

VILLAGE PRESIDENT  
Seth Speiser

VILLAGE CLERK  
Jerry Menard

VILLAGE TRUSTEES  
Ray Matchett, Jr.  
Lisa Meehling  
Mike Blaies  
Tom Carpenter  
Michael Heap  
Robert Kaiser

VILLAGE TREASURER  
Bryan A. Vogel

# VILLAGE OF FREEBURG

FREEBURG MUNICIPAL CENTER  
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Web Site: www.freeburg.com

INTERIM  
VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR  
Matt Trout

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR  
John Tolan

POLICE CHIEF  
Michael J. Schutzenhofer

ESDA COORDINATOR  
Eugene Kramer

VILLAGE ATTORNEY  
Weilmuenster Keck Brown, P.C.

## VILLAGE OF FREEBURG, ILLINOIS BOARD MEETING MINUTES MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2023 @ 7:30 P.M.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Seth Speiser called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., on Monday, November 6, 2023, in the Freeburg Municipal Board Room. Presentation of the meeting was also conducted by Zoom video conferencing. Village Hall was open to the public.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Those present and the Board Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:** Trustee James (Mike) Blaies – here; Trustee Ramon Matchett, Jr. – here; Trustee Robert (Bob) Kaiser – here; Trustee Elizabeth (Lisa) Meehling – here, Trustee Tom Carpenter – here; Trustee Michael (Mike) Heap – absent, Mayor Seth Speiser – here; Mayor Seth Speiser (6 present, 1 absent) Mayor Seth Speiser announced there is a quorum.

### EXHIBIT A:

Mayor Speiser stated we have the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting Monday, October 16, 2023 for approval.

*Trustee James (Mike) Blaies motioned to accept the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting Monday, October 16, 2023, and Trustee Elizabeth (Lisa) Meehling seconded the motion. All voting aye, the motion carried.*

### EXHIBIT B:

#### FINANCE:

Trustee Tom Carpenter (Chairperson) reported on the Finance Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, November 1, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

1. **REVISE OF BOARD LISTS:** Trustee Carpenter said we Reviewed the Board Lists and discussed specific listings: CED/Frost, WD Automation, Computron, Tim's computer, Ditch Witch, Eric McDonald, Dhark Signs, Axon Enterprises and Seiler Industries.

2. **REVIEW OF INVESTMENTS:** Trustee Carpenter stated we are good right now.

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3. **INCOME STATEMENT:** Trustee Carpenter said Village Administrator Matt Trout advised the committee there are a few items out of whack, and is being taken care of, overall, it is fine.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** None.

**FUND AND ACCOUNT BALANCE REPORT:**

Trustee Carpenter said we haven't seen any impact just yet.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Attorney Invoices: The invoice was reviewed by the committee.
2. Newsletter: Nothing new.
3. Ordinances #1776: Trustee Carpenter stated Ordinance #1776 Amending the new Water Rate Increase will be taken care under Ordinances on the agenda.

Village Administrator Matt Trout said Mark Kern's post on Facebook advised the Village of Freeburg did receive the \$50,000 St. Clair County Parks Grant.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Ordinances #1776: Trustee Carpenter stated Ordinance #1776 Amending the new Water Rate Increase will be taken care under Ordinances on the agenda.
2. Equipment Service Co.'s Invoice #41204 in the amount of \$1,865.24: Trustee Carpenter stated we have an invoice from Equipment Service Company for one of our trucks being serviced. Public Works Director John Tolan said he has not yet talked to them.
3. Wothinton Unit 6 Turbo: Trustee Carpenter said the turbo charger for unit 6 takes care of the excess exhaust gas to help the unit run more efficiently. It did not run well as it should have had during the certification. We contacted the company that serviced the unit before, and they have quoted a price of \$57, 227.49 for replacement of the turbo charger. At this time, he would like to make a motion.

*Trustee Tom Carpenter motioned the approval of the repair of Unit #6 Generator Turbocharger to McPherson Sales at an estimated cost of \$57,227.49, and Trustee James (Mike) Blaies seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL:** Trustee Tom Carpenter – aye; Trustee James (Mike) Blaies – aye; Trustee Robert (Bob) Kaiser – aye; Trustee Ramon Matchett Jr. – aye; Trustee Elizabeth (Lisa) Meehling – aye; Trustee Michael (Mike) Heap – absent; (5 ayes 0 nays, 1 absent). **All voting aye, motion carried.***

Trustee Carpenter stated we talked about the net metering.

Village Administrator Matt Trout said the water fund has started increase, it is going in the right direction.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** None.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT:** None.

**EXHIBIT D:**

**ESDA REPORT:** Mayor Speiser called on ESDA Coordinator Gene Kramer. Gene was not present. Mayor Speiser said if you have any questions on Gene's ESDA Report please call him. Mayor Speiser asked if everyone seen in the Tribune where Gene received the NWS Award.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None.

**EXHIBIT E:**

**REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. **Mayor Speiser said,** everyone should have a print out of the Village Engineer's Reports.

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:** None.

**CONTRACTS, RELEASES, AGREEMENTS & ANNEXATIONS:** None.

**BIDS:** None.

**EXHIBIT F:**

**RESOLUTIONS:** Mayor Speiser stated we have Resolution #23-17 A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Accept United Healthcare Insurance.

*Trustee Elizabeth (Lisa) Meehling motion to adopt Resolution #23-17 by title only, and Trustee Ramon Matchett, Jr. seconded the motion. ROLL CALL:* Trustee Elizabeth (Lisa) Meehling – aye; Trustee Ramon Matchett Jr. – aye; Trustee James (Mike) Blaies – aye; Robert (Bob) Kaiser – aye; Trustee Tom Carpenter – aye, Trustee Michael (Mike) Heap – absent; (5 ayes 0 nays, 1 absent). **All voting aye, motion carried.**

**EXHIBIT G:**

**ORDINANCE:** Mayor Speiser stated we have Ordinance #1776. An Ordinance Amending the Water Rate Increase.

*Trustee Robert (Bob) Kaiser motion to adopt Ordinance #1776 by title only, and Trustee James (Mike) Blaies seconded the motion. ROLL CALL:* Trustee Robert (Bob) Kaiser – aye; Trustee James (Mike) Blaies – aye; Trustee Elizabeth (Lisa) Meehling – aye; Trustee Tom Carpenter – aye; Trustee Ramon Matchett Jr. – aye; Trustee Michael (Mike) Heap – absent (5 ayes 0 nays, 1 absent). **All voting aye, motion carried.**

**EXHIBIT H:**

**ORDINANCE:** Mayor Speiser stated we have Ordinance #1777. Tax Levy Ordinance.

*Trustee Tom Carpenter motion to adopt Ordinance #1777 by title only, and Trustee Elizabeth (Lisa) Meehling seconded the motion. ROLL CALL:* Trustee Tom Carpenter – aye; Trustee Elizabeth (Lisa) Meehling – aye; Trustee Robert (Bob) Kaiser – aye; Trustee James (Mike) Blaies – aye; Trustee Ramon Matchett Jr. – aye; Trustee Michael (Mike) Heap – absent (5 ayes 0 nays, 1 absent). **All voting aye, motion carried.**

**EXHIBIT I:**

**ORDINANCE:** Mayor Speiser stated we have Ordinance #1778. An Ordinance Amending the Revised Code of the Village of Freeburg, Chapter 1 Administration.

*Trustee Ramon Matchett, Jr. motion to adopt Ordinance #1778 by title only, and Trustee Elizabeth (Lisa) Meehling seconded the motion. ROLL CALL:* Trustee Ramon Matchett Jr. – aye; Trustee Elizabeth (Lisa) Meehling – aye; Trustee Robert (Bob) Kaiser – aye; Trustee James (Mike) Blaies – aye; Trustee Tom Carpenter – aye; Trustee Michael (Mike) Heap – absent (5 ayes 0 nays, 1 absent). **All voting aye, motion carried.**

**EXHIBIT J:**

**ORDINANCE:** Mayor Speiser stated we have Ordinance #1779. An Ordinance Abating the Electric Bond Taxes.

*Trustee James (Mike) Blaies motion to adopt Ordinance #1779 by title only, and Trustee Ramon Matchett, Jr. seconded the motion. ROLL CALL:* Trustee James (Mike) Blaies – aye; Trustee Ramon Matchett Jr. – aye; Trustee Tom Carpenter – aye; Trustee Robert (Bob) Kaiser – aye; Trustee Elizabeth (Lisa) Meehling – aye; Trustee Michael (Mike) Heap – absent (5 ayes 0 nays, 1 absent). **All voting aye, motion carried.**

**EXHIBIT K:**

**ORDINANCE:** Mayor Speiser stated we have Ordinance #1780. An Ordinance Amending the Revised Code of the Village of Freeburg, Chapter 10 Electric System.

*Trustee James (Mike) Blaies motion to adopt Ordinance #1780 by title only, and Trustee Ramon Matchett, Jr. seconded the motion. ROLL CALL:* Trustee James (Mike) Blaies – aye; Trustee Ramon Matchett Jr. – aye; Trustee Elizabeth (Lisa) Meehling – aye; Trustee Tom Carpenter – aye; Trustee Robert (Bob) Kaiser – aye; Trustee Michael (Mike) Heap – absent (5 ayes 0 nays, 1 absent). **All voting aye, motion carried.**

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**APPOINTMENTS:** None.

## **COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS:**

### **Legal/Ordinance Committee Meeting:**

Trustee Michael (Mike) Heap reported on the Legal/Ordinance Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, November 1, 2023 at 6:13 p.m.

### **The following item or items were talked about or discussed:**

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Zoning Report/Nuisance Properties: Village Engineer issued 5 building permits, 1 pool, 2 new homes, 1 shed, 1 and 1 garage. With regard to the nuisance properties, we received a complaint about a property on S. Richland. They have done some work but have a long way to go. The property on Mary Ann Court removed the basketball hoop. The Industrial Park property owner did have the grass cut. The reek Ridge Court grass issue was not bad. There has been some cleanup at Mr. Herr's business. There will be two hearings at the November Combined Board meeting. We have non-property owner wanting to operate a business in a SR-01 district and a variance for a setback on Sleeping Indian. The lot so narrow at the front and the homeowner is asking a variance to go 25 to 20 feet. Tim met with the developer of the Parrish property, and the plans will also be discussed meeting. We are going to send out income surveys for the CDBG for East High Street. There would be 16 houses affected, and we are hoping to get the lead service lines replaced. We believe at least 8 of them would qualify. Matt said that we can isolate the area and potentially qualify for some of the CDBG programs. If we receive the grant, the resident will receive a new water line all the way into the house free of any lead. Tim attended a Rebuild Illinois seminar, and advised we have \$286,000 in MFT funds that must be allocated by July 1, 2025. WE have been receiving checks for the Rebuild Illinois program that have to be spent or allocated for a bondable project that we go out for bid. When we do the MFT estimate for next year, we will need to include a sizeable Project. Tim said John has mentioned Savanna Oaks for that.
2. Development Updates: Trustee Matchett said Village Engineer Tim Pruett commented with respect to the Parrish property, the developer is looking at 40 units that would be comprised of two-story buildings with 3-6 units in each building.
3. Despain Property: Village Administrator Matt advised the committee this has been turned over to our insurance company and it has been assigned to an attorney.
4. Sunset Ridge/Phil Sheets Detention Area: Village Engineer Tim talked to Belleville's engineer, Scott Saeger, and he does not have anything on this.
5. Vacation of Village Easement on Regions Bank Property: Village Engineer Tim provided the Region's rep with a drawing showing what we are wanting to do. The rep thought we were eliminating and entrance, and Tim told him we are vacating the right-of-way and giving them ground.

We own the strip all the way through. Attorney Keck said we don't want this liability in the middle of their parking lot. Regions maintains the lot

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Volkert Invoice #1409089 in the amount of \$2,378.75: Trustee Matchett said we have an invoice from Volkert. This work was done trying to find the Despain right-of-way, and also for the Logan/Barttelbort annexation. Trustee Matchett said at this time he would like to make motion.

*Trustee Roman Matchett, Jr. motioned to paid Volkert Invoice #1409089 in the amount of \$2,378.75, and Trustee Elizabeth (Lisa) Meehling seconded the motion.* Trustee Ramon Matchett Jr. – aye; Trustee Elizabeth (Lisa) Meehling – aye; Trustee Robert (Bob) Kaiser – aye; Trustee James (Mike) Blaies – aye; Trustee Tom Carpenter – aye; Trustee Michael (Mike) Heap – absent (5 ayes 0 nays, 1 absent). **All voting aye, motion carried.**

2. Village of Freeburg Fees charged for “Special Use, Variance and Amendment Hearings: Matt advised the committee our code calls for charging applicants the mailing and publication fees for the special use, variance and amendment hearings. That has not been done in the past. With regard to annexations, Matt state we want those properties in the Village and doesn't feel that should be charged. The committee agreed to follow the code.

**GENERAL CONCERNS:** None.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None.

**EXHIBIT S:**

**Personnel/Police Committee Meeting:**

Trustee Elizabeth (Lisa) Meehling (Chairperson) reported on the Personnel/Police Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, November 1, 2023 at 6:42 p.m.

**POLICE:**

**OLD BUSIENSS:**

Trustee Meehling said Matt said he and Chief Schutzenhofer summarized the 103 calls received since last meeting. Chief Schutzenhofer advised he and Fire Chief Hans Mueller presented a program to the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grad students on how to use 911 correctly. Our canine officer inspected the grade school last week, and this week he inspected the high school along with other canine officers. All of the body camera equipment is in, and next week they will start installing the cameras in the patrol cars. The law requires them to be operational in 2025, but Chief Schutzenhofer wants time for our officers to become comfortable using them before the mandatory start date.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**PERSONNEL:**

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1: Office Manager/ Police Department Secretary Hire/: Trustee Meehling said we have made adjustment to both of those position, to fit better requirements. Trustee Meehling want though what the requirements need to be met for those positions.

*Trustee Elizabeth (Lisa) Meehling motioned to approve those job description for the Officer Manager and Police Department Secretary, and Trustee James (Mike) Blaies seconded the motion. ROLL CALL:* Trustee Elizabeth (Lisa) Meehling – aye; Trustee James (Mike) Blaies – aye; Trustee Ramon Matchett Jr. – aye; Trustee Robert (Bob) Kaiser – aye; Trustee Tom Carpenter – aye; Trustee Michael (Mike) Heap – absent; (5 ayes 0 nays, 1 absent). **All voting aye, motion carried.**

Trustee Meehling said we discussed health insurance renewal which we took care of that under Resolutions.

Trustee Meehling said last week we discussed the position of Village Administrator. At this time, she would like to make a motion.

*Trustee Elizabeth (Lisa) Meehling motioned to recommend the removal of the Interim Administrator Title from Matt Trout to Village Administrator with a salary increase to \$85,000, and Trustee James (Mike) Blaies seconded the motion. ROLL CALL:* Trustee Elizabeth (Lisa) Meehling – aye; Trustee James (Mike) Blaies – aye; Trustee Ramon Matchett Jr. – aye; Trustee Robert (Bob) Kaiser – aye; Trustee Tom Carpenter – aye; Trustee Michael (Mike) Heap – absent; (5 ayes 0 nays, 1 absent). **All voting aye, motion carried.**

**GENERAL CONERNS:** None.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None

**UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF VETERAN’S DAY – Friday, November 10, 2023.

Combined Planning and Zoning Board – Tuesday, November 14, 2023 – 6:00 P.M.

Committee As Whole Meeting – Monday, November 13, 2023 – 5:30 p.m.

Board Meeting – Monday, November 20, 2023 – 7:30 p.m.

**VILLAGE MAYOR, VILLAGE CLERK & TRUSTEES’ COMMENTS:**

**Trustee Tom Carpenter** – Congratulate to Gene.

**Trustee Elizabeth Meehling** – Congratulation to Gene on receiving the WRN 2023 Ambassador of Excellence Award and to Matt.

**Trustee Michael (Mike) Heap** – absent

**Village Clerk Jerry Menard** – Same as Lisa said.  
**Trustee James (Mike) Blaies** – Congratulate to Gene and Matt  
**Trustee Ramon Matchett, Jr.** – Congratulate to Gene and Matt  
**Trustee Robert (Bob) Kaiser** – Congratulate to Gene and Matt  
**Mayor Seth Speiser** –

**STAFF COMMENTS:**

**Public Works Director John Tolan** – Congratulate to Gene and Matt  
**Administrator Matt Trout** – There will be an open house 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. and a ribbon cutting  
**Engineer Tim Pruett** – No thank you.  
**Chief of Police Mike Schutzenhofer** – Congratulate to Gene and Matt

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor Seth Speiser called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

*Trustee Elizabeth (Lisa) Meehling motioned to adjourn the Regular Board meeting of Monday, November 6, 2023 at 7:48 p.m. and Trustee Ramon Matchett, Jr. seconded the motion. All voting aye, the motion carried.*

  
Jerry Lynn Menard  
Village Clerk