

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

<b>Approved March 13, 2025</b>
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**February 13, 2025**

**Members Present:** Thomas Gingrich, President; William Hoffman, Bruce Blades, John Wiegler and John Reichenbach.

**Others Present:** Josh Satteson; HRG, Josh Owens; PESI, Curtis Wray: Fire Chief, Wesley Sauder: Asst Fire Chief, and Wanda Kantz.

Thomas Gingrich, President called the Freeburg Municipal Authority meeting to order.

**PUBLIC CONCERNS:**

**Boil Water Advisory** – The boil water advisory has been lifted; notice has been posted; fire company will update sign board and Hyper-Reach systems has been activated with the notice.

The January 16, 2025 meeting minutes were available for review. *John Reichenbach moved to approve the minutes, Bruce Blades seconded, the FMA members unanimously approved the motion.*

The paid bills for February 2025 were presented for review. *John Reichenbach made a motion to approve the February 2025 paid bills, John Wiegler seconded and the FMA members unanimously approved the motion.*

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**PESI Report** – The PESI report for February 2025 was reviewed, completed issues PESI has done:

- All the monthly DEP Reports for have been submitted with no violations.
- Prepared annual sanitary survey
- Resolved low CL2 issue
- December records review with DEP
- Worked on computer issues
- Work on air compressors
- Called out for frozen pipes at 1 East Market Street
- Troubleshoot Galene failure
- Repaired meter at 4 West Front Street
- Updated ERP and O&M Plan
- Repaired leak in raw pump in well house

## Action Items:

- Regulators – Last regulator has been received,
  - to be installed when piping upgrade is completed
- Filter Items – PLC need replaced, PLC information given to HRG to coordinate replacement, Heater in CHN tank needs installed.
  - Quote from Aria Filtra of \$22,163.73
  - HRG to see if it can be covered by grant #2
- FPPE – Filter Plant Performance Evaluation was conducted November 7 & 8, 2023
  - DEP Exit meeting was held on Jan 30, 2024
  - Waiting for final report
- Brine Pump –
  - A backup brine pump has been ordered
  - Should arrive week of February 24th
- Modules – Aria Filter took a module to shop to clean and test.
  - Will provide update on condition and weather it is worth it or not to keep and use the old modules.
  - HRG to provide responses to DEP regarding the need for a permit for the 2 additional modules in use.
- pH Meter – The SC200 for pH monitoring needs to be replaced
  - Needs to be replaced with a SC400, SC200 obsolete
  - HRG received a price quote of \$3,200.00
  - HRG to see if it can be covered by grant #2, received approval from CFA
- Air Compressor –Atlas Copco pricing received, \$8,895.00
  - HRG to see if it can be covered by grant #2, received approval from CFA
- Piping Upgrade – Piping has arrived, Installation to occur shortly
  - Per DEP no permit is needed for the correction.

**Water usage for last month: Average GPD: 31,000      Maximum GPD: 38,000**

**Screen for PLC Quote**– A quote from Aria Filtra for a new panel view replacement screen was received of \$22,163.73. Josh Satteson will reach out to the CFA Grant #2 to see if this expense can be covered under Grant #2, also Josh Satteson will do some investigation into a possible less expensive PLC option. Received approval from CFA Grant, purchase will be covered.

**New Air Compressor Quote**– Quote for a new air compressor from Altas Copco was \$8,895.00. Josh Satteson will also check to see if the FMA can purchase the new air compressor as a micro purchase under Grant #2. Received approval from CFA Grant, purchase will be covered

**pH Meter** – The SC2000 pH meter needs to be replaced, it cannot be calibrated anymore. Josh Satteson & Josh Ownes will check with Hack Controls and JS instruments on cost for a replacement pH meter. Also, Josh Satteson will check to see if this purchase can be covered by

Grant #2 as a micro-purchase. Received approval from CFA Grant, purchase will be covered

**DEP Inspection – December 9, 2024** – During the recent DEP inspection, the Authority was issued a violation for failure of a public water system to obtain a permit for the filter plant recent upgrades and added filters. Also, we are cited for violation deemed to be significant deficiencies for not having a filter to waste connection. Josh Owen presented a quote for supplies for this repair from L/B Water of \$1,915.20. According to DEP we do not have to amend our operation permit for this repair. William Hoffman made a motion to approve the repairs upon written approval from DEP that we will not have to amend our operation permit for this issue, Bruce Blades seconded, and the FMA members unanimously approved the motion (November 14, 2024). Josh Owen will work on getting written approval for this repair and the scheduled the repairs. William Hoffman made a motion for Attorney Cravitz to send a letter to DEP requesting clarification and possible exemption for the need to submit a permit, when no operation parameters have changed with the addition of the two new membranes except for the number of membranes, John Reichenbach seconded and the FMA members unanimously approved the motion (Jan 16, 2025). Attorney Cravitz will draft a letter to DEP for Josh Owens and Josh Satteson to review before submission to DEP. Josh Satteson will continue to work on the permit application in case it is still needed after the DEP response. The estimated cost of the permit application fee from HRG is \$3,000.00. John Reichenbach made a motion to approve the application process so if needed we are prepared, John Wiegler seconded and the FMA members unanimously approved the motion (Jan 16, 2025). Josh Satteson will continue to work on the permit application. Deadline for NOV completion is March 14, 2025. **Attorney Cravitz email a letter to DEP January 22, 2025, waiting on a response from DEP.**

### **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

**Reimbursement Request #8** – Received \$22,145.00 on January 30, 2025

**Remaining balance on grant is \$22,334.85.**

**Grant had been extended to June 30, 2025, *\*\*(Extended from June 30, 2024) \*\****

**Line of Credit – Current Line of credit balance is \$107,500.00.** Currently making interest only payment. Construction loan end date is October 5, 2026. Starting January 2025, the FMA will begin making \$2,500.00/month payment on the principal plus interest due.

**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 sent a letter to HRG stating the FMA position on this issue. Joshua Satteson presented a response letter, but after discussion, Josh Owens commented that Dave Madl was present during discussion regarding the brine pump issues. Joshua Satteson will do some further investigation on this issue and report back at the next FMA meeting. This is still an issue with the second brine pump being installed.

**HRG Response** - Josh Satteson from HRG stated after review and discussion HRG will pay for the repairs to the brine pump plumbing issues, due to a design problem causing the leaking. HRG will pay for a contractor to make the needed repairs and reimburse the FMA for two brine pumps that have been damaged due to this issue. ***John Reichenbach made a motion to approve the above-mentioned repairs at HRG's expense and the reimbursement for two brine pumps by HRG, John Wiegler seconded and the FMA members unanimously approved the motion. Josh Satteson will coordinate the repairs for this project. Also, he will look into this cost maybe being covered by the CFA Grant #1 remaining funds.***

**Second Replacement Pump Purchase** – Since the backup replacement pump has been installed; Josh Owens suggest we purchase another back up pump. Thomas Gingrich made a motion to purchase a seconded replacement pump, William Hoffman seconded and the FMA members unanimously approved the motion. (Oct 10, 2024) Josh Owens ordered a new replacement brine pump. Second replacement pump should arrive the week of February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

**Air Compressor #1** - Air Compressor #1 (Atlas Copco compressor) was not working, technician from the company came out and stated that he has never seen this issue before on a new air compressor, suggesting a part defect. This air compressor is one month out from the 1-year manufacturer's warranty, replacement part will cost \$2,516.04. The air compressor is temporarily fixed for now. Thomas Gingrich suggested contacting Atlas Copco regarding this issue and asking them to repair this air compress under good will due to it not being an issue caused by the use of the unit, instead it is due to a defective part.

**Wanda Kantz will contact Atlas Copco regarding this air compressor.**

**Second PA Small Water & Sewer Grant Application #2**– 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 (6-13-2024).
- Joseph Volinski made a motion to authorize Wanda Kantz to sign AriaFiltru order documents, Bruce Blades seconded and the FMA members unanimously approved the motion (July 11, 2024). All parts have been ordered.
- Air Compressor can be reimbursed under grant #2 as a micro purchase as long as it comes from a Costars approved vendor. Quote from Altas Copco for a new air compressor is \$8,895.00. Josh Satteson will check with the grant coordinator to see if this can be reimbursed under grant #2, Received approval from CFA Grant, purchase will be covered.
- **Membrane Operations Panel Display** – The membrane operations panel display has died. Replacement quote from Aria Filtra is \$22,163.73, Josh Satteson will check with the grant coordinator to see if this can be reimbursed under grant #2, Received approval from CFA Grant, purchase will be covered.
- **pH Meter** – The SC2000 pH Meter needs to be replaced, it can not be calibrated anymore. Quote from Hack Controls is \$3,200.00. Also, Josh Satteson will check to see if this purchase can be covered by Grant #2 as a micro-purchase. Received approval from CFA Grant, purchase will be covered.
- **Wanda Kantz submitted \$50,146.97 for reimbursement, 85% of expenses will be reimbursed (\$42,625.00).**
- **CFA requiring a letter from Attorney Cravitz regarding the purchase of this equipment for this project. Attorney Cravitz will draft such letter and sent to CFA grant coordinator Laurie Henry.**

**System Water Leaks** – Water Main Break, February 9, 2025 due to fire in the borough. Josh Owens submitted a timeline report of the water main break. After discussions with the fire chief and assistant fire chief the following plan has been made.

- More tanker trucks will be called out for any fire within the borough
- Hydrants will only be opened for the initial attack if needed.
- Fire company will connect to hydrants on the 2 ½ inch side of the hydrant to help lessen the pressure changes on the system.
- Fire company member will work on additional training on how to access the hydrants at a slow rate to lesson the pressure changes on the system to help alleviate the potential of water main breaks in the future.

**Josh Owens suggested having 6” iron pipe, couplers and stone on hand for future water main break repair. Wanda Kantz will order the needed supplies and they will be stored at the maintenance shed at the WWTP.**

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

**2025 Steering Committee Meeting** – The committee will meet **Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 2:30 pm; this will be a Teams Meeting.** The 2024 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 (6-13-2024). Joshua Satteson will start working on the application process, for an October 2025 submission.

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

**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.

**Water System Replacement Priorities Committee - 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. Josh Satteson has developed a phased capital improvement plan at a total cost of \$5,109,000,

- 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.
  - 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 alone would cost \$45,000.00 (estimated)
- 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
- 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 funding source further. There is a 1 million max on this grant.
  - Thomas Gingrich made a motion to approve Wanda Kantz to submit an application on the FMA's behalf, William Hoffman seconded and the motion was unanimously approved by the FMA members. (Oct 10, 2024)
  - Wanda Kantz is planning on submitted a grant request for 1 million dollars of the total project cost of \$1.7 million.
  - Cost of the grant application is \$100.00
  - Submission deadline is November 30, 2024.
  - ***John Reichenbach made a motion to authorize Thomas Gingrich and Wanda Kantz as authorized Officials for the grant application, Bruce Blades seconded and the FMA members unanimously approved the motion.***
  - Wanda Kantz will submit the grant application the week of November 25<sup>th</sup>
  - LSA Grant is in the review process.
- CDBG surveys will be completed the fall of 2024. Residence will be posted with a survey letter and the survey form with a stamped return envelope to return completed surveys to the borough office.
- The Authority will not qualify for a federal Public Works Grant Program as a possible source of funding for the project.
- Senate Appropriation Requests are not available for Municipal Authorities.
- Penn DOT's next paving project for Route 35/Market Street is scheduled for 2030, a micro surfacing project.
- Working with Quay Schapple, from Larson Design on planning and permitting planning through a grant from PennVest for technical assistance.

**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. **There are**

**2 suspected lead service lines.** Lead & Copper Service Line Inspection report has been submitted. Current, PESI and Wanda Kantz are working on service line remediation issues with property owners, and scheduling review inspections.

**Water Meter Replacement Project** – The FMA would like to start planning to replace water meters in future budgets, due to most meters being at least 20 years old. Meter replacement would cost an estimated \$300 per meter. This project will be discussed in the near future again.

**BJE Solar Field Project** – BJE Properties is planning a solar field on the land that surrounds the municipal authority wells. There are two unused well on their property, and the company managing the project (ARM Group) would like to know if the Authority would like to abandon the two used well. The cost of this process would be covered by the solar field project. John Wiegler made a motion to approve the abandonment process for the two unused wells on the BJE property, John Reichenbach seconded, the FMA members unanimously approved the motion (November 14, 2025). Josh Satteson will be in contact the ARM Group regarding the FMA wishes. FMA Resolution 2024-3 would approve the abandonment of the two unused well on the BJE was presented for review. William Hoffman made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-3, John Reichenbach seconded and the FMA Member unanimously approved the motion (Jan 16, 2025)

**Possible Solar Field on FMA property** – Attorney Cravitz suggested checking with the ARM Group about the possibility of installing solar panels on the FMA property also. Attorney Cravitz will send a letter of inquire to the ARM Group regarding this issue.

**Pipe Bursting**– Thomas Gingrich commented that he has be investigating a new process for replacing water lines called Pipe Bursting. He requested that Josh Satteson look into this process for a possible water line replacement project in the future.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**NEW BUSINESS** –

**2025 CFA Grant Application Period Open**– Josh Satteson suggested applying for another CFA grant to replace the water line on North South Street due to the have been two major leaks in this area over the last few years, Market Street to Academy Road. Wanda Kantz and Josh Satteson will work on completing the North South Street Water Line Replacement project application.

**The grant resolution will be approved at the March 13, 2025 Meeting.**

**AUTHORITY MEMBERS/EMPLOYEE CONCERNS - None**

*John Reichenbach made a motioned to adjourn, Bruce Blades seconded, the motion carried.* The Freeburg Municipal Authority’s meeting was adjourned at 7:42pm.

The next FMA meeting will be **Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 7 pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Wanda Kantz, Secretary

Freeburg Borough / Freeburg Municipal Authority Secretary/Treasurer

**2024-2025 FMA officers are:**

**Thomas Gingrich, President**

**Bruce Blades, Vice-President**

**John Reichenbach, Treasurer**

**Wanda Kantz, Recording Secretary & Assistant Treasurer.**

**The 2025 meter reading dates will be as follows:**

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter – March 17 & 18, 2025

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter – June 16 & 17, 2025

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter – September 15 & 16, 2025

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter – December 15 & 16, 2025