

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

Approved Nov 19, 2024

October 16, 2024

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; Angela Weaver, Erica Stephenson, John Wiegler and Regina Moyer.

Others present were: Attorney Robert Cravitz, Richard “Bud” Bickhart, Mayor; Josh Owens, PESI; Tom Gingrich, Keith Rice, John Reichenbach and Wanda Kantz.

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

On a motion by Angela Weaver and seconded by John Wiegler the minutes of September 17, 2024 meeting minutes were approved by the Borough Council.

On a motion by John Wiegler the October 2024 bills presented were approved for payment, seconded by Erica Stephenson, the motion was approved by the Borough Council members.
Wanda Kantz will pay the approved bills.

PUBLIC CONCERNS -None

REPORTS FROM FREEBURG FIRE CO. – No Report

Tanker Inspection – During the recent tanker inspection the inspection company used a significant amount of water causing alarms to be innated due to volume loss from the reservoir. It is estimated that 14,000 gallons was lost within 30 minutes. The FMA will investigate this issue and possible bill the inspection company for the water usage.

PESI REPORT – The October 2024 report from PESI regarding the Waste Water System was reviewed.

WWTP Corrective Action Plan Response– Josh Owens submitted the CAP response to DEP, it was accepted by DEP on December 9, 2022. A CAP update was submitted April 28, 2023. Ordinance education and remediation survey was included on June 30, 2023, with the 2nd quarter 2023 water & sewer bills. Service line inspections has been completed to identify possible connections issues.

Steel Basement Steps – The steel basement steps have been repaired.

Pump #2 – There are issues with Pump#2, this pump needs to be repaired or replaced, Joshua Owens is working on prices for both options for the next meeting.

Cross-Connection on Market Street – During smoke testing a cross-connection issue was discovered on Market Street. Ways to further test this issue are to do dye test during a heavy rain event and/or lateral camera testing of the lines. Dye testing was approved at the August 15, 2023 meeting. Josh Owens will look into dye testing for this issue.

Service Line Inspections – Service lines need to be inspected for lead and copper pipes by Oct 2024 by the FMA. PESI would like to include sewer service line inspections with this project to investigate for non-approved connections into the sewer lines. PESI provided a proposal to complete service line inspection at a cost of \$280/day for two PESI employees, this cost will be split with the FMA, so the sewer authority would be responsible for \$140/day for the inspections. Service line inspections have been completed; 3 unit were unable to be inspected. Now, remediation inspections will be done to follow-up on issues that needed to be repaired.

Future Waste Water Treatment Plant Project – The WWTP area has been surveyed to help facilitate planning for future WWTP projects. The Borough secretary and Josh Owens met with a grant specialist at Senator Schlagle-Culver’s office to discuss funding option for lining the borough’s sewer pipes. The specialist suggested setting up a meeting with Senator Thompson in State College to request a congressional appropriation for this project. Also, the borough secretary is working on a County CDBG survey of the borough residents. The results of this survey will be shared with the community in a future borough newsletter.

MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY REPORT –

PA Small Water & Sewer Grant #2 – The FMA received \$80,000 from the PA Small Water & Sewer Grant program for upgrades and improvement at the water treatment plant.

Property Ownership Transfer Ordinance - The FMA has reviewed a Property Ownership Transfer Ordinance which would require property owners selling their property to have a new water meter installed and sewer service lines inspected before the property ownership can be transferred. The Borough Council will need to approve this sewer ordinance first.

Lead & Copper Service Line Inspection– Lead & copper service line inspections have been completed; report has been filed.

Leaks – Two water leaks have been repaired; water production volume have gone down 35,000 gallons with these repairs.

Resignation of Joseph Volinskie from FMA – Joseph Volinskie has submitted his resignation from the Freeburg Municipal Authority. A new member will need to be appointed. *Angela Weaver made a motion to accept Joseph Volinskie’s resignation from the FMA, Tabbetha VanHorn Price seconded, the Borough Council members unanimously approved the motion.*

Appointment of New FMA Members – The FMA would like to recommend John Wiegler and John Reichenbach for appointment to fill the vacant FMA positions. *Erica Stephenson made a motion to approve John Wiegler and John Reichenbach for appointment to the Freeburg Municipal Authority, Regina Moyer seconded, the Borough Council members unanimously approved the appointments.*

Borough Status Report –

Freeburg Borough Safety Manual – The revised Safety Manual was presented for review. After review, **Angela Weaver made a motion to approve the Freeburg Borough Safety Manual, Erica Stephenson seconded, the Borough Council member unanimously approved the motion.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE – *Catherine Dent, Chair; Angela Weaver and Tabbetha VanHorn Price.*

Additional Public Works Employee Hiring – Marvin Weaver was recommended for employment as a public works employee. **Tabbetha VanHorn Price made a motion to approve the hiring of Marvin Weaver, John Wieggle seconded, the Borough council members approved the motion, with Angela Weaver abstaining.** Wanda Kantz will provide Marvin Weaver with the new hire paperwork.

2023 Audit – 2023 Audit is completed. The audit was presented for review. After review, **Erica Stephenson made a motion to approve the 2023 Borough audit, Angela Weaver seconded, the Borough Council members unanimously approved the motion.**

2025 Budget – The 2025 Budget is being worked on.

ORDINANCES & PLANNING – *Tabbetha VanHorn Price, Chair, Erica Stephenson and John Wieggle*

Transfer of Ownership Ordinances –

Sewer Ordinance – The Transfer of Ownership Sewer Ordinance was presented for approval. **Angela Weaver made a motion to approve the transfer of ownership sewer ordinance, Tabbetha VanHorn Price seconded, the Borough Council members unanimously approved the motion.** The ordinance will take effect January 1, 2025. This information will be published on the borough website and Wanda Kantz will notify area settlement agents also.

Water Ordinance – Attorney Cravitz announced that the FMA will approve this plan by resolution at the next FMA meeting.

205 East New Market Street – This property is up for sheriff sale on November 8, 2024.

1 West Front Street – Concerns regarding this property have been raised because of the current conditions, hoarding and infestation. Wanda Kantz will contract CK COG regarding this property for an inspection.

12 East Front Street – This property has been an issue for several months and the Borough Council would like Wanda Kantz to contract CK-COG about the status of this property in the CK COG patrol system regarding the high weeds and grass.

111 West Market Street Garage – This property issue will also be discussed with CK COG at the upcoming meeting, for options to address the problems with the building permit issued. Possibly additional legal action may have to be taken by the Borough.

Stray Cat Issues – There are stray cat colonies within the borough and residents have expressed concerns regarding this issue. Angela Weaver knows someone who traps cats, gets them vetted and then offers them for adoption. Possible organizations to help with this issue are Alley Cat Allies and SUN Pets. Also, Wanda Kantz and Sierra Ziegler will check into possible grants for remediation options.

Roaming Chickens – The roaming chicken issue has been resolved.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – *Erica Stephenson, Chair, Catherine Dent and Weston Hoffman*

Borough Website – The web address is www.freeburgborough.com.

Community Communication – The Hyper-Reach System has been set-up and is in operation. Posters and flyers have been posted to share information on this system with the community.

SECV Franchise Agreement - The SECV Franchise Agreement has been advertised. ***Tabbetha VanHorn Price made a motion to approve the SECV franchise agreement with a 3% rate, Angela Weaver seconded, and the Borough Council Members unanimously approved the motion.*** Attorney Cravitz will submit the franchise agreement

Community Trick or Treat Night – October 31, 2024 from 6-8 pm.

PUBLIC FACILITIES, SERVICES AND SAFETY – *Weston Hoffman, Chair, Angela Weaver and Regina Moyer*

Community Center Upcoming Event –

- Sportsmen’s Bingo – Sunday, October 20th
- Christmas in Freeburg – December 13th

Basement Door – The community center basement door is deteriorated beyond repair. A new door will cost an estimated \$600. ***Erica Stephenson made a motion to repair the community center basement door at a cost of \$600, Weston Hoffman seconded, the Borough Council unanimously approved the motion.*** Trent Hoffman and Wayne Enders will coordinate the replacement project.

Quote to Repaint Gym – Trent Hoffman received a quote from S. Cousins Painting to make needed repairs and paint the gym of \$6,250.00. Trent shared this quote for 2025 budgeting purposes.

Security Camera System – Trent Hoffman is working on running the wiring for the security cameras.

Carpet Tiles for Council Meeting Room – Trent Hoffman has ordered the carpet tiles.

Playground Repairs – Trent Hoffman and Regina Moyer are working on grant funding for playground repairs.

Drainage Issue at Soft Ball Field –Josh Owens and Wanda Kantz are working on a master plan for a grant application to DCNR for this project. We will need an engineered master plan and letters of support for this project. The Borough will need to hire a landscape architect to develop a master plan for this project. Josh Owens has a meeting planned with a DCNR Representatives and a landscape architect on October 23rd, to help create a master plan. Regina Moyer and Angela Weaver are planning on attending this meeting also. DCRN grant applications open in January 2025

East Front Street Bridge Project Design –R K Webster has submitted a proposal to complete a bridge design for the Front Street bridge project. This design will look into concrete culvert and steel bridge options. R K Webster’s proposal was for \$39,900.00. Angela Weaver made a motion to approve R K Webster’s proposal for the Front Street bridge design, Tabbetha VanHorn Price seconded, the Borough Council members unanimously approved the motion (April 16, 2024). R.K. Webster has begun working on the East Front Street bridge project. RK Webster submitted an invoice for payment for work completed so far on the East Front Street of \$1,360.00; ***Erica Stephenson made a motion to approve payment of the invoice with liquid fuels funds, John Wiegler seconded, the Borough Council Members unanimously approved the motion.*** Wanda Kantz will process the payment.

Solar Speed Sign –The solar speed sign has arrived. A Penn DOT Installation Resolution (2024-2) was approved so we can install the solar speed sign. Catherine Dent made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-2, Angela Weaver seconded and the borough council members unanimously approved the resolution on July 11, 2024. **The signed documents have been sent to Penn DOT for review.**

2024 County Liquid Fuels –New Market Street signs with East and West designation will be the 2024 County Liquid project. Angela Weaver made a motion to approve the New Market Street sign project, Catherine Dent seconded, the Borough Council Members unanimously approved the project (April 16, 2024). Wanda Kantz has submitted the project to Snyder County for the borough 2024 project. Project has been approved and signs have been ordered.

CORRESPONDENCE – None

NEW BUSINESS –

COUNCIL, MAYOR, SOLICITOR, EMPLOYEE CONCERNS –

Wanda Kantz will be out of office for vacation on October 24 through October 28th.

The next meeting of the Borough Council will be Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at 7 pm.

A motion was made by Erica Stephenson, seconded by Angela Weaver to adjourn. Motion carried. The Borough Council meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Wanda Kantz, Secretary

COMMITTEE ISSUES TO BE WORKED ON

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE – *Catherine Dent, Chair; Angela Weaver and Tabbetha VanHorn Price.*

- **2025 Budget**
- **Possible summer internship program for 2025**

ORDINANCES & PLANNING – *Tabbetha VanHorn Price, Chair, Erica Stephenson and John Wiegler*

- **Property Maintenance**
- **Stray Cat Colonies**

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – *Erica Stephenson, Chair, Catherine Dent and Weston Hoffman*

- **Community Events**
- **Community Engagement**

PUBLIC FACILITIES, SERVICES AND SAFETY – *Weston Hoffman, Chair, Angela Weaver and Regina Moyer*

- **Community Center Issues**
 - **Basement Door Replacement**
 - **Painting of gym**
 - **Roof Leaks & downspout issues**
 - **Security Cameras – Need to be installed**
 - **Carpet Tiles for Council meeting room**
 - **Playground repairs/Grants**
- **Bridge repairs**
- **Drainage Issues at Ball Fields/Master Plan/DCNR Grant**
- **Solar Sign signs – Received, waiting for Penn DOT approval to install**
- **Handicap Ramp for Borough Office Entrance – Tabled**