

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

**Approved
July 11, 2024**

June 13, 2024

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

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

Bruce Blades called the regular meeting to order.

The May 16 2024 meeting minutes were available for review. *Thomas Gingrich moved to approve the minutes, William Hoffman seconded, the FMA members unanimously approved the motion.*

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

PUBLIC CONCERNS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

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

- All the monthly DEP Reports for have been submitted with no violations.
- Replaced EFM line
- Held DEP discussion about Nitrate system
- Worked on pH meter & PA 1 Call notices
- Worked on IT testing issues
- Worked on air regulator
- Repaired water leak at 207 E Market Street
- Repaired CL2 line
- Prep LCRR plan
- Shut water off at 107 East New Market Street
- Prepped for and collected PFAS samples
- Addressed reporting NOV with DEP
- Purchased and began using new handheld nitrate analyzer (Hanna Instruments)
- EFM Chemical line repair

Action Items:

- Interlock Equipment – The reservoir, plant and clearwell should be interlocked together to provide continue system pressure & supply.

- Transducer is installed.
- Panels at reservoir & plant installed
- Levels visible on computer
- Working through the control protocol with Northpoint Controls.
- Finished Water Line – Repair work will be scheduled once level monitoring system is completed.
- Regulators – Waiting on last regulator, 1 installed.
- Filter Items – Pall sent list of required repairs., repairs included as part of Grant #2
- Funding – Meeting with Sen. Culver/Rep. Rowe, May 13, 2024 at 9 am. All requested items have been sent to Sen. Culver’s office
- Calibrations – Quarterly calibrations to occur 7/8/2024
- SLI – Ongoing (84% completed)
- 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
- Air Compressor – Looking for COSTARS approved air compressor vendor to utilize excess grant funds to replace 2nd air compressor

Water usage for last month: Average GPD: 50,000 Maximum GPD: 84,000

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 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. All documents for the extension have been signed and are currently pending review by the CFA legal

department.

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.

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.** Wanda Kantz will check with the bank on the date when the FMA will need to start making payments on this loan.

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.

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. Galene and Riordan both noticed the leaking during service visits. The system design appears to contribute to the issues. This issue should have been addressed on the punch list for the general contractor and was not. Authority member feel that this repair should not be the responsibility of the municipal authority.

Letter to Engineers - It has been suggested to send a letter to the engineers overseeing the project detailing this issue and requesting their assistance in resolving this issue. ***William Hoffman made a motion to have Attorney Matthew Cravitz send a letter to the engineers (HRG), Thomas Gingrich seconded the motion and the FMA members unanimously approved the motion.*** Attorney Cravitz will draft a letter.

Replacement Pump Purchase - Josh Owens commented that if the pump should stop functioning the entire plant will be at stand still. He suggested purchasing a replacement pump to have on hand. ***William Hoffman made a motion for Josh***

Owens to get a price for a replacement pump if less than \$3,000.00, go ahead with the purchase, Thomas Gingrich seconded and the FMA members unanimously approved the motion.

Water Leaks – PA Rural Water was recently in the borough on June 13, 2024, with their leak detecting equipment and found two possible leaks. One at 5 West Market Street, a major leak of 2,000-5,000 gallons/day and a possible hydrant leak on Whitetop Road. PESI will investigate if the leak is on the borough side of the shut-off or on the property owner's side.

March 12, 2024 Water Main Break – During the March 12, 2024 water main break, water from the leak infiltrated the sewer line at the location of the break. Camering of the sewer lines was suggested. MR. Rehab, LLC submitted a quote for camering of the affected lines of \$6,450.00. After review and discussion, noting that there have not been any continued issues with the sewer lines in the break area the FMA members decided to table this issue.

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 \$48,000 including installation service. This quote was approved at the May 16, 2024 FMA meeting.

- ***Thomas Gingrich made a motion to purchase the equipment from AriaFiltru at a cost of \$48,000, including installation, Bruce Blades seconded the motion, the FMA members unanimously approved the motion.***
- Air Compressor can be reimbursed under grant #2 as a micro purchase as long as it comes from a Costars approved vendor.

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.

Handheld Nitrate Meter – The new handheld nitrate meter is working well.

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 does not have enough money available to help with the water shed project at the well site. Joshua Satteson suggested the FMA apply for a 319 Water Shed Grant. Josh Satteson said he would help with the application at no cost to the FMA. ***Thomas Gingrich made a motion to authorize Joshua Satteson to complete the 319 Water Shed Grant application on the FMA's behalf, Bruce Blades seconded and the FMA members unanimously approved the motion.*** Joshua Satteson will start working on the application process.

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

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 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.
- CDBG money can be used for Planning & Design.
- 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.

Lead & Copper Service Lines Inspection – Service lines for customers need to 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. This cost would be split with the sewer authority. **Currently 84% of the inspection have been completed. There are currently 46 units still needing inspection.**

Compliance Plan - PESI suggests sending a letter to those units and giving them a 30 day notice to have the inspection completed, if not \$100 contingent fines can be assessed on the next water and sewer bill, if still not completed water service can be shut off until inspection is completed. ***Thomas Gingrich made a motion to approve the suggested compliance plan presented by PESI, William Hoffman seconded, the FMA members unanimously approved the motion.***

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.

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 18, 2024 Borough Council meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

NEW BUSINESS:

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 8:02 pm.

The next FMA meeting will be **Thursday, July 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.