

**VILLAGE PRESIDENT**  
Seth Speiser

**VILLAGE CLERK**  
Jerry Menard

**VILLAGE TRUSTEES**  
Ray Matchett, Jr.  
Lisa Meehling  
Mike Blaies  
Tom Carpenter  
Dana Miller  
Robert Kaiser

**VILLAGE TREASURER**  
Bryan A. Vogel

# VILLAGE OF FREEBURG

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**VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR**  
Matt Trout

**PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR**  
John Tolan

**POLICE CHIEF**  
Michael J. Schutzenhofer

**ESDA COORDINATOR**  
Eugene Kramer

**VILLAGE ENGINEER**  
Tim Pruett, P.E.

**VILLAGE ATTORNEY**  
Weilmuenster Keck Brown, P.C.

**ELECTRIC COMMITTEE MEETING**  
(Blaies/Carpenter/Kaiser/Meehling)  
Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting of the Electric Committee was called to order at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 14, 2024 by Chairperson Mike Blaies. Committee members present were Chairperson Mike Blaies, Trustee Tom Carpenter, Trustee Bob Kaiser, Trustee Lisa Meehling, Mayor Seth Speiser, Village Clerk Jerry Menard, Trustee Ray Matchett, Trustee Dana Miller, Public Works Director John Tolan, Police Chief Mike Schutzenhofer, Head Lineman Shane Krauss, Village Attorney Fred Keck, Village Administrator Matt Trout, Village Engineer Tim Pruett, Office Manager Julie Polson and Office Manager Mary Downen. Guest present: none. There were no guests present via Zoom.

## **A. OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Approval of January 10, 2024 Minutes: *Trustee Tom Carpenter motioned to recommend to the full Board approval of the January 10, 2024, and Trustee Lisa Meehling seconded the motion. All voting yea, the motion carried.*
2. Customer Issues: Head Lineman Shane Krauss stated on 1/20 as most everyone is aware we had city wide outage. There was an accident on Peabody Road. It was fairly quick, went out at 1:54 a.m. and Ameren came back at 3:31 a.m.
3. IMEA Energy Efficiency Grant: Nothing new.
4. Cemetery Road Line Extension: Nothing new.
5. South Substation Switchgear Preventative Maintenance: Nothing new.
6. BHMG Cost of Service Study: Village Administrator Matt Trout said they met with BHMG and the company that is running it for BHMG last week and we believe we are to a spot for them to start building the rate structures. We also had a follow-up meeting after we regrouped because this is very high level. They don't think we are putting enough toward capital improvement of our system, improving and updating. That is what their numbers show. At this point I told them we have a great maintenance program and do a lot of things to update our system. We aren't necessarily coding things for capital projects the way they think we should be. So ultimately that is what they're relating to our system, is that we don't have enough capital improvement taking place on our electric system to maintain the longevity of it. Which is why we are seeing the bigger hits. They suggested we take out a 2 million dollar bond to upgrade our system. We advised that we are not interested in doing that. They think we need, on average, 8.5% increase yr 1, 4.6% yr 2 and 4.6 yr 3. The 8.5% is average and they think residential customers will be around 6.5% and commercial customers could be closer to 10.5%. Most of this would come in the cost of service fee. Tomorrow John and I plan on going to the IMEA meeting and I plan on sitting down with them to get information on where we are at compared to everyone else. They did tell John that they believe we are on the lower side of IMEA customers right now with their current rates. John and Shane both recommend

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going with what they suggest. Matt said they have built the residential rate but that is it so far until we give them the go ahead to move forward. Chairperson Mike Blaise says we have to do something but we have just raised water/sewer/trash. So what do you need from us tonight as far as a decision? Matt asked are you guys comfortable with them building this rate at 8.5/4.6/4.6? Shane commented that if we don't go with their recommendation who has the knowledge to straighten in out to get to where we should be. Trustee Tom Carpenter said he thinks they should build the rates then we can figure out what we want to do. Matt said we will go back to them and have them build out the rates and get them back to you guys.

7. Versalift and Worthington Turbo Charger Service Update: Shane said we received the Worthington Turbo and on 1/23 we completed the install and it is back in service. Versalift is still a wait and see. Public Works Director John Tolan said it is in the building and parts are ordered but he thinks we are 3-4 weeks away. Mike Blaise asked if we can take the Worthington Turbo Charger off and leave the Versalift on? John responded, correct.
8. CDL – Matt stated we would like to send 2 people to CDL training. John advised if we get setup before the end of Feb there is a \$500 discount, so we would be saving \$1,000 sending 2 people. We would like to move on this to get it in this budget. Village Attorney Fred Keck stated the new statute that passed says in order to have someone teach it in house, you have to have your CDL for 2 years. At some point we will be able to do in house training. Tom asked how many trucks do we have that require a CDL to drive it? Shane respnded every line truck. John responded and the leaf machine.

*Trustee Tom Carpenter motioned to recommend to the full Board to send 2 people for CDL Training at the cost of \$4,600 per person, and Trustee Lisa Meehling seconded the motion. All voting yea, the motion carried.*

## **B. NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Fire Department Internet: Matt stated we had talked about this in the past where we had the fire department on our Internet and this kind of ties in to the Clearwave issue. Tom asked what do they pay us? Matt said they have agreed to pay the cost to setup a special router. Do you care if they were to come back on our Internet? Matt said he and John think it is a reasonable question to ask why they can't use Charter.
2. BHMG – CAAPP Renewal: John said this is the 5 yr. renewal. Matt said this is the same renewal fee as every year, we just need to update the renewal application.

*Trustee Tom Carpenter motioned to recommend to the full Board to have BHMG renew the CAAPP permit for 5 years in the amount of \$10,000, and Trustee Lisa Meehling seconded the motion. All voting yea, the motion carried.*

3. BHMG Invoice #E03244-3: Matt said the \$24,605 is for this portion of the rate study.

*Trustee Tom Carpenter motioned to recommend to the full Board to pay BHMG Invoice #E03244-3 in the amount of \$24,605 for the electric rate study, and Trustee Bob Kaiser seconded the motion. All voting yea, the motion carried.*

4. BHMG Memorandum of Agreement: Matt said this is for the retainer for John and Shane for when they have issues. The monthly invoice increased \$200 a month.

*Trustee Lisa Meehling motioned to recommend to the full Board to send the BHMGMemorandum of Agreement for their monthly retainer of \$1,200, and Trustee Bob Kaiser seconded the motion. All voting yea, the motion carried.*

5. FY25 Budget: Matt gave everyone a copy and said we are still looking at March 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30, which would give us an hour. Hopefully we won't need to go through it line item by line item. Tom pointed out that we will have a finance meeting before then and can address questions there. Matt highlighted some items and discussed some of the larger numbers within the budget.

**C. GENERAL CONCERNS:** None.

**D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None.

**E. ADJOURN:** *Trustee Tom Carpenter motioned to adjourn at 6:46 p.m and Trustee Bob Kaieser seconded the motion. All voting yea, the motion carried.*



Mary Downen  
Office Manager