

VILLAGE PRESIDENT
Seth Speiser

VILLAGE CLERK
Jerry Menard

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

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
Stanley Donald

VILLAGE ATTORNEY
Weilmuenster & Keck, P.C.

Committee as a Whole Meeting
Wednesday, December 14, 2016
6:15 p.m.

The Committee as a Whole meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. on December 14, 2016 by Mayor Seth Speiser. Members present were Mayor Seth Speiser, Trustee Denise Albers, Trustee Mike Blaies, Trustee Ray Matchett, Trustee Lisa Meehling, Trustee Dean Pruett, Trustee Matt Trout, Public Works Director John Tolan, Village Clerk Jerry Menard (absent), Village Administrator Tony Funderburg, Village Attorney Brian Manion and Office Manager Julie Polson.

A. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Approval of April 25, 2016 minutes: *Trustee Matt Trout motioned to approve the April 25, 2016 minutes and Trustee Lisa Meehling seconded the motion. All voting yea, the motion carried.*

B. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Combination of Zoning Board of Appeals and Plan Commission: Attorney Manion stated at the recent hearing, people were questioning the reason why the Village wanted to combine the boards, and were not happy about it. Attorney Manion also stated Attorney Fred Keck was not in a position to respond well to their questions or concerns. Attorney Manion asked the board if anyone has questions or concerns. Trustee Albers asked why everyone was so ticked off, and wanted to know who was behind this and wanted the combination. Administrator Funderburg said at the beginning, he went to a Board of Appeals meeting and felt it wasn't handled the way it should be. He further said the Board of Appeals has the responsibility to answer 5 questions when making a decision. He said the board members are not following the requirements properly. Attorney Manion clarified the Board of Appeals looks at variances and special use permits and make findings of fact based on 5 criteria. They are supposed to make a written decision. The proposed combination of boards doesn't take that away, but gives it to a combined board that handles both the Board of Appeals and Plan Commission. The Plan Commission decisions will remain recommendations and are not final. The only real substantive change is with planned development. Attorney Manion said other communities treat a planned development like a rezoning. It would give the final say back to the Village Board instead of just the Board of Appeals. Everything else flows through the board like it used to before. The combined board would hear the variances and special uses and they would render a final decision. Trustee Blaies asked why are we doing this. Tony said we are doing this to protect the village from a lawsuit. Tony would recommend sending everyone a letter and interview anyone who would still be interested in continuing on.

Attorney Manion said you can either accept, reject or refer the Plan Commission's recommendation back to them at the next board meeting. Tony affirmed this is a way to streamline for future development and to clean up an area to keep us out of a lawsuit. Brian said this is a trend across the state. The committee discussed either having a hearing officer in charge of the requests or appoint a board to hear them.

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Ordinance #1614 is presented for the committee's review. This ordinance will allow an employee to opt out of the health insurance coverage through the Village of Freeburg. Attorney Manion reviewed the timelines and Affordable Care Act regarding the opt-out provision.

Trustee Dean Pruett motioned to recommend Ordinance #1614 to the full Board for approval and Trustee Ray Matchett seconded the motion. All voting yea, the motion carried.

C. GENERAL CONCERNS: None.

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None.

E. ADJOURN: *Trustee Matt Trout motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m. and Trustee Lisa Meehling seconded the motion. All voting yea, the motion carried.*



Julie Polson
Office Manager