

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

**Approved
June 12, 2024**

May 16, 2024

Members Present: Thomas Gingrich, Bruce Blades and William Hoffman.

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

Bruce Blades called the regular meeting to order.

The March 14, 2024 meeting minutes were available for review. ***Bruce Blades moved to approve the minutes, Thomas Gingrich seconded, the FMA members unanimously approved the motion.***

There was no FMA meeting on April 11, 2024, due to a lack of quorum.

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

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

PUBLIC CONCERNS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

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

- All the monthly DEP Reports for have been submitted with no violations.
- Worked on Nitrate system issues with Riordan
- Worked on high pressure filter issues
- High TMP check at plant
- Read meters
- Discussion with DEP about low pH, Giardia log.
- Worked on HOP
- Completed quarterly Calibrations
- VFD alarm callout: Issue with low chlorine
- Address air leak on filter system. Repaired membrane
- Nitrate testing discussion with Pall and Galene.

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 – Waiting on last regulator, 1 installed.
- Filter Items – Pall sent list of required repairs.
- Funding – Meeting with Sen. Culver/Rep. Rowe, May 13, 2024 at 9 am
- Calibrations – Quarterly calibrations to occur 7/8/2024
- SLI - Ongoing
- 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: Maximum GPD:

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 through 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.

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.

New quotes from AriaFiltru on May 9, 2024, are less than the original quotes received from Pall Corp. The new quote from AriaFiltru for the membranes was \$39,000 including installation service. *Thomas Gingrich made a motion to pursue the revises quote for purchase of the propitiatory equipment from AriaFiltru subject to CFA approval. William Hoffman second, and the FMA members unanimously approved the motion.*

William Hoffman made a motion to purchase all other items needed for the plant rehabilitation as a small products purchase of \$8,685.66, Thomas Gingrich seconded and the FMA members unanimously approved the motion.

With the additional money left on Grant #2, the FMA will contact CFA and see if the money can possible be used to replace Air Compressor #2, which will need to be replaced in the near future. Wanda Kantz & Josh Satteson will work on these issues.

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 replace the heater. It was suggested to get additional quotes for this project possibly from TRA Electric. Additional quote will be reviewed at a future meeting.

Nitrate System Brine Pump Issues – There are issues with the Nitrate system brine pump, the tape used on the connections has disintegrated and the brine solution is leaking directly on the pump causing corrosion and damage to the pump. **Photos of the issue were sent to HRG on April 2, 2024. The construction warranty expired on April 4, 2024. HRG will contact J P Environmental to look at the issue, and possibly come up with a solution for this issue. Pump replacement options will be reviewed in the future.**

Handheld Nitrate Meter – The handheld nitrate meter is not working properly and can not be calibrated. This meter is required by DEP, Josh Owens suggests the purchase of a Hanna Nitrate Photometer at the cost of \$320.00. *William Hoffman made a motion to purchased the new Hanna Nitrate Photometer at a cost of \$320.00, Bruce Blades seconded and the FMA members unanimously approved the motion.* Josh Owens will order the new handheld nitrate meter.

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. The FMA requested that Attorney Cravitz contact American Tower regarding a new offer stating that improvements have been made to the site are, i.e. tree removal, improved safety for the tower, etc.

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.
- Installation should occur the week of May 27, 2024
- Project could be completed by June 2024.

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
- 2023 Project to finish Front Street to South Street and replace the main serviced line from the Reservoir was estimated at \$720,000.00. Projected current cost increase of 10-15% for 2024 costs
- 2023 Reservoir Hill and Market Street project was estimated at \$2,138,000.00. Projected current cost increase of 10-15% for 2024 costs
- Maybe a good idea to contact Federal Representative Thompson, regarding earmarked money and possible utilization of a Senate funding Specialist.

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 review 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. Currently 65% of the inspections have been completed.

Service Agreement for Air Compressors – Service quote for the new air compressor is \$1,629.41 per year. The FMA members decided to table this discussion until October 2024, since there is currently a one-year warranty on the air compressor.

Property Transfer Ordinance – The FMA is reviewing an ordinance that would require all properties that are being sold to replace the water meter at the owner's expense before transfer of ownership. This ordinance will be discussed at the June 13, 2024 meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Local Share Account – The State Local Share Account is a possible funding source for engineering cost for the water replacement project. Josh Satteson and Wanda Kantz will research this fund source further.

AUTHORITY MEMBERS/EMPLOYEE CONCERNS:

Bruce Baldes made a motioned to adjourn, William Hoffman seconded, the motion carried. The Freeburg Municipal Authority's meeting was adjourned at 8:21 pm.

The next FMA meeting will be **Thursday, June 13, 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 Volinski, Treasurer
Wanda Kantz, Recording Secretary & Assistant Treasurer.