

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

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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.

## PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING Trash/Water/Sewer (Kaiser/Blaies/Heap/Meehling) Wednesday, September 13, 2023 at 5:45 p.m.

The Public Works Committee Meeting was called to order at 5:55 p.m., on Wednesday, September 13, 2023, by Chairman Bob Kaiser. Members present were Chairman Bob Kaiser, Trustee Mike Blaies, Trustee Mike Heap, Trustee Lisa Meehling, Mayor Seth Speiser, Village Clerk Jerry Menard (absent), Trustee Tom Carpenter, Trustee Ray Matchett, Village Attorney Fred Keck, Public Works Director John Tolan, Police Chief Mike Schutzenhofer, Interim Village Administrator Matt Trout, Treasurer Bryan Vogel, Crew Leader Bob Jenkins and Office Manager Julie Polson (absent). Guests present: Janet Baechle and Tim Pruett. There were no guests present via Zoom.

### A. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Approval of August 16, 2023 minutes: Trustee Mike Blaies motioned to recommend to the full Board approval of the August 16, 2023 minutes, and Trustee Lisa Meehling seconded the motion. All voting yea, the motion carried.
2. New Sewer Plant/Sewer Loan: Public Works Director John Tolan stated the punch list meeting with Burns & McDonnell was very thorough. He and Matt received the punch list yesterday with 286 items on it. John said this was needed as it gives everyone involved a list of the items that need to be addressed. Village Administrator Matt Trout said there are substantial items on that list like the HVAC system for the admin building. John said they are still operating manually but hopes the punch list will get us closer to operating automatically. He also advised we have run into some issues. The influent screen was working for 3 – 4 weeks and has since quit. Adam has been talking to the manufacturer on getting that fixed. The admin floors are being installed. Matt said we will be looking to extend the completion date because of the lead times.

*Trustee Mike Blaies motioned to recommend to the full Board approval of Haier Plumbing & Heating Pay Request #21 in the amount of \$215,592.20, and Trustee Lisa Meehling seconded the motion. All voting yea, the motion carried.*

3. Sewer issues: None.
4. FSH Minutes: John advised we switched over the Gass property and installed a fire hydrant there. We also relocated a fire hydrant in Saturn Terrace to a better location. SLM has switched over to free chlorine residual, and we have started flushing hydrants.
5. Water System Study – TWM Invoices #80868 in the amount of \$5,000.00 and Invoice #80869 in the amount of \$6,000.00: Matt advised he and John talked with Scott this week about how we want to see more interaction and confirmation from IEPA that we are moving in the right direction before TWM continues any design work for anything that we aren't on the list for or awarded. Scott received confirmation from Chad at IEPA that we are moving in

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the right direction. Matt and John advised TWM there are some items that need to be addressed before we can move forward. John said we told TWM that we need it documented in writing from IEPA that Freeburg has done everything they need to in order to be eligible for IEPA's January funding. Matt advised it is not a guarantee but we have done everything we can.

*Trustee Lisa Meehling motioned to recommend to the full Board approval of TWM Invoice #80868 in the amount of \$5,000.00 and Invoice #80869 in the amount of \$6,000.00, and Trustee Mike Heap seconded the motion. All voting yea, the motion carried.*

**B. NEW BUSINESS:**


1. Water Rate Increase: Matt provided everyone with the updated Illinois Rural Water study which was very similar to their initial study as well as surrounding communities' rates. Some of the communities are close while others charge a substantial monthly meter charge and then a lower water charge. Matt said we are on the higher end of the smaller communities list but where we need to go. Matt said the original spreadsheet with the 5 – 10 year plan stayed the same. He advised Illinois Rural came in at a minimum charge of \$9.02 and \$11.00 for the second 1,000. Matt's original projection was \$10.75 and \$10.34 respectively. John said TWM feels comfortable with the projected rate increases covering the loan projects. He further said the 10-year plan has the loan repayment built into the rates. He commented there are a lot of unknowns with that, and also said that with an IEPA loan, we are going to have to show that we can pay that back. Mayor Speiser said we are just pushing this down the road if we don't do something now. At the current rate billed in the water fund, Illinois Rural Water shows a deficit of \$217,765.82. Matt believes the long-term plan is the better option so we don't have to come back and raise rates again in the near future. John said the funding is there now to replace the lead services in the older part of town. Trustee Carpenter is not in favor of going that far out and said can revisit the numbers in the future. Tim Pruett confirmed you will need to project earnings for the next five years to IEPA. Matt confirmed he received an email from TWM who advised they are in agreement with our numbers. Trustee Meehling commented we don't know what the cost of the projects will be 5 – 6 years out. Her concern is we could be underestimating those costs, and Matt stated that has been his concern as well. He thinks a 3-year rate increase is realistic and should include the 2% yearly increase after that with the knowledge that we will need to revisit it at that time. John said this would show the IEPA that we can cover the first phase of the water project. Matt said with this rate structure, it will build our reserves to almost \$450,000 in three years. The committee agreed on the 3-year increase with 2% yearly increase after that. We will have a proposed ordinance at the next Finance committee meeting.

John received the THM samples back and they were very good results. Eric and Trevor are flushing and performing maintenance on the hydrants. Lead inventory letters are going back out. He attended the IEPA conference today, and 75% of it was on lead inventory and replacement. We will continue to work to have something ready in order to try to receive funds to replace them.

**C. GENERAL CONCERNS:** None.

**D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None

**E. ADJOURN:** *Trustee Lisa Meehling motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 p.m., and Trustee Mike Blais seconded the motion. All voting yea, the motion carried.*



Julie Polson,  
Office Manager