

VILLAGE PRESIDENT  
Seth Speiser

VILLAGE CLERK  
Jerry Menard

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

VILLAGE TREASURER  
Bryan A. Vogel

# VILLAGE OF FREEBURG

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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.

ELECTRIC COMMITTEE MEETING  
(Blaies/Albers/Heap/Meehling)  
Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting of the Electric Committee was called to order at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 12, 2020 by Chairperson Mike Blaies. Committee members present were Chairman Mike Blaies, Trustee Denise Albers, Trustee Mike Heap, Trustee Lisa Meehling, Mayor Seth Speiser, Village Clerk Jerry Menard (absent), Trustee Bob Kaiser, Trustee Ray Matchett, Public Works Director John Tolan, Head Lineman Shane Krauss, Water/Sewer Department Leader Gregg Blomenkamp, Police Chief Mike Schutzenhofer (absent), Zoning Administrator Matt Trout, Village Attorney Fred Keck, Village Administrator Tony Funderburg and Office Manager Julie Polson. Guest present: Janet Baechle.

## A. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Approval of July 15, 2020 Minutes: Trustee Denise Albers motioned to approve the July 15, 2020 minutes and Trustee Mike Heap seconded the motion. All voting yea, the motion carried.
2. Customer Issues: Head Lineman Shane Krauss said we have had a pretty eventful past month. We the 2 poles hit, the Save Site outage, we did well with the 2 guys here. We had ten different locations with outages, the worst being a cross arm that broke off on Railroad Street. We had to shut down the north circuit for about 30 minutes. Parrish Trucking had a pole with a primary go down. It could have been much worse with the winds we had. The portable generators were ready at the Meadow Brook and Shampoodles lift stations, but Shane was able to get the power back on quickly. John thanked the electric crew, police officers and fire department. There was a lot of good communication between the departments. Shane also commended his crew. This was one of the first events his younger guys have dealt with and they did very well.
3. IMEA Energy Efficiency Grant: John has not heard anything from Eric on Gary's application. John has another solar teleconference on July 30<sup>th</sup>. He said Chris from IMEA informed them that the load is down 5% for all of IMEA. IMEA reported legislation for net metering that would include the generating communities would be required to report to the Illinois Commerce Commission. If we wanted to raise our rates, we would have to get their approval, and IMEA will fight that. The percentage of solar allowed in communities was further discussed. If all 34 communities had 2% solar, that would be a \$1,200,000 loss in load. He thinks the percentage will get contentious at some point. John confirmed we can't deny someone solar. We can regulate what we pay back.
4. North Substation CAT Work/PLC Unit #12 Fail Repair/Replacement: This can be taken off the agenda. Shane has a quote from ISO, and is working with BHMG on other companies to quote it to see if we interested in changing brands. A new company would have to install all new equipment. He will obtain quotes from other companies.

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5. Unit #6 Circuit Breaker Repair: Shane reported we were installing the breaker, BHM&G was their doing the control work; and we had to kill power to whole plant. Shane asked if we could fire up, and when we did, we heard some noises, the breaker that fires up the plant tripped up which it is supposed to do if something is wrong. The breaker shift closed, when we turned the main power on, we sent power backwards to the generator. BHM&G called several professionals, and made the decision to try to run it, we had good voltage, saw some arcing and rubbing and shut the engine down right away. We had 2 companies come in, one for the engine and one for the generator. The representative from the engine company didn't see anything wrong. He checked the crank shaft and couldn't find anything. He wants to look at the front bearing. The generator side (electrical side of the engine) took the damage, and they feel its repairable. The approximate cost is \$48,400. This is the oldest generator we have with the NESHAP on it. A new generator is about \$1,000,000. We get \$6,000 a month as a credit on our IMEA bill. Since we generated several times in 2020, we don't lose our generating credit spot in the future.

#### **B. NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Apprentice Linemen Step Increase: Shane reported our apprentices went down last week for their final exam and all tested 96 and above. They are ready for journeyman lineman with Matt Amann effective 8/6/20, Max Sallman effective 8/23/20; and Andy Tolan effective 8/29/20. Shane said they have come a long way and area ready to be moved forward.

*Trustee Denise Albers motioned to recommend to the full Board the following employees be promoted to journeyman lineman Matt Amann effective 8/6/20, Max Sallman effective 8/23/20 and Andy Tolan effective 8/29/20 and Trustee Lisa Meehling seconded the motion. All voting yea, the motion carried.*

2. Edison Estates Purchase of Infrastructure: Tony said we have approximately \$35,000 in transformers that need to be ordered soon since they take about 10 weeks to get in. These are for the subdivision and we will be reimbursed. Shane said he doesn't want the subdivision held up. He has three quotes from Solomon, T&R Electric and a new company, Emerald Transformers. We will order an additional 5 for our stockpile. Shane will bill the transformers after they are installed.
3. Bond Refinance: Tony has been watching the rates for a while. Page 1 explains the 3 bonds we have: swimming pool bond with interest rates that range from 4.25% - 5.25%; the electric bond with rates that range from 2.2% - 2.85% and the TIF bond with rates that range from 3.05 to 3.3%. If we combine the bonds and refinance, we would end up with 1.35% and save \$109,033.98. Tony believes this is a good amount of money to save. Illinois banks would buy the right to bid on this, with Chase and Regions being the biggest banks in Illinois right now. This would not extend any time on the loans and everything would be paid off by 2026. Trustee Albers believes we should do this, and also said it is our job to watch out for our citizens' money. Tony will bring back an official proposal.
4. Executive Session to Discuss Personnel, 5 ILCS 120/2-(c)1, Real Estate, 5 ILCS 120/2-(c)5 and Potential Litigation, 5 ILCS 120/2-(c)11:

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:18 P.M.**

*Trustee Lisa Meehling motioned to enter Executive Session citing Personnel, 5 ILCS, 120/2-(c)1, Real Estate, 5 ILCS 120/2-(c)5 and Potential Litigation, 5 ILCS 120/2-(c)11 and Trustee Denise Albers seconded the motion. All voting yea, the motion carried.*

**EXECUTIVE SESSION ENDED  
7:30 P.M.**

The regular committee meeting session reconvened at 7:30 p.m.

- C. GENERAL CONCERNS:** Tony stated we are going to miss out on \$9,929 in late fees that we will never recover. We have 30 residents that owe bills, out of that number, 20 are renters. To date, we are owed \$33,626. We will place liens on the properites if we unable to collect the fees.
- D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Janet commented on the money spent on unit 6.
- E. ADJOURN:** *Trustee Denise Albers motioned to adjourn at 7:33 p.m and Trustee Lisa Meehling seconded the motion. All voting yea, the motion carried.*



Julie Polson  
Office Manager