

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

**Approved
July 11, 2026**

June 11, 2026

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

Others Present: Attorney Matthew Cravitz, Joshua Owens, OPS, LLC; Joshua Satteson, HRG; and Wanda Kantz.

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

PUBLIC CONCERNS: None

The May 16, 2026 meeting minutes were available for review. *John Reichenbach moved to approve the minutes, John Wiegler seconded, the FMA members unanimously approved the motion.*

The paid bills for June 2026 were presented for review. *John Reichenbach made a motion to approve the May 2026 paid bills, Bruce Blades seconded, the FMA members unanimously approved the motion.*

OLD BUSINESS:

Owens Professional Solutions, LLC Report – Report for June 2026

Completed Tasks

- Routine daily operation
- Final CCR
- Leak Detection with PRWA on 5/13, 5/14, and 5/22
- CIP, Calibrations
- Leak repair on 300 block of East Market Street
- Collect additional samples due to lab
- CL2 delivery

Ongoing Tasks:

- **Leak repair on the 300 Block of East Market Street**
- **CCR certification**
- **CHN heater needs installed**
 - Have heater
 - Needs to be installed, several hour job to install, brine tank needs to be drained
- **FPPE – Still waiting for report from Closeout meeting that was held January 30, 2024**
- **Filter Modules – Aria Filter took a module to shop to clean and test. This issue has been tabled.**
 - Will provide update on condition and whether it is worth it or not to keep and use the old modules.

- Josh Owens to follow up on this issue with Aria Filtra
- Aria Filtra has not had time to check filters yet
- Josh Owens will continue to check status monthly

Identified Items/Tasks

- **Heater at water plant** – To be replaced next week, June 22nd to June 26, 2026
- **Exhaust fan in chemical room**
 - Thomas Gingrich to look at exhaust fan issue
- **Doors to chemical room**
- **Scrap old air compressors**

Water usage for last month: Average GPD: 56,000 Maximum GPD: 69,000

2025 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report – This report has been posted on the borough website, on the bulletin board outside the borough office and copies are available at the Freeburg Post Office for community review. A notice has been posted with the website link on Facebook. And there is also a notice in the current newsletter as to where the report is available on the website.

System Water Leaks – The leak at 300 block of East Market Street was crimped and the repair is not holding. A saddle repair will be placed on the Main on June 12, 2026. All other known leaks have been addresses or repaired at this time.

Solar Field Project – Washington East & West Energy Public Information Meeting was held on Wednesday, April 29, 2026 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Thomas Gingrich attended and shared his concerns regarding the impact this project could have on our public water supply, wells and water treatment plant. Attorney Cravitz sent a letter to the project developers, Brookfield Renewable US regarding the FMA's concerns and asking for additional information regarding this project. **A public informational meeting will be Monday, June 30, 2026 at 7 pm at the Community Center.** The Borough Council and the FMA would like to see Brookfield Renewable US provide a bond to help protect the community if there is any water runoff or contamination damage to the wells and/or treatment plant in the future.

Drought Watch – Snyder County has been included in the most recent drought watch report. Josh Owens suggests enacting voluntary water conservation measures; part of this policy is to post a voluntary water conservation notice for borough residents. Thomas Gingrich made a motion to post the voluntary water conservation notice on the borough website, Facebook, the post office and at the borough office, and on the Hyper-Reach system; William Hoffman seconded and the FMA members unanimously approved the motion (1/15/2026). Drought Watch Notice has been posted on Borough Website, Facebook, at the Post Office & Borough Bulletin Board, and through the Hyper Reach system. **The draught watch will stay in effect until Snyder County notifies the FMA differently.**

Line of Credit – Current line of credit balance is **\$70,000.00**. Construction loan end date is April 1, 2027. Starting January 2025, the FMA has begun making \$2,500.00/month payment on the principal plus interest due.

- **Resolution 2026-2** – Authorizing the Refinance of Loan #411180044 – John Reichenbach made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-2; Refinancing of Loan #411180044, Bruce Blades seconded and the FMA members unanimously approved the Resolution (4/16/2026). A copy of

the resolution was sent to Attorney Cravitz for Central Penn Bank & Trust. Patricia Pensyl from Central Penn Bank and Trust has been contacted about refinancing options.

- Central Penn Bank & Trust are agreeable to modify the loan term, but they wish to do this closed to the loan end date. **Attorney Cravitz and the bank's representative will work on the language for the loan modification end date.**

American Tower Discussions – Current lease agreement ends August 23, 2039. Nothing new to discuss.

Water System Replacement Priorities Committee - The Committee includes Thomas Gingrich, William Hoffman, HRG representative and OPS, LLC representative, Joshua Owens.

- Freeburg Borough has 3.27 miles of waterpipes: 18,000 liner feet of transite pipe, 2,300 liner feet of PVC pipe; 18 fire hydrants, 296 water service connections.
- Our wells are 596 feet deep, cased to 15 feet.
- 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 Freeburg Community doesn't qualify for CDBG Grant money, due to the median household income being too high. Survey completed in 2025 is good for 5 years. .
- 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 estimate 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 estimate for Reservoir Hill and Market Street project was estimated at \$2,138,000.00. Projected current cost increase of 10-15% for 2024 costs
- The Authority will not qualify for a federal Public Works Grant Program as a possible source of funding for the project.
- Penn DOT's next paving project for Route 35/Market Street is scheduled for 2030, a micro surfacing project.
- If the FMA receives no grants, we will have to look into financing the projects through PennVest. To apply to PennVest we will need to have the project design and permits completed. A possible line of credit will be needed to completed the project design and permits.
- Thomas Gingrich commented that it may be in the FMA's best interest to start checking into grant/loan options with PennVest, due to the fact that the FMA has not received any grants recently. Possible options are to pay off the construction loan and then apply those funds toward a PennVest grant/loan offer for system improvements. Possible 60/40 grant/loan options were discussed previously with the PennVest representatives.
- Joshua Satteson commented about the CDBG Complete Grant Program, their #1 priority is water and sewer project. This grant project just closed on Feb 6, 2026. We can begin

planning for the 2027 grant application window. All projects must be shovel ready at the time of application, meaning all design and permits must be completed before you can make the application.

- Water Infrastructure grants are also available, minimum project cost of 5 million dollars with up to a 49% match and loans for up to 35 years.
- PennVest offers a revolving loan program with interest rates of 2.4% for grant/loan programs.

Lead & Copper Service Lines Inspection – Service lines for customers have been inspected for lead and copper pipes according to DEP and Federal mandates. **There is 1 suspected lead service line yet to be investigated.** Lead & Copper Service Line Inspection report has been submitted.

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 replacements would cost an estimated \$300 per meter. This project will be discussed in the future again.

2025 Statewide LSA Grant Application –

- Authorized Official Resolution (AOR)– an Authorized Official Resolution for the 2025 LSA grant application needs to be approved. Thomas Gingrich made a motion to approved the 2025 AOR for 2025 LSA grant, John Wiegler seconded and the FMA members unanimously approved the motion (11-13-2025).
- Wanda Kantz submitted the 2025 LSA grant application by Nov 20, 2025.
- Grant requires no match
- Our 2025 LSA Statewide grant application has been forwarded on to the next round of review.

Senate Appropriations Requests –

- Wanda Kantz has submitted a request in 2026, for the 2027 budget. The project that will be submitted for this request will be water line replacement on New Market Street from Whitetop road to the bridge by Willow Street. This request has been submitted to Representative Glen “GT” Thompson’s office and Senators John Fetterman and Dave McCormick offices. The appropriations request submitted to Glen “GT” Thompson’s office was selected as one of the twenty (20) project Representative Thompson is send on to be considered for funding.

Close Tolerance Pipe Slurification Process (Drilling Out)– Thomas Gingrich commented that he has been investigating a new process for replacing water lines called Pipe Drilling. Joshua Satteson received a quote from Azuria for the total repair of the water delivery system in Freeburg of \$5,126,000.00. An additional quote for increase pipe sizes of \$6,051,000.00 was also provided. These quotes are a starting point for additional project discussion.

Holes in Reservoir Roof – There are some holes in the plastic panels on the roof of the reservoir. Thomas Gingrich evaluated the reservoir roof; the roof is leaking at the light panels along with some other areas where screws are leaking. William Hoffman received a quote from Weatherproof Roofing, Inc. of \$2,980.00 to repair the damaged roof panels. John Reichenbach made a motion to approve the \$2,980 for the quoted repairs and up to an additional \$520.00 for additional repairs not to exceed \$3,500.00 for the total project. John Wiegler seconded and the FMA members unanimously approved the motion (2-12-2026). Wanda Kantz drafted a letter to the contractor, stating the FMA approval and

addition work requested. William Hoffman spoke with the constructor and was told the project would be completed in May 2026. **As of the meeting date, June 11, 2026, no repairs have been made.**

Cameras at Water Treatment Plant – After discussion, pricing will be obtained for 2 or 3 cameras on the outside of the building for security purposes. **Thomas Gingrich and John Reichenbach will work getting pricing for a future FMA meeting.**

PenTeledata Internet Service for Water Treatment Plant – PenTeleData has submitted a proposal for fiber network service at the water treatment plant. Monthly charge would be \$170.30 for 60 months, and there is a one-time installation charge of \$527.00. Currently, we are paying \$193.99 per month before taxes for service from Verizon. This new service would be a saving of \$23.69/month, for significantly better service. ***Thomas Gingrich made a motion to approve the change of service carrier for internet coverage at the water treatment plant to PenTeleData, William Hoffman seconded and the FMA members unanimously approved the motion.*** **Wanda Kantz has informed PenTeleData of the FMA wishes and to start the process for transfer of service provider.**

CORRESPONDENCE: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) Grant – Joshua Satteson commented that the SRBC grant is an 80% grant with a 20% match. The grant program opens September 2026 and closes in November 2026. Possible grant projects are down hole camering of the wells for locating ground water infiltration, leak detection equipment, all new meters for service units, advanced water leak detection equipment or a storm water basin around the wells to project the wells from infiltration. All project could be possible under this grant program. **Possible grant projects will be discussed at a future FMA meeting.**

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA – No amendments to the agenda were made.

AUTHORITY MEMBERS/EMPLOYEE CONCERNS –

John Reichenbach made a motioned to adjourn, John Wiegler seconded, the motion carried.
The Freeburg Municipal Authority's meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm

The next FMA meeting will be **Thursday, July 16, 2026 at 7 pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Wanda Kantz, Secretary
Freeburg Borough / Freeburg Municipal Authority Secretary/Treasurer

2026-2027 FMA officers are:

Thomas Gingrich, President

Bruce Blades, Vice-President

John Reichenbach, Treasurer

Wanda Kantz, Recording Secretary & Assistant Treasurer.

The 2026 meter reading dates will be as follows

1st Quarter – March 16 to 19, 2026

2nd Quarter – June 15 to 18, 2026

3rd Quarter – September 14 to 17, 2026

4th Quarter - December 14 to 17, 2026