

VILLAGE PRESIDENT
Seth Speiser

VILLAGE CLERK
Jerry Menard

VILLAGE TRUSTEES
Denise Albers
Michael Heap
Robert Kaiser
Mike Blaies
Ray Matchett, Jr.
Lisa Meehling

VILLAGE TREASURER
Bryan A. Vogel

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

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
John Tolan

POLICE CHIEF
Michael J. Schutzenhofer

ESDA COORDINATOR
Eugene Kramer

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR
Matt Trout

VILLAGE ATTORNEY
Weilmuenster Keck Brown, P.C.

Finance Committee Meeting
(Finance/Industrial Park/Economic Development/Budget)
(Albers/Blaies/Kaiser/Matchett)
Wednesday, January 25, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

Chairperson Denise Albers officially called the meeting of the Finance Committee to order at 5:33 p.m., on Wednesday, January 25, 2023. Those in attendance were Chairperson Denise Albers, Trustee Mike Blaies, Trustee Bob Kaiser, Trustee Ray Matchett, Mayor Seth Speiser, Village Clerk Jerry Menard (absent), Treasurer Bryan Vogel (absent), Trustee Mike Heap, Trustee Lisa Meehling, Village Attorney Fred Keck, Public Works Director John Tolan, Police Chief Mike Schutzenhofer, Zoning Administrator Matt Trout, Village Administrator Tony Funderburg, Bookkeeper Laura Wolf, Water/Sewer Operator Trevor Breitwieser and Office Manager Julie Polson (via Zoom). Guests present: Janet Baechle (5:54 p.m.), Scott Simmons and Vicki Wade from TWM. There were no guests present via Zoom.

- A. REVIEW OF BOARD LISTS:** Trustee Blaies questioned Key Equipment, \$7,713.84 – Public Works Director John Tolan advised the water/sewer purchase 3 headphones and a portable unit for the employees to be able to communicate with each other. They will be used when the hydro excavator or sewer jetter are in use. We had a computer module go bad on the leaf machine and another minor repair.
- B. REVIEW OF INVESTMENTS:** Chairperson Albers stated we do not have any CDs coming due until next year.
- C. INCOME STATEMENT:** Nothing new to report.
- D. TREASURER'S REPORT** – Treasurer's Reports for 9/30/21, 10/31/21, 11/30/21, 12/31/21, 1/31/22, 2/28/22 and 3/31/22: Chairperson Albers and Trustee Meehling asked Tony if we are going to get caught up on them, and Tony confirmed that we are working on that.

Trustee Ray Matchett motioned to recommend to the full Board the Treasurer's Reports for 9/30/21, 10/31/21, 11/30/21, 12/31/21, 1/31/22, 2/28/22 and 3/31/22 for approval, and Trustee Mike Blaies seconded the motion. All voting yea, the motion carried.

E. FUND AND ACCOUNT BALANCE REPORT: No questions.

F. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Approval of December 28, 2022 Minutes. Trustee Mike Blaies motioned to approve the minutes, and Trustee Ray Matchett seconded the motion. All voting yea, the motion carried.
2. Attorney Invoices: The invoices were unavailable.
3. Newsletter: Julie will start working on this shortly. Laura Wolf left the meeting at 5:39 p.m.

G. NEW BUSINESS:

1. TWM Presentation: Public Works Director John Tolan commented Scott Simmons and Vicki Wade were present to provide a review of the Water Tower Study and Project Plan. We can choose which projects we wish to address, and the plan will be submitted to IEPA. Scott provided a brief overview of the study. He confirmed the study was submitted to IEPA last summer. He stated the main goal of the study is to provide service to our customers along with a watermain replacement plan. He commented we need to determine the problem watermains, those that need to be upgraded and different storage options. The water main replacements have been broken down into several phases. They first looked up at upgrading the line to the west tower. They need to get more water up to that tower, and all of the other projects hinge on this. An added benefit would include replacing the main in front of the high school. In conjunction with that project, they looked at adding a new ground storage tank to the system around Hill Mine Road and eliminating the east water tower. By adding the storage tank by Hill Mine, this gives us more flexibility on how we run our system. The water main replacements will address replacing old cast iron or undersized lines. By doing this, we will get an additional connection to the FSH system, we are upsizing the line to the west tower, eliminating the east tower, increasing pressure to the known problem areas, adding a new storage tank which will give more options on how to operate system, water main replacements that will help the pressure throughout the system and get water where and when we need it. The total for all of the projects except Save Site, Jefferson Road and Peabody Road comes to \$8,334,100.00. Vicki Wade provided information on the funding process. The forms needed to apply to IEPA for funding are due March 31st. The current interest rate is 1.24%, and she used the projected projects costs to show how much we would have to adjust our rates according to the loan/loans needed for the projects included in this study. The numbers for both 20- and 30-year loans were included. A rate increase would be needed. Vicki said with the loan process through construction, you are looking at 2 – 4 years based on the project. You do not have to start paying back the loan until the construction is complete. Scott advised they tried to space out the pricing so our residents are hit with a large increase at one time. John would like to include the SAVE Site Elevated Water Storage Tank in the plan. Scott said we could do that but your reserves would not grow as much. John said our east tower is in bad shape. He also commented we are going to be required to replace all of our lead and copper lines services. This is our time to replace them, and they can be added to the loan. Trustee Albers asked if there is any additional funding available through grants. Scott said there is money out there to replace the lead water lines. Vicki confirmed as long as we submit a plan, we are on EPA's list. Trustee Albers asked if there is a deadline to complete the projects. Tony stated the plan is good for five years. Scott further said as long as the project is in progress, we can extend the deadline. Tony said this plan will help build the water fund, and was needed. Vicki confirmed we need an ordinance approving this plan. It does not mean we would raise rates right away. This plan helps the Village with providing a proactive plan to address the aging water infrastructure and EPA mandates. Scott and Vicki left the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Tony provided a spreadsheet which shows our electric rates broken out by how many kilowatts are used with 300 kWh being the minimum. The first example is the 1,000 kWh rate which is our average, the second one is 500 kWh, and the third one is 2,000 kWh. Tony explained the rate changes every month based on how much we purchased at a certain time. Tony met with our new insurance company, Tokyo Marine for about 4 hours. The meeting went very well, and he provided a lot of great advice. They have a company called HR Munie that will write a handbook for us. He reviewed everything including police policies and will help with those. Tony is working on the budget and asked about the Fire Department doing our inspections. Once he has the budget done, he will email it out to everyone. Trustee Blaies thought we decided against this. Chairperson Albers does not think that this is a good move for us. Mayor Speiser commented he does not believe it is their intention to split the revenue like the County does.

G. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Janet is concerned about raising rates. She is retired and there are a lot of people like her in town. Tony said the government is handing down mandates that we have to adhere to. Chairperson Albers said they are not providing the funds to help with that. John commented we are doing here is to provide safe water to our residents, keeping chlorine at a safe level, eliminate any lead and copper lines in town. Tony said the chili cook-off raises a lot of money that goes to St. Paul's for utility assistance. Tony said if the seniors in town are struggling, he recommends that they call St. Paul's to get help one time per year. The Township also has a utility bill assistance program. Tony said no-one wants to raise rates but at some point, you have to fix your infrastructure.

H. ADJOURN: *Trustee Mike Blaies motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:23 p.m., and Trustee Ray Matchett seconded the motion. All voting yea, the motion carried.*



Julie Polson
Office Manager