also suggested adding two additional filter unit to help decrease water pressure on the system, estimated cost of each filter is \$7,000.00, \$14,000.0 for two additional filters.

**Second PA Small Water & Sewer Grant Application #2**– The new grant request would include PALL recommended repairs/upgrades and two additional filter units. Estimated amount of grant is \$50,000 to \$100,000. The second Pa Small Water & Sewer Grant application has been submitted. The Freeburg Municipal Authority has received a \$80,000.00 grant. Wanda Kantz will contact Pall to verify their Co-Stars participation and the project will move forward.

**Replacement Heater in Chemical Room** – Josh Owens shared that the heater in the chemical room is not working and needs to be replaced. A quote from Paige Electric was presented for review, the quote was for \$1,600.00 to replaces the heater. It was suggested to get additional quotes for this project possibly from TRA Electric. Additional quote will be review at a future meeting.

**TeamViewer** – Currently the TeamViewer program used by PESI to monitor the water plant is only allowing 3 users, there is a need for more viewers to access the system. To upgrade our subscription on TeamViewer is would cost \$1,200/year. Another option is LogMeIn for \$420.00/year with unlimited viewers, PESI has been testing this program and it is working well, so the TeamViewer subscription will be cancelled and a LogMeIn subscription will be purchased at a cost of \$420.00/year.

**Source Water Protection Plan**– The complete Source Water Protection Plan has been reviewed. The approval of this plan has been shared with the community

**2024 Steering Committee Meeting** – The committee met Thursday, Feb 29, 2024 at 1 pm. The 2023 report has been submitted and accepted by DEP

**Water Shed Grant Program** - Snyder County Conservation District is applying for a water shed grant to help divert storm water away from well heads and public water supplies. Freeburg Municipal Authority has been approached to be part of the program to help

decrease our nitrate levels from storm waters. This program would have no upfront cost the Authority, only cost would be future maintenance of the system. Thomas Gingrich made a motion to agree to work with the Snyder County Conservation district in this program, Joseph Volinskie seconded and the FMA members approved the motion.

**American Tower Discussions** – American Tower has requested a review of the previous submitted offer. The authority has decided currently table this issue.

**Level Sensor System** – PSW&S Grant has approved this as reimbursable with the grant money.

- TRA Electric was award the project - \$22,465.00
- HRG reviewed the bids for compliance.
- Contract award letter has been signed.
- Components have been ordered, waiting for delivery.
- Project could be completed by June 2024.

**Trees at Reservoir** –Timbering project is completed. No dumping signs will be posted.

**Holes in Reservoir Roof** – There are some holes in the plastic panels on the roof of the reservoir. This issue will be discussed at a future meeting.

**Road Issues at Water Plant & Reservoir** – There are some large holes developing on the access roads to the water plant and the reservoir. Wanda Kantz will have the borough staff see about doing some repairs to the access roads.

**Water System Replacement Priorities Committee Update - The Committee includes Thomas Gingrich, William Hoffman, HRG representative and a PESI representative, Joshua Owens.** Joshua Satteson presented updated cost estimates for system wide repairs of the water lines and connections. Current estimated is 5 million dollars. Larson Design can provide technical assistance for developing a phased plan for the upgrades. Thomas Gingrich suggested creating a committee to review option for water line improvements and prioritizing projects. Wanda Kantz will check with Penn DOT on scheduled repair projects on Route 35, Whitetop Road and Reservoir Hill Road.

- Working on updating all addresses in the borough for CBDG survey to be completed.
- Working on a phase approach to system repair. Creating a plan to be proactive and not reactive
- Josh Satteson has developed a phased capital improvement plan at a total cost of \$5,109,000
- Funding meeting was held with Penn Vest, USDA, Snyder Co Commissioners and our State Representatives & Congress persons offices
- Penn vest can offer a 60% grant with a 1%fixed interest rate for 20 years.
  - For a PennVest Grant/Loan design must be completed and permits

must be in hand to apply.

- USDA is currently offering a 30 years loan at 3.25%
- The H2O program is not going to be funded for 2024 per governmental sources.
- Contacting SEDA-COG regarding possible CBDG Grant.
  - Possible income survey in Spring of 2024
  - Send out education materials regarding the survey in the newsletter.
  - Request Shannon Rudy to attend a future FMA meeting.
- To complete a system design it will take 1 to 2 years, at an estimated cost of \$200,000 to \$250,000.00.
  - Permits along would cost \$45,000.00 (estimated)
- Josh Satteson Proposed the estimated cost for the design would be \$163,390.00

**Water Meter Replacement Project** – The FMA will start planning to replace water meters in 2025 budget, due to most meters being at least 20 years old. Meter replacement would cost an estimated \$300 per meter. Josh Owens and Josh Satteson, both suggested implementing a Transfer of Property Ordinance like other borough are using to have the water meter replaces and sewer connections inspected before the property transfer can be completed. This would be at the seller's expense. This ordinance will be reviewed at a future meeting.

**Lead & Copper Service Lines Inspection** – Service lines for customers need to be inspected by October 2024 for lead and copper pipes according to DEP and Federal mandates. PESI submitted a cost for the lead, copper and sewer service line inspection of \$280/day for two PESI employees to do the inspections. **The inspections are scheduled for April 15-19, 2024.** This cost would be split with the sewer authority. Thomas Gingrich made a motion to give tentative approval for the inspections to proceed with the option to ask additional questions of Josh Owens, regarding this project if needed. William Hoffman seconded the motion, the FMA members unanimously approved the motion.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Service Agreement for Air Compressors** – Josh Owens will get service agreement price for the air compressors. This will be reviewed at the April 16, 2024 meeting.

**Painting of Fire Hydrant** – All fire hydrants should be painted red per Josh Owens due to liability purposes.

**HyperReach Communication Systems** – The borough council is looking into the HyperReach system to help contact community residents of important issues in a timely manner, i.e. disasters, water issues and other community issues. A system like this would have saved the FMA several man hours with not having to physically post water notices.

**AUTHORITY MEMBERS/EMPLOYEE CONCERNS:**

*Thomas Gingrich made a motioned to adjourn, William Hoffman seconded, the motion carried.* The Freeburg Municipal Authority's meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm.

The next FMA meeting will be **Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 7 pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Wanda Kantz, Secretary  
Freeburg Borough / Freeburg Municipal Authority Secretary/Treasurer

*2024 FMA officers are:*

*Robert Heintzelman, President*

*Bruce Blades, Vice-President*

*Joseph Volinskie, Treasurer*

*Wanda Kantz, Recording Secretary & Assistant Treasurer.*