

VILLAGE PRESIDENT
Seth Speiser

VILLAGE CLERK
Jerry Menard

VILLAGE TRUSTEES
Ray Matchett, Jr.
Mike Blaies
Denise Albers
Dean Pruett
Mathew Trout
Lisa Meehling

VILLAGE OF FREEBURG

FREEBURG MUNICIPAL CENTER
14 SOUTHGATE CENTER, FREEBURG, IL 62243
PHONE: (618) 539-5545 • FAX: (618) 539-5590
Web Site: www.freeburg.com

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR
Tony Funderburg

VILLAGE TREASURER
Bryan A. Vogel

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
John Tolan

POLICE CHIEF
Michael J. Schutzenhofer

VILLAGE ATTORNEY
Weilmuenster & Keck, P.C.

December 5, 2017

NOTICE MEETING OF THE ELECTRIC COMMITTEE (Trout/Albers/Blaies/Meehling)

An Electric Committee Meeting of the Village of Freeburg will be held at the Municipal Center, Executive Board Room, on **Wednesday, December 13, 2017, at 5:30 p.m.**

ELECTRIC COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

- I. Items to be Discussed
 - A. Old Business
 1. Approval of November 15, 2017 Minutes
 2. Surplus Equipment
 3. New Electric Customers
 4. Customer Issues
 5. Village Hall Parking Lot Lights
 - B. New Business
 1. Ordinance #1646 – An Ordinance Adopting a Policy Prohibiting Sexual Harassment
 - C. General Concerns
 - D. Public Participation
 - E. Adjourn

At said Electric Committee Meeting, the Village Trustees may vote on whether or not to hold an Executive Session to discuss the selection of a person to fill a public office [5 ILCS, 120/2 – (c) (3)], litigation [5 ILCS, 120/2 - (c)(11)] personnel [5 ILCS, 120/2 – (c)(1)]; or real estate transactions [5 ILCS, 120/2 - (c)(5)].

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ELECTRIC COMMITTEE MEETING
(Trout/Albers/Blaies/Meehling)
Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

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The meeting of the Electric Committee was called to order at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 15, 2017 by Chairman Matt Trout. Committee members present were Chairman Matt Trout, Trustee Denise Albers, Trustee Mike Blaies, Trustee Lisa Meehling, Mayor Seth Speiser, Village Clerk Jerry Menard, Trustee Ray Matchett, Trustee Dean Pruett, Public Works Director John Tolan, Head Lineman Shane Krauss, Village Administrator Tony Funderburg and Office Manager Julie Polson. Guests present: Janet Baechle and Mike Heap.

A. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Approval of October 11, 2017 Minutes: *Trustee Mike Blaies motioned to approve the October 11, 2017 minutes and Trustee Denise Albers seconded the motion. All voting yea, the motion carried.*
2. Surplus Equipment: Head Lineman Shane Krauss advised we have the Harley Davidson motorcycle on the auction site right now. He believes it is up to \$1400.00. Shane advised the person who bought the Chevy has not picked it up. Public Works Director John Tolan said if he doesn't pick it up, we should probably scrap it. They have been going through the old power plant engines that don't run anymore and there will be a lot of steel to scrap.
3. New Electric Customers: John said he and Shane have composed a letter and will send that out to those residents that could potentially receive our electric service and see what feedback we get.
4. Customer Issues: None at this time.
5. Village Hall Parking Lot Lights: Shane advised the lights came in today, and the poles should be delivered tomorrow.

Shane stated he met with Verbal regarding the Meadow Pines Subdivision and have come up with a plan on that. He estimates the material costs to be somewhere around \$165,000 which includes moving the existing line that runs through the property. This comes out to less than \$2,000 per lot.

John received an email from Kevin Gaden of IMEA last week advising they were not moving forward with the consulting study on the Cairo issue. He and Tony had a conference call with Kevin and reminded him that it was motioned and seconded by the full board to move ahead with the study, and that Freeburg felt they should do so. John thinks they are going to go ahead with the study.

B. NEW BUSINESS: None.

C. GENERAL CONCERNS: None.

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Janet would like to see an address when we annex properties. Tony advised we try to do so but there are times where an address has not been assigned.

E. ADJOURN: *Trustee Lisa Meehling motioned to adjourn at 5:39 p.m. and Trustee Mike Blaies seconded the motion. All voting yea, the motion carried.*



Julie Polson
Office Manager

ORDINANCE NUMBER: 1646

**AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A POLICY PROHIBITING SEXUAL HARASSMENT
FOR THE VILLAGE OF FREEBURG**

WHEREAS, the Illinois General Assembly has recently enacted Public Act 100-0554, an Act concerning government, which became effective immediately, dated November 16, 2017;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Act, each governmental unit shall adopt an ordinance or resolution establishing a policy to prohibit sexual harassment;

WHEREAS, all prior existing sexual harassment policies of the Village of Freeburg shall be superseded by the Policy Prohibiting Sexual Harassment adopted by this Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, should any section or provision of this Ordinance or the adopted Policy Prohibiting Sexual Harassment be declared to be invalid, that decision shall not affect the validity of this Ordinance or adopted Policy Prohibiting Sexual Harassment as a whole or any part thereof, other than the part so declared to be invalid;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the corporate authorities of the Village of Freeburg the following:

Section 1. The Policy Prohibiting Sexual Harassment, included as Exhibit A to this Ordinance, is hereby adopted.

Section 2. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect on December 18, 2017.

PASSED THIS ____ day of _____, _____.

YEAS _____

NAYS _____

ABSENT _____

ABSTAIN _____

Jerry Menard
Village Clerk

ORDINANCE NUMBER: 1646 cont.

APPROVED THIS _____ day of December, 2017.

ATTEST:

Mayor/Village President

Jerry Menard
Village Clerk

POLICY PROHIBITING SEXUAL HARASSMENT

I. PROHIBITION ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT

It is unlawful to harass a person because of that person's sex. The courts have determined that sexual harassment is a form of discrimination under Title VII of the U.S. Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended in 1991. All persons have a right to work in an environment free from sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is unacceptable misconduct which affects individuals of all genders and sexual orientations. It is a policy of the Village of Freeburg to prohibit harassment of any person by any municipal official, municipal agent, municipal employee or municipal agency or office on the basis of sex or gender. All municipal officials, municipal agents, municipal employees and municipal agencies or offices are prohibited from sexually harassing any person, regardless of any employment relationship or lack thereof.

II. DEFINITION OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT

This policy adopts the definition of sexual harassment as stated in the Illinois Human Rights Act, which currently defines sexual harassment as:

Any unwelcome sexual advances or requests for sexual favors or any conduct of a sexual nature when:

- (1) Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment,
- (2) Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual, or
- (3) Such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment.

Conduct which may constitute sexual harassment includes:

- Verbal: sexual innuendos, suggestive comments, insults, humor, and jokes about sex, anatomy or gender-specific traits, sexual propositions, threats, repeated requests for dates, or statements about other employees, even outside of their presence, of a sexual nature.
- Non-verbal: suggestive or insulting sounds (whistling), leering, obscene gestures, sexually suggestive bodily gestures, "catcalls", "smacking" or "kissing" noises.
- Visual: posters, signs, pin-ups or slogans of a sexual nature, viewing pornographic material or websites.
- Physical: touching, unwelcome hugging or kissing, pinching, brushing the body, any coerced sexual act or actual assault.
- Textual/Electronic: "sexting" (electronically sending messages with sexual content, including pictures and video), the use of sexually explicit language, harassment, cyber stalking and threats via all forms of electronic communication (e-mail, text/picture/video messages, intranet/on-line postings, blogs, instant messages and social network websites like Facebook and Twitter).

The most severe and overt forms of sexual harassment are easier to determine. On the other end of the spectrum, some sexual harassment is more subtle and depends, to some extent, on individual perception

and interpretation. The courts will assess sexual harassment by a standard of what would offend a "reasonable person."

III. *PROCEDURE FOR REPORTING AN ALLEGATION OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT*

An employee who either observes sexual harassment or believes herself/himself to be the object of sexual harassment should deal with the incident(s) as directly and firmly as possible by clearly communicating her/his position to the offending employee, and her/his immediate supervisor. It is not necessary for sexual harassment to be directed at the person making the report.

Any employee may report conduct which is believed to be sexual harassment, including the following:

- *Electronic/Direct Communication.* If there is sexual harassing behavior in the workplace, the harassed employee should directly and clearly express her/his objection that the conduct is unwelcome and request that the offending behavior stop. The initial message may be verbal. If subsequent messages are needed, they should be put in writing in a note or a memo.
- *Contact with Supervisory Personnel.* At the same time direct communication is undertaken, or in the event the employee feels threatened or intimidated by the situation, the problem must be promptly reported to the immediate supervisor of the person making the report, a department head, a director of human resources, an ethics officer, the city manager or administrator, or the chief executive officer of the municipality.

The employee experiencing what he or she believes to be sexual harassment must not assume that the employer is aware of the conduct. If there are no witnesses and the victim fails to notify a supervisor or other responsible officer, the municipality will not be presumed to have knowledge of the harassment.

- *Resolution Outside Municipality.* The purpose of this policy is to establish prompt, thorough and effective procedures for responding to every report and incident so that problems can be identified and remedied by the municipality. However, all municipal employees have the right to contact the Illinois Department of Human Rights (IDHR) or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) for information regarding filing a formal complaint with those entities. An IDHR complaint must be filed within 180 days of the alleged incident(s) unless it is a continuing offense. A complaint with the EEOC must be filed within 300 days.

Documentation of any incident may be submitted with any report (what was said or done, the date, the time and the place), including, but not limited to, written records such as letters, notes, memos and telephone messages.

All allegations, including anonymous reports, will be accepted and investigated regardless of how the matter comes to the attention of the municipality. However, because of the serious implications of sexual harassment charges and the difficulties associated with their investigation and the questions of credibility involved, the claimant's willing cooperation is a vital component of an effective inquiry and an appropriate outcome.

IV. *PROHIBITION ON RETALIATION FOR REPORTING SEXUAL HARASSMENT ALLEGATIONS*

No municipal official, municipal agency, municipal employee or municipal agency or office shall take any retaliatory action against any municipal employee due to a municipal employee's:

1. Disclosure or threatened disclosure of any violation of this policy,
2. The provision of information related to or testimony before any public body conducting an investigation, hearing or inquiry into any violation of this policy, or
3. Assistance or participation in a proceeding to enforce the provisions of this policy.

For the purposes of this policy, retaliatory action means the reprimand, discharge, suspension, demotion, denial of promotion or transfer, or change in the terms or conditions of employment of any municipal employee that is taken in retaliation for a municipal employee's involvement in protected activity pursuant to this policy.

No individual making a report will be retaliated against even if a report made in good faith is not substantiated. In addition, any witness will be protected from retaliation.

Similar to the prohibition against retaliation contained herein, the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (5 ILCS 430/15-10) provides whistleblower protection from retaliatory action such as reprimand, discharge, suspension, demotion, or denial of promotion or transfer that occurs in retaliation for an employee who does any of the following:

1. Discloses or threatens to disclose to a supervisor or to a public body an activity, policy, or practice of any officer, member, State agency, or other State employee that the State employee reasonably believes is in violation of a law, rule, or regulation,
2. Provides information to or testifies before any public body conducting an investigation, hearing, or inquiry into any violation of a law, rule, or regulation by any officer, member, State agency or other State employee, or
3. Assists or participates in a proceeding to enforce the provisions of the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act.

Pursuant to the Whistleblower Act (740 ILCS 174/15(a)), an employer may not retaliate against an employee who discloses information in a court, an administrative hearing, or before a legislative commission or committee, or in any other proceeding, where the employee has reasonable cause to believe that the information discloses a violation of a State or federal law, rule, or regulation. In addition, an employer may not retaliate against an employee for disclosing information to a government or law enforcement agency, where the employee has reasonable cause to believe that the information discloses a violation of a State or federal law, rule, or regulation. (740 ILCS 174/15(b)).

According to the Illinois Human Rights Act (775 ILCS 5/6-101), it is a civil rights violation for a person, or for two or more people to conspire, to retaliate against a person because he/she has opposed that which he/she reasonably and in good faith believes to be sexual harassment in employment, because he/she has made a charge, filed a complaint, testified, assisted, or participated in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under the Illinois Human Rights Act.

An employee who is suddenly transferred to a lower paying job or passed over for a promotion after filing a complaint with IDHR or EEOC, may file a retaliation charge – due within 180 days (IDHR) or 300 days (EEOC) of the alleged retaliation.

V. *CONSEQUENCES OF A VIOLATION OF THE PROHIBITION ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT*

In addition to any and all other discipline that may be applicable pursuant to municipal policies, employment agreements, procedures, employee handbooks and/or collective bargaining agreement, any person who violates this policy or the Prohibition on Sexual Harassment contained in 5 ILCS 430/5-65, may be subject to a fine of up to \$5,000 per offense, applicable discipline or discharge by the municipality and any applicable fines and penalties established pursuant to local ordinance, State law or Federal law. Each violation may constitute a separate offense. Any discipline imposed by the municipality shall be separate and distinct from any penalty imposed by an ethics commission and any fines or penalties imposed by a court of law or a State or Federal agency.

VI. *CONSEQUENCES FOR KNOWINGLY MAKING A FALSE REPORT*

A false report is a report of sexual harassment made by an accuser using the sexual harassment report to accomplish some end other than stopping sexual harassment or retaliation for reporting sexual harassment. A false report is not a report made in good faith which cannot be proven. Given the seriousness of the consequences for the accused, a false or frivolous report is a severe offense that can itself result in disciplinary action. Any person who intentionally makes a false report alleging a violation of any provision of this policy shall be subject to discipline or discharge pursuant to applicable municipal policies, employment agreements, procedures, employee handbooks and/or collective bargaining agreements.

In addition, any person who intentionally makes a false report alleging a violation of any provision of the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act to an ethics commission, an inspector general, the State Police, a State's Attorney, the Attorney General, or any other law enforcement official is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor. An ethics commission may levy an administrative fine of up to \$5,000 against any person who intentionally makes a false, frivolous or bad faith allegation.