

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.

Finance Committee Meeting
(Finance/Industrial Park/Economic Development/Budget)
(Carpenter/Blaies/Kaiser/Matchett)
Wednesday, November 1, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

Chairperson Tom Carpenter officially called the meeting of the Finance Committee to order at 5:30 p.m., on Wednesday, November 1, 2023. Those in attendance were Chairperson Tom Carpenter, Trustee Mike Blaies, Trustee Bob Kaiser, Trustee Ray Matchett, Mayor Seth Speiser, Village Clerk Jerry Menard, Treasurer Bryan Vogel (absent), Trustee Lisa Meehling, Village Attorney Fred Keck (absent), Public Works Director John Tolan, Police Chief Mike Schutzenhofer, Village Engineer Tim Pruett, Village Administrator Matt Trout, Finance Clerk Laura Wolf, and Office Manager Julie Polson (absent). Guest present: Janet Baechle. There were no guests present via Zoom.

- A. REVIEW OF BOARD LISTS:** The following expenses were explained: CED/Frost, \$636.16 – breakers and other electrical supplies for the Village Park; WD Automation, \$2,810 – electric actuator and labor at the old water treatment plant; Computron, \$2,596 – hardware and software for Tim’s computer, and \$4,999 – new wireless network; Ditch Witch, \$1,542.05 – service on the boring machine; Eric McDonald, \$366.71 – boot allowance (maximum of \$400), Shark Signs, \$1,980 – lettering on the police vehicles; Axon Enterprises - \$13,000 – tasers, we are being reimbursed from the IPRF Safety Grant; Seiler Industries, \$3,465 – Auto CAD program.
- B. REVIEW OF INVESTMENTS:** Village Administrator Matt Trout advised we are good right now.
- C. INCOME STATEMENT:** Matt advised there are a few items out of whack, overall, it is fine. You will see large amounts in both the revenue and expense sewer fund, and that is for the loan. It is the same in the electric department for infrastructure. Water rates have not hit this yet, and we won’t start seeing it in the fund report until January. The insurance stability fund has deposits made monthly, and expenses are drawn out when employees submit an item to be paid.
- D. TREASURER’S REPORT:** No report.
- E. FUND AND ACCOUNT BALANCE REPORT:** Matt said we haven’t seen any impact yet.
- F. OLD BUSINESS:**
- Approval of September 27, 2023 Minutes. Trustee Mike Blaies motioned to approve the September 27, 2023 Minutes, and Trustee Ray Matchett seconded the motion. All voting yea, the motion carried.
 - Attorney Invoice: The invoice was reviewed by the committee.
 - Newsletter: Nothing new.

4. Ordinance #1776: Amended Water Rate Increase: Matt said the out-of-town rate on the depreciation and capital reserve amounts were incorrect on the original ordinance. The previous numbers were used and need to be amended to what was proposed.

Trustee Ray Matchett motioned to recommend to the full Board Ordinance 1776, An Ordinance Amending the Water Rates, and Trustee Bob Kaiser seconded the motion. All voting yea, the motion carried.

Matt said Mark Kern's post on Facebook advised the Village of Freeburg did receive the \$50,000 St. Clair County Parks Grant, but we have not received a letter on that. He advised Tim worked on that grant.

G. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Ordinance #1777 – Tax Levy Ordinance: Both Matt and Attorney Keck recommend staying under the 5% amount, and advised our levy is at 4.8% with a projected EAV of \$114,000. Attorney Keck thought that was a little high, but Matt advised him of the new Dollar General and State Farm buildings and annexations. With the annexations and growth, our residents are being taxed less.

Trustee Mike Blaies motioned to recommend to the full Board Ordinance #1777 – Tax Levy Ordinance for approval, and Trustee Ray Matchett seconded the motion. All voting yea, the motion carried.

2. Equipment Service Co.'s Invoice #41204 in the amount of \$1,865.24: Matt was advised that was for the truck we discussed in the last Electric committee meeting. They took the truck apart, and then we were informed they could not fix the truck. At that time, we did not have an invoice. Public Works Director John Tolan advised the truck was taken to Drake Scruggs in Springfield last week. Their mechanics could not believe it had been left in pieces. They are going to fix it but gave us no timeframe on when it will be done. The repair could take up to 20 weeks. We have used this company in the past on our trucks. The committee asked John to have a conversation with them regarding the invoice.
3. Worthington Unit 6 Turbo: The turbo charger for unit 6 takes cares of the excess exhaust gas to help the unit run more efficiently. It did not run where it should have during the certification. We contacted the company that serviced the unit before, and they have quoted a price of \$57,227.49 for repair of the turbocharger. Matt stated we are off peak and need to be back up and running by January in order to maintain our service credits. We consider this an emergency situation, and they have already picked up the turbocharger for repair.

Trustee Mike Blaies motioned to recommend to the full Board the repair of Unit #6 Generator Turbocharger to McPherson Sales at an estimated cost of \$57,227.49, and Trustee Ray Matchett seconded the motion. All voting yea, the motion carried.

Matt has been working on the net metering and said we allow our solar customers to build a credit that we do not pay out. That is stated on our application. It calls for a true-up of the bill in October which has never been done. October is not a good month to do that because they have just come off the summer billing. Matt further said this credit builds up on the customer's account and is then used for trash, water and sewer. this credit is only supposed to be used for electric. John spoke with IMEA and Matt talked to Mascoutah. For the solar customers in Mascoutah, they receive an electric only bill, and a separate everything else bill. Matt is proposing to change our policy from the true-up month from October to March when they would true-up their bills before the end of the fiscal year. this would give them the winter months to use the energy credit built up. We will send them a letter advising them that their bills will be split out and the change of the true-up month to March.

Matt said those funds aren't being paid and we need to fix that. Trustee Meehling commented we are getting paid the amounts from our customers but our fund balances are not accurate. This change will make that process much cleaner. This will be presented at Monday's board meeting in ordinance form.

H. GENERAL CONCERNS: None.

I. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None.

J. ADJOURN: *Trustee Ray Matchett motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:12 p.m., and Trustee Bob Kaiser seconded the motion. All voting yea, the motion carried.*



Julie Polson
Office Manager