

**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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PHONE: (618) 539-5545 • FAX: (618) 539-5590  
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, OCTOBER 16, 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, October 16, 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 Michael (Mike) Heap – here; Trustee Elizabeth (Lisa) Meehling – here, (inter the board meeting at 7:32) Trustee James (Mike) Blaies – here; Trustee Tom Carpenter – here; Trustee Ramon Matchett, Jr. – here; Trustee Robert (Bob) Kaiser – here; Mayor Seth Speiser – here; Mayor Seth Speiser (7 present, 0 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 2, 2023 for approval.

*Trustee James (Mike) Blaies motioned to accept the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting Monday, October 2, 2023, and Trustee Roman Matchett, Jr. seconded the motion. All voting aye, the motion carried.*

**FINANCE:** None.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** None.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT:** None.

### **EXHIBIT B:**

**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.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None.

Village of Freeburg Board Meeting Minutes  
Monday, October 16, 2023  
Page 1 of 7

**EXHIBIT C:  
REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. Zoning Administrator Report: Everyone should have a print out of the Village Engineer's and Zoning Reports.

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:  
CONTRACTS, RELEASES, AGREEMENTS & ANNEXATIONS:  
BIDS: None.**

**EXHIBIT D:**

**RESOLUTIONS:** Mayor Speiser stated we have Resolution #23-16 A Resolution Authorizing the Village to Enter into and the Mayor to Execute a Purchase Contract with St. Clair County, as Trustee for the Purchase of Vacant Property.

*Trustee James (Mike) Blaies motion to adopt Resolution #23-16 by title only, and Trustee Ramon Matchett, Jr. seconded the motion. ROLL CALL:* Trustee James (Mike) Blaies – aye; Trustee Ramon Matchett Jr. – aye; Trustee Robert (Bob) Kaiser – aye; Trustee Tom Carpenter – aye, Trustee Michael (Mike) Heap – aye; Trustee Elizabeth (Lisa) Meehling – aye; (5 ayes 0 nays, 1 absent). **All voting aye, motion carried.**

**EXHIBIT E:**

**ORDINANCE:** Mayor Speiser stated we have Ordinance #1775. An Ordinance Amending the Freeburg Zoning Ordinance for the purpose of Rezoning Certain Property Commonly Known as the Mary Pasbrig Property.

*Trustee Michael (Mike) Heap motion to adopt Ordinance #1775 by title only, and Trustee James (Mike) Blaies seconded the motion. ROLL CALL:* Trustee Michael (Mike) Heap – aye; Trustee James (Mike) Blaies – aye; Trustee Elizabeth (Lisa) Meehling – aye; Trustee Tom Carpenter – aye; Trustee Ramon Matchett Jr. – aye; Trustee Robert (Bob) Kaiser – aye; (6 ayes 0 nays, 0 absent). **All voting aye, motion carried.**

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Mayor Speiser stated we have the Resignation of Dirk Downen's from the Combined Planning and Zoning Board.

*Trustee Michael (Mike) Heap motioned to Accept Dirk Downen's Resignation from the Combined Planning and Zoning Board, and Trustee Elizabeth (Lisa) Meehling seconded the motion. ROLL CALL:* Trustee Michael (Mike) Heap – aye; Trustee Elizabeth (Lisa) Meehling – aye; Trustee Robert (Bob) Kaiser – aye; Trustee James (Mike) Blaies – aye; Trustee Ramon Matchett Jr. – aye; Trustee Tom Carpenter – aye; (6 ayes 0 nays, 0 absent). **All voting aye, motion carried.**

## APPOINTMENTS:

1. Mayor Speiser stated he would like to Appoint Mark White to the Combined Planning and Zoning Board.

*Trustee Michael (Mike) Heap motioned to Appoint Mark White to the Combined Planning and Zoning Board, and Trustee James (Mike) Blaies seconded the motion. ROLL CALL:* Trustee Michael (Mike) Heap – aye; Trustee Elizabeth (Lisa) Meehling – aye; Trustee Robert (Bob) Kaiser – aye; Trustee James (Mike) Blaies – aye; Trustee Ramon Matchett Jr. – aye; Trustee Tom Carpenter – aye; (6 ayes 0 nays, 0 absent). **All voting aye, motion carried.**

## COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS:

### EXHIBIT F:

**Electric Committee Meeting:** Mayor Speiser stated Electric Committee Meeting was held on Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. minutes

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

1. Customer Issues: Trustee Blaies said Head Lineman Shane Krauss stated we had a customer dig through his power line. We got it taken care of.
2. IMEA Energy Efficiency Grant: Trustee Blaies said nothing new to report.
3. Cemetery Road Line Extension: Head Lineman Shane Krauss said he has received delivery on everything now.
4. South substation Switchgear Preventative Maintenance: Trustee Blaies said Head Lineman Shane Krauss stated he has started the process on the maintenance. Eaton Engineers will do the work, but it will be billed through Fletcher Reinhardt. We are hoping to schedule it sometime in November.

Public Works Director John Tolan checked with IMEA on the Tatum solar project, and they recommend keeping separate meters.

### EXHIBIT G:

#### NEW BUSINESS:

1. BHMG Cost of Service Study – Invoice #E03244-1 in the amount of \$2,210.00: Trustee Blaies stated he has an Invoice from BHMG for the cost of the Service Study. He would like to make a motion at this time.

*Trustee James (Mike) Blaies motioned to pay BHMG Invoice #E03244-1 in the amount of \$2,210.00, 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 Michael (Mike) Heap – aye; Trustee Robert (Bob) Kaiser – aye; (6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent). All voting aye, the motion carried.*

Public Works Director John Tolan advised the committee the regional IMEA meeting is November 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in Collinsville. Please let him know by next week if you plan to attend.

**GENERAL CONCERNS:** Head Lineman Shane Krauss said we recently had pole top rescue training for the linemen. After that, they conducted our bucket rescue with all the public works guys to get them familiar with how to get employee down. Trustee Blaies said Public Works Director John Tolan and Head Lineman Shane Krauss would like to do it more than once a year, and agreed to train on a quarterly basis.

Trustee Blaies stated Dirk Downen resigned from the Combined Planning and Zoning Board.

#### **EXHIBIT k**

**Public Works Committee Meeting: (Trash/Water/Sewer)** Trustee Robert (Bob) Kaiser (Chairperson) reported on the Trash/Water/Sewer Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, October 11, 2022 at 5:45 p.m.

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

1. New Sewer Plant/Sewer Loan: Trustee Kaiser said Public Works Director John Tolan said the last of the concrete pad was poured for the influent screen and digesters. Head Linemen Shane Krauss has the conduit run for the fiber that can now be pulled in, and the fence installed started today. The plant is running very well. John is going to submit the quarterly GMRs to USEPA along with our results and asked them if we can stop the quarterly reporting. Attorney Keck commented we haven't heard anything from them since John started submitting the quarterly report. John confirmed they are working on the punch list items.
2. Sewer Issues: Public Works Director John Tolan reported one recent issue on Old Fayetteville Road. We have 2 homes that have little lift stations that pumps to a manhole. Jane notice that there was zero usage. On the lift stations for quite some time, and all the breakers were off. He is going to visit them to see where the sewage is going, and make sure they will keep going. Interim Village Administrator Matt Trout advised the contract says the homeowner are responsible to replace it.
3. FSH Minutes: Public Works Director John Tolan advised the committee the valve on our first interconnect wasn't opening, and we have replaced it. We've been flushing and everything is fine. Smithton should be getting back to normal soon.

4. Water System Study-TWM Invoices #80402 in the amount of \$1,200.00 and Invoice #81461 in the amount of \$2,200.00: Trustee Kaiser said Scott was present to give an update on the water project. Scott and IEPA finally reviewed our plan, and emailed a couple weeks ago with some minor questions. This past summer they started on the design and since pulled back on that. We are waiting to get cleaner directions on when funding will come. Scott advised the committee some of the items in the project phased have been moved around. We will have to send the updated cost estimates to IEPA, and they shouldn't have any issues with that. Interim Village Administrator Matt advised the committee we wanted to hold back on the design until we have clearer definition of where we were and also with the water fund so depleted at this point. We want to conserve some of our water funds and get that clear direction. Matt said, time is familiarizing himself with the project. Tim asked Scott if he has heard from Historic Preservation as he thinks that if critical if we do have to proceed with the Tribal Nations. Scott advised the Historic Preservation responded about a month ago wanting pictures of the Save Water tower. He sent those to them and haven't heard anything from them. They did not say anything about the tribal consultation that came from the EPA. Scott said we are replacing water mains in area that have been disturbed before, so he doesn't know what they can find. John said the new water tower at SAVE will be next to the old one, and also said the tower is where the old water plant was. Tim said, in his experience, we are probably going to have to go through the process. He would like to get started on the letters going out which would start the 30-day timetable. Once we obtain the environmental clearance, we can move forward with the design. John said he took Old Fayetteville Road out and replaced with more important place in town for lead replacement. Matt said you can take pockets of areas for lead service. He is hoping there might be some possible money available because of the lower income homes. Tim said we may want to combine SAVE and the old phase 2 and make it one project to simplify that and call it phase 1. Scott will clarify what we are doing on the nomination forms.

*Trustee Robert (Bob) Kaiser motioned to the pay TWM Invoice #80402 in the amount of \$1,200.00 and Invoice #81461 in the amount of \$2,200.00, and Trustee James (Mike) Blaies seconded the motion. ROLL CALL:* Trustee Robert (Bob) Kaiser – aye; Trustee James (Mike) Blaies – aye; Trustee Ramon Matchett, Jr. – aye; Trustee Tom Carpenter – aye; Trustee Michael (Mike) Heap – aye; Trustee Elizabeth (Lisa) Meehling – aye; (6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent). **All voting aye, the motion carried.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **EXHIBIT J:**

**Public Property Committee Meeting: (Streets/Municipal Center/Pool/Parks & Recreation)**  
Trustee Ramon Matchett, Jr. reported on the Streets/Municipal Center/Pool/Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, October 11, 2022 at 6:03 p.m.

#### **POOL:**

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Smithton School Donation equestrian for 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Silent Auction: The committee agreed to donate a 10-visit pool pass. Public Works Director John Tolan advised the committee the pool cover is on, and the pool is now winterized for the season. Village Engineer Tim Pruett advised the committee he and Julie worked on the St. Clair County Parks Grant, and it was submitted. Our request included resurfacing the parking lot and adding a walking trail over to the visitors' bleachers that also ties into the existing park walking path. The grant amount this year is \$50,000, and our request totaled approximately \$67,000 which included labor of \$2,800. Interim Village Administrator Matt Trout said the timeline to complete this project is May of next year, and our portion of the grant comes out on next year's budget.

## **STREETS:**

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. East Drainage Problem Areas/Stormwater Run-Off: Public Works Director John Tolan had nothing to report.

2. Customer Issues: No issues.

3. Wolf Road Project: Village Engineer Tim Pruett advised the committee the village received a construction grant in 2012 of which the village would be responsible for \$300,000 of that grant. Interim Village Administrator Matt Trout said the village could not afford that and denied the grant. At the time, it was considered a collector street. Traffic right now is about 550 cars and needs to be 1100. Tim commented we will probably not have any luck getting that classified as a collector street right now.

4. MFT: Nothing to report.

Crew Leader Bob Jenkins advised the committee they are working to replace about 40 feet of curbing and some pavement on Westbrook Lane.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Clearwave Update: Attorney Keck informed the board the Clearwave fiber project is now being handled by a private equity company out Savannah, Georgia. Attorney Keck commented we made the right decision, and other towns are having huge problem with them. We need to take a wait and see the approach.

2. Village Insurance Renewal Update: Trustee Matchett said Interim Village Administrator Matt Trout advised the committee we had a health insurance committee on Tuesday to review the renewal options.

Public Works Director John Tolan said street sweeping will be done the week of 23<sup>rd</sup>. Silver Creek Garden wants to plant a couple of trees in the village park. He would like to do that since we lost some in the June storm. Crew Leader Bob Jenkins would like to surplus the 1996 Ford F350 that has 95,000 miles, two 2006 Dodge Dakotas that have 120,000 miles and 2 pull behind leaf machines we no longer use. We are not going to replace them. We will bring an ordinance to the Legal/Ordinance committee meeting. Mat had a good meeting with Wast Management to review some communication issues.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

Finance Committee Meeting – Wednesday, November 1, 2023 – 5:30 p.m.

Legal/Ordinance Committee Meeting – Wednesday, November 1, 2023 – 5:45 p.m.

Personnel/Police Committee Meeting – Wednesday, November 1, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.

Board Meeting – Monday, November 1, 2023 – 7:30 p.m.

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

**Trustee Tom Carpenter** – No thank you.

**Trustee Elizabeth Meehling** – No thank you.

**Trustee Michael (Mike) Heap** – No thank you.

**Village Clerk Jerry Menard** – No thank you.

**Trustee James (Mike) Blaies** – No thank you.

**Trustee Ramon Matchett, Jr.** – No thank you.

**Trustee Robert (Bob) Kaiser** – No thank you.

**Mayor Seth Speiser** –

**STAFF COMMENTS:**

**Public Works Director John Tolan** – No thank you.

**Interim Administrator Matt Trout** –

**Engineer Tim Pruett** – No thank you.

**Chief of Police Mike Schutzenhofer** – No thank you.

**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, October 16, 2023 at 7:45 p.m. and Trustee Ramon Matchett, Jr. seconded the motion. All voting aye, the motion carried.*

  
Jerry Lynn Menard  
Village Clerk