

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

January 20, 2026

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| Approved Feb 17, 2026 |
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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: Catherine Dent, President, presiding; Tabbetha VanHorn Price, Regina Moyer, Angela Weaver, Thomas Gingrich and John Wiegler.

Others present were: Attorney Robert Cravitz, Josh Owens, OPS LLC, via phone; Trent Hoffman, Wayne Enders, John Stuck, Sierra Zeigler, Brayden Sanfelice, 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 December 16, 2025 meeting were approved by the Borough Council.

On a motion by Tabbetha VanHorn Price and seconded by Regina Moyer the minutes of January 5, 2026 Borough Council Reorganization meeting were approved by the Borough Council.

On a motion by Thomas Gingrich the January 2026 bills presented were approved for payment, seconded by John Wiegler, the motion was unanimously approved by the Borough Council members.
Wanda Kantz will pay the approved bills.

PUBLIC CONCERNS – None

REPORT FROM FREEBURG FIRE CO. – No Report this month

OPS LLC REPORT – The January 2026 report from OPS regarding the Waste Water System was reviewed.
Average Gallons Per Day (GPD): 44,000 Maximum GPD: 92,000

Completed Tasks

- Routine daily operations
- Monthly Wastewater Reports submitted, no violations for 2 months
- PA One Calls marked
- Picked up Dechlor at L/B water for effluent
- Checked manholes on E. New Market St. for sewer backup
- Troubleshoot sewage pump No.2 at sewer plant, repaired by Paige Electric
- Cl2 Delivery
- PA One Call for 304 E. New Market Street
- PA One Call for 107 E. Church Street
- Lateral Inspection for 107 E. Church Street
- Sewer Inspection for 18 East Market Street
- Quarterly updated to DEP for Corrective Action Plan.

Ongoing Tasks

- Begin Chapter 94 report prep
- Clarifier Divider repairs
- Corrective Action Plan submitted to DEP, waiting for response
- LSA Grant Awarded for Route 35/Market Street Lining. **\$464,349.00 awarded**
- Authorized to submit HOP on Borough's behalf needs authorized
- Revised LSA Grant for 2025 to New Market Street and White Top Road lining

- Appropriations request awaiting announcement of award, if received
- Estimated for stormwater water work along softball field
- DCNR Grant award, awaiting announcement
- Manhole asphalt removal quotes, waiting for J. D. Fester and Mid State Paving quotes
- **With the grants/appropriations requests received we will be able to line 60-70% of the borough's sewer lines.**

Identified Items/Tasks

- Search for cheaper dechlor supplier
- WWTP planning

Additional Items Discussed at Meeting

- **Guideline for Sewer Contractors**, no drilling of lines, only jetting is to be used. Policy for be created and shared with local sewer contractors.
- **WWTP Plant door and Lock Box for Gate for Facility Keys**– Door will not lock; Thomas Gingrich has looked at door for needed repairs. ***Angela Weaver made a motion to authorize Thomas Gingrich to make needed repairs at a cost of no more than \$100.00 and purchase a lock box for facility keys, Tabbetha VanHorn Price seconded and the Borough Council members unanimously approved the motion.***

Correction Action Plan – 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 have been completed to identify possible connections issues and repairs and re-inspections are being done. NOV (Notice of Violation) received 9/4/2025. Response to NOV provided 11/12/2024. Update CAP response provided on October 9, 2025, waiting for response from DEP. **It has been over one (1) year since there was an overflow at the WWTP.**

WWTP Repairs – DEP would like an evaluation of the interior of the clarifies, which will include dewatering, cleaning and evaluation the partition wall, piping, etc.

Cross-Connection on Market Street – During smoke testing a cross-connection issue was discovered on Market Street. Dye testing was approved at the August 15, 2023 meeting. Dye testing was done in Spring 2025 and the dye didn't go the same way as the smoke testing did. Further investigations will be done.

I&I Reduction and Service Line Inspections –Service line inspections have been completed; 3 unit were unable to be inspected. Remediation inspections have been done to follow-up on issues that needed to be repaired. Violation letters giving 90 days for repairs to be completed, and inspections will be enforced with possible expenses have been mailed. Remediation letters have been mailed to all concerned properties, repairs are being made and follow-up inspections are being completed. Remediation completed letter have been mailed to residents who have completed the needed repairs. **Second round of reminder letter will be sent out to property owners.**

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. Appropriations requests

have been submitted. Freeburg Borough median household income is too high to be eligible for CDBG Grants.

2024 Local Share Account (LSA) Grant Request – Sierra Zeigler submitted a Local Share Account (LSA) grant request application for lining of the sewer lines on Market Street, requested amount, \$464,349.00. LSA Grant request was submitted by November 30, 2024. **Freeburg Borough received \$464,349.00 in grant awards, with no match required.**

- **Approval of HOP Permit Application** – A Highway Occupancy Permit is needed for the Market Street sewer lining project. *Angela Weaver made a motion to approve the Highway Occupancy Permit, Tabbetha VanHorn Price seconded, and the Borough Council member unanimously approved the motion.* Josh Owens will submit the required HOP permit.

2025 Local Share Account (LSA) Grant Request, Revision – Wanda Kantz re-submitted a Local Share -Statewide Account (LSA) grant request application for lining of the sewer lines on Market Street, requested amount \$464,349.00. LSA Grant request was submitted by November 30, 2025. Since receiving the 2024 LSA-Statewide grant for \$464,439.00. DCED is allowing the borough to revise out 2025 LSA-Statewide grant request. Josh Owens suggested submitting the revised grant request for lining sewer lines on New Market Street and Whitetop Road at an estimated cost of \$464,308.65.

- **2025 LSA Grant Revision Resolution** – The 2025 LSA Grant Revision Resolution has presented for approval for the 2025 LSA Grant application. *Catherine Dent made a motion to approve the 2025 LSA Grant Revision Resolution, Angela Weaver seconded and the Freeburg Borough Council unanimously approved the motion.* Sierra Zeigler will submit the 2025 LSA Grant Revision documents to the Statewide LSA grant program for review.

CFA Grant (PA Small Water and Sewer Grants) – Josh Owens recommends that Freeburg Borough apply for a grant to line sewer lines, grant requested amount \$499,941.00. Catherine Dent made a motion to apply for a CFA Grant for sewer lining in the borough, Regina Moyer seconded, and the Borough Council members unanimously approved the motion (Feb 18, 2025). CFA grant has been submitted for review. Results of grant should be announced very soon.

Appropriations Requests - Appropriation requests have been accepted by U.S. Representative Glenn “GT” Thompson and Senator John Fetterman’s offices. Angela Weaver made a motion to approved the appropriation requests, John Wiegler seconded and the Borough Council members unanimously approved the motion (April 15, 2025). Josh Owens has submitted two appropriations requests on behalf of the Freeburg Borough Sewer. Both appropriations requested have been forwarded onto the next round for consideration. **Freeburg Borough received \$750,000.00 in appropriations funding.**

Manhole Noise near 405 East Market Street - This issue has been inspected, the manhole cover is sealed down by the seal coat that was applied recently, so that is not what is moving making the noise. Josh Owens thinks the issue may be under the manhole covering system, involving the manhole covering system and the piping under the cover.

- Quote from Dave Gutelius, Inc. for this project of \$5,400.00.
- Quote from J. D. Feaster Earthworks, Inc. for this project is \$4,980.00

Additional quotes for repairs will be requested. After discussion the borough council would like to contact PennDOT regarding some of the issue regarding this manhole and have them look at this problem and get additional quotes for needed repairs for a Spring 2026 project.

Sewer Lateral at 304 East New Market Street – There was a sewer lateral blockage at 304 East New Market Street under the street. Replacement of this sewer lateral cost \$13,945.00 due to the condition and location of the water and sewer pipes.

MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY REPORT –

2024 FMA LSA Grant – The FMA has submitted a LSA grant request for \$1,000,000, to replace water lines on Market Street. **The FMA did not received any grant money this round.**

2025 FMA LSA Grant – The FMA will be re-submitting a LSA grant request for \$1,000,000, to replace water lines on Market Street. LSA grant request was submitted by Nov 30, 2025. This grant has been reviewed and forwarded on to the next round of review.

CFA (Pa Small Water & Sewer Grant #3) – The FMA has submitted a CFA grant request for water line replacement on North South Street due to several major water breaks in this area in the last few years. Estimated cost of this project is \$425,000.

BOROUGH STATUS REPORT –

- East Front Street Bridge – Bridge was hit by a DH&L ambulance on Oct 22, 2025, bridge has been closed.
- Plows and trucks are ready for winter weather.
- 22 tons of salt was delivered on January 5, 2026.
- Skid Steer needed repairs to a hydraulic hose line.
- Street sign at the corner of Market and Willow streets needs to be repaired

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE – *Catherine Dent, Chair; Angela Weaver and Thomas Gingrich.*

Susquehanna Internship Program – Brayden Sanfelice, SU intern has begun working in the borough office on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, assisting with grant research, his internship will continue through the Spring 2026 semester.

Second Borough Credit Card – It has been suggested getting a second borough credit card for the Assistant Secretary, Sierra Zeigler. After discussion, Weston Hoffman made a motion to approve a second borough credit card for the assistance secretary, Sierra Ziegler, Catherine Dent seconded, the Borough Council members unanimously approved the motion (12/16/2025). Wanda Kantz will coordinate the process to get an additional borough credit card.

Meeting with SEDA-COG, DCED, Penn DOT and Governmental Representative's – Meetings will be planned with the listed agencies for assistance and guidance for future projects and funding options in the borough.

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

Current Property Maintaince Report –No Patrols from November to March

Refer to CK COG

101 West Market Street – Junk metal, etc., Letter was sent, second letter was sent requesting more be done, CK COG to inspect property.

205 North Whitetop Road – Garbage/Debris, entire property – Citations has been filed.

contacted CK COG again regarding repeated issues

4 West Front Street – Garbage/Rubbish under garage port – Ongoing issue

12 East Front Street – Weeds - Additional complaints of rodents and fleas, Contacted CK COG again regarding new issues

9 West Market Street – Rodent Infestation -

1 West Front Street – Junk/Garbage, abandoned property,

Garage at 111 West Market Street – The property owner at 111 West Market Street, who was approved for a residential garage, and then constructed and began operating a commercial garage, would like the borough to give CK COG their approval for approving the commercial garage due to changes that are being made in anticipation of the commercial garage being approved by CK COG. After discussion with CK COG, a new commercial building permit will have to be submitted, including a request for a 10’ property offset variance, and a plan for customer parking not along borough roadways. The Property owners will be notified of these requirements. According to CK COG this is an un-permitted garage/structure.

Cat Colonies – Bruce and Sandy Blades have been working to control a colony in their residence area and Sandy has significant knowledge on how to work with feral cat colonies and is willing to help with this project. They shared some of the process to trap the cats, get them to the neuter/spay clinic and after care. Possible organizations to help with this issue are Alley Cat Allies and SUN Pets. Additional funding will be needed for additional procedures and medications. Donations for additional vet care expenses can be made to Sandy Blades.

Ordinances on Borough Website – Sierra Zeigler is working on getting all current and active ordinances on the borough website. Sierra Zeigler has been reading through old borough council meeting minutes researching old ordinances.

Hometown Hero Banner – Another round of orders will be accepted for Hometown Hero Banners, this information has been shared in the borough newsletter, on the borough website and on Facebook. Deadline for orders is January 31, 2026, 6 banner orders so far.

Borough Master Plan (10-year plan)– The borough office staff would like to create a Freeburg Borough Master Plan (10-year plan) to help coordinate borough projects in a time frame that would cover several council member changes, so projects do not get lost in the face of changing leadership. This plan would include project details and a time line. The borough council members are asked to include any input on this plan, especially project like, sewer plan upgrade, sewer lining, bridge repairs and replacements, road repairs, drainage issues, parks, etc. There are still a lot of details to coordinate with the plan, but discussion is a great starting point. Street paving option are being researched for this plan.

Review of Additional Property Maintenance Patrol Agencies – the Borough Council would like to explore other possible property maintenance agencies, such as LiteHeigle, etc.

Freeburg Commons Planning Grant –The Borough has received a DCNR planning grant for **\$23,700.00, with a borough match of 50% (\$23,700.00)**. Now, the planning process can begin. We will be working with landscape architect and holding community input planning meetings for this project.

- ***Angela Weaver made a motion to accept the DCNR Planning grant and move forward with the planning process, John Wiegler seconded and the Borough Council members unanimously approved the motion.***

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – *Erica Stephenson, Chair, Tabbetha VanHorn Price*

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. Currently there are 207 community members signed up for this program with phone numbers and email contacts.

Internet Service for Borough Office and Community Center –According to the cable franchise agreement the only service that Service Eclectic Cablevision (SECV) will provide is one basic cable tv connection per location, **no internet service**. The committee has been working on this issue; we are able to get 2 phone lines and internet service at the Community center for **\$150.00/month plus startup costs**. Wanda Kantz was authorized to contact Pen Tele data to get internet service and phone lines installed. Wanda Kantz has contacted Penn Teladata to start the transfer process. **Penn Teladate service should be connected in February 2026 at the borough office and community center.**

Staff & Council Members Introduction – Information about the Borough Staff and the Council members will be shared on the borough website.

National Register of Historic Places – Sierra Ziegler suggested submitting the community center building to the National Register of Historic Places, this designation would be beneficial to the community for future grant funding for projects at the community center building.

Certified Local Government Program – Sierra Ziegler has also been researching the certified local government program to review if this program may be of a benefit for Freeburg Borough.

Memorial Day Events – Tabbetha VanHorn Price has begun planning for the 2026 Memorial Day Celebration event. This year there will be food trucks and she would like to have the Freeburg Museum open.

PUBLIC FACILITIES, SERVICES AND SAFETY – *Regina Moyer, Chair, Angela Weaver and Thomas Gingrich.*

December 2025 Community Center Rental Income - \$725.00

Community Center Coordinator Concerns – Trent Hoffman

- **Community Center Cost Analysis** – A cost analysis was presented for the council member’s review. This report details most of the costs for the community center for 2025. This is a starting point for review and discussion of community center expenses and revenues.
- **Community Center Visioning** – Sierra Zeigler suggest working on a Vision for the Community Center of possible programs and partnerships to help benefit the building. This visioning will be helpful for grant applications and approaching area business for support of the Community Center.

New Basketball Goals – Total cost for two new goals is \$15,000.00. Sierra Zeigler has submitted a grant request to the Fern & Gladys Moyer Memorial Trust for \$5,000.00 towards this basketball goal project. **It has been suggested to contact the Middlesworth foundation regarding this project for possible support. Total grants and donations toward this project are \$5,670.00.**

Soccer Goals – Angela Weaver commented about getting some used soccer goals for use at the Freeburg Commons. It was suggested to contact Susquehanna University and the local school

districts to see if they would possibly donate or sell used soccer goals at a discounted price. Wanda Kantz contacted Susquehanna University and currently they do not have any soccer goals available for donation.

New Batting Cage – The current batting cage at the little league field needs to be replaced, Wanda Kantz and Sierra Zeigler will work on contacting area schools to see if they may have a used batting cage to donate or sell at a reasonable cost. Also, grant options will be review for the project.

East Front Street Bridge Project –Randall Webster presented three design options for the East Front Street Bridge Project,

- Precast Concrete Box Culvert \$164,700.00, was approved
- **DCED Multimodal Grant Request** – Grant was submitted for \$184,800.00 for the replacement of the East Front Street bridge.
- **Freeburg Borough was awarded \$184,800.00 from the DCED-Multimodal grant program for this project. No matching funds required.**

East Front Street Bridge Damaged – Damaged by DH&L ambulance – October 21, 2025

- Reported to EMC Ins, Borough Ins.
- Reported to Kratzer’s ins. agency, DH&L Ambulance ins.
- Bridge Closed, Cost- \$689.59, bills submitted to DH&L Insurance Carrier
- William Orr & Sons came to inspected the bridge for guiderail repairs on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, stated that the guild rails cannot be replaced due to the condition of the bridge, due to the damages caused by the impact of the ambulance.
- Wanda Kantz will also submit the bill for the bridge replacement project to the insurance company also.
- **Waiting on reply from DH&L ambulance insurance carrier.**

West Front Street Bridge –Bridge originally installed in the 1960’s.

- Stahl Sheaffer Engineering inspected the West Front Street bridge and recommend the weight limit be decreased to 3 tons.
- 3-ton weight limit signs have been installed.
- Stahl Sheaffer has submitted a quote for an engineered plan for the replacement of the West Front St. bridge of \$14,000.00. At this time the borough council would like to table this issue to look into other repair options.
- Council members would like Wanda Kantz to contact Penn DOT about a possible pipe replacement option for this bridge repair. Wanda Kantz will email our representative at PennDOT for his input and cc Weston Hoffman on all emails.
- Regina Moyer is very concerned about the costs the borough has incurred regarding bridge and road projects. *She has learned that Jason Snyder is our Municipal Services coordinator at the PennDOT engineering district and Don Keihl from SEDA COG can help use with bridge and road issue.* **Wanda Kantz will reach out to these contacts regarding issues in Freeburg Borough.**
- Brian Haight from Penn DOT has been contacted and he is working on coordinating a meeting with Don Keil from SEDA-COG to come and review the bridges and discuss possible repair/replacement options.

Penn DOT TIP List – Wanda Kantz has been able to get all the borough bridges listed on the county and Penn DOT TIP list for future funding assistance for repairs. The Borough has been informed there is tentative approval for a borough bridge funding project in 2029

Strom Drains – There are some issues with storm drains in the borough, borough staff will investigate these issues and come up with possible resolutions for the problems.

- **Front & South Street** – Penn DOT stated that storm drains are the borough responsibility and they cannot help with this type of project.
- **Repair Estimate from Joshua Owens, OPS** – Joshua Owens shared a cost estimated for the storm drain project of \$23,700.00. The borough council will take this estimate under consideration and continue to review other possible repair options.

2025 County Aid Project – Project completed, new street signs for Church Street, completion report saw sent to PennDOT. Reimbursement received from Snyder County \$550.00

2026 County Aid Projects – Wanda Kantz commented that it is time to start thinking about our 2026 county aid project (\$550.00, reimbursement from Snyder County). Some suggested projects are East & West Market Street Signs or Patching potholes. The Committee will discuss and make a recommendation at the Borough Council meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE – None

NEW BUSINESS –

PA One Call – April as “Safe Digging Month” – A Resolution to proclaim April as “Safe Digging Month” was presented for review. ***Tabbetha VanHorn Price made a motion to approve the April as Safe Digging Month Resolution, Regina Moyer seconded, the Borough Council members unanimously approved the motion.*** This Resolution will be posted on the borough’s website and on Facebook.

2026-2027 Salt Order – It is time to submit our winter 2026-2027 salt order, Wanda Kantz suggest ordering 44 tons of salt (two truckloads) for the 2026-2027 winter season. ***Angela Weaver made a motion to approve the order of 44 tons of salt for the 2026-2027 winter season, Tabbetha VanHorn Price seconded, the Borough Council member unanimously approved the motion.*** Wanda Kantz will submit the 2026-2027 salt order.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA & AMENDMENT TO AGENDA FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Consideration, if needed, of a motion for additional agenda item(s) that need to meet one of the following criteria: emergency business, matters arising within the past 24 hours, minor business raised during the meeting, or agenda changes approved by majority vote (with expressed reasons for the amendment item being stated for the minutes and the same to be posted the next business day).

COUNCIL, MAYOR, SOLICITOR, EMPLOYEE CONCERNS –

Richard “Bud” Bickhart – Mayor Bickhart suggested that costs and a timeline for projects be included on the Borough Master Project Plan. He also suggested contacting Brian Haight from the Penn DOT engineering unit for assistance on these criteria.

Thomas Gingrich – Thomas Gingrich suggested contacting Washington Township regarding the possibility of them doing oil and chip on some of the borough streets.

The next meeting of the Borough Council will be Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 7 pm.

A motion was made by Regina Moyer, seconded by Angela Weaver to adjourn. Motion carried. The Borough Council meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Wanda Kantz, Secretary

COMMITTEE ISSUES TO BE WORKED ON

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE – *Catherine Dent, Chair; Angela Weaver and Thomas Gingrich Price.*

- **Employee Reviews**
- **Fall 2025/Spring 2026 internship program**
- **Committee involvement**
- **Staff Training**
- **Grant/Funding opportunities**
- **Meeting with agencies, SEDA COG, Penn DOT, representatives**

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

- **Community Property Maintenance Patrols**
- **Stray Cat Colonies**
- **Organizing Ordinances for Website**
- **Hometown Hero Banners**
- **Borough Master Plan**
- **Review of Additional Property Maintenance Patrol Agencies**
- **DCNR Freeburg Commons Planning Grant**

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – *Erica Stephenson, Chair, Tabbatha VanHorn Price*

- **Community Events**
- **Community Engagement**
- **WIFI for Borough Office and Community Center.**
- **Community Events**
- **Quarterly Property Recognition**
- **Staff & Council Member info on website.**
- **National Register of Historic Places**
- **Certified Local Government Program**

PUBLIC FACILITIES, SERVICES AND SAFETY – *Regina Moyer, Chair, Angela Weaver and Thomas Gingrich*

- **Community Center Issues**
 - **Painting of gym – quote of \$6,250.00**
 - **Roof Leaks & downspout issues**
 - **Basketball Goals - \$15,000.00 replacement estimated**
- **Bridge repairs**
- **Recreation Rehab and Expansion Plan - at Ball Fields/Master Plan/DCNR Grant**
 - **Little League Batting Cage Replacement**
 - **Soccer goals**
- **Storm Drain Projects**