

VILLAGE PRESIDENT  
Seth Speiser

VILLAGE CLERK  
Jerry Menard

VILLAGE TRUSTEES  
Tom Carpenter  
Robert Kaiser  
Dana Miller  
Ray Matchett, Jr.  
Lisa Meehling  
Mike Blaies

VILLAGE TREASURER  
Bryan A. Vogel

# VILLAGE OF FREEBURG

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VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR  
Matt Trout

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR  
Chris Remick

POLICE CHIEF  
Michael J. Schutzenhofer

ESDA COORDINATOR  
Eugene Kramer

VILLAGE ENGINEER  
Tim Pruett, P.E.

VILLAGE ATTORNEY  
Keck Brown, P.C.

Finance Committee Meeting  
(Finance/Industrial Park/Economic Development/Budget)  
(Carpenter/Blaies/Kaiser/Matchett)  
Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

Chairperson Tom Carpenter officially called the meeting of the Finance Committee to order at 5:32 p.m., on Wednesday, March 25, 2026. Those in attendance were Chairperson Tom Carpenter, Trustee Mike Blaies, Trustee Bob Kaiser, Trustee Ray Matchett, Mayor Seth Speiser (5:41), Village Clerk Jerry Menard, Treasurer Bryan Vogel (absent), Trustee Dana Miller, Trustee Lisa Meehling (5:41), Village Attorney Fred Keck (5:41), Public Works Director Chris Remick, Village Engineer Tim Pruett (absent), Police Chief Mike Schutzenhofer, Village Administrator Matt Trout, Finance Clerk Laura Wolf, and Office Manager Mary Downen. Guest present: Loren Sinn and ESDA Coordinator Gene Kramer (5:52). There were no guests present via zoom.

- A. REVIEW OF BOARD LISTS:** Trustee Mike Blaies questioned the following: Arch City Entrance Systems, \$642.00 – Keypad at the power plant; Mick's Auto Repair, Inc., 4,941.14 – Repairs to the K9 patrol car; Saltus Technologies, \$2,655.00 – Digiticket Software (Annual)
- B. REVIEW OF INVESTMENTS:** Village Administrator Matt Trout said nothing due at this time.
- C. INCOME STATEMENT:** Village Administrator Matt Trout said since it is the end of the year, we'll run the entire report for the fiscal year in April. He said we will talk about the budget later so he just went over each fund's totals.
- D. TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer's reports for 9/30/25, 10/31/25, 11/30/25, 12/31/25, 1/31/26 and 2/28/26.

*Trustee Mike Blaies motioned to send to the full Board Treasurer's Reports for 9/30/25, 10/31/25, 11/30/25, 12/31/25, 1/31/26 and 2/28/26, and Trustee Ray Matchett seconded the motion. All voting yea, the motion carried.*

**E. FUND AND ACCOUNT BALANCE REPORT:** Matt said we will discuss later with the budget.

**F. OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Approval of February 25, 2026 Minutes. Trustee Ray Matchett motioned to approve the February 25, 2026 minutes, and Trustee Bob Kaiser seconded the motion. All voting yea, the motion carried.
2. Attorney Invoice: The invoice was reviewed by the committee.
3. Newsletter: The newsletter was mailed out this week.

Finance Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, March 25, 2026  
Page 1 of 3

4. IDOT Invoice: Matt said we can send this to the board for approval.

*Trustee Ray Matchett motioned to send to the full Board IDOT invoice #127005 in the amount of \$27,480.10, and Trustee Bob Kaiser seconded the motion. All voting yea, the motion carried.*

#### **G. NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Illinois Gaming Board Letter: Matt said they overpaid the Village \$4,603.47 and will deduct from a future payment.
2. Budget FY27: Matt went through each page of the budget. He said the first page shows where each fund is budgeted to end up. AD – He said he typically will underestimate the sales tax and other little taxes but since the status of the general fund is in a healthy spot, he didn't underestimate those. He discussed why he raised and lowered some of the taxes. The sidewalk grant will be an in and out. He raised the SRO and ILEAS because those are based on wages and the wages will be going up with the the new contracts. He explained that when we get the grants through the county, usually in December, we have to wait until April 1<sup>st</sup> to purchase the items so he doubled that amount to try to get within the same year. The medical/retirees is at zero because of changes in how it is handled. Charter and AT&T were moved from other professional services to telephone across all funds. There was a discussion on putting in new welcome signs. Under other improvements, he put \$10,000 for upgrades to the board room and \$10,000 under website for upgrades. ZO – He increased county inspections for potential new developments. PD – He discussed new hire equipment. Vehicle services might need to be raised if we only purchase one new vehicle. He talked about moving one of the older vehicles to use as an SRO vehicle. The K9 vehicle is the original Explorer that was purchased and it is becoming a money pit. There was a discussion on the cost of fully equipped vehicles. He said where the status of our general fund is, he would really like to start talking about a capital improvement plan and utilizing some of the general fund money for that. He talked about the capital improvement plan. He said we could take money out of reserves to purchase the two new vehicles. ST – He explained why he raised street supplies and other professional services. He talked about the loan for the backhoe. GA – He said he met with Waste Management last week and discussed the new contract. He highlighted a few things and said our representative was going to work on either a grant for the leaf machine or possibly waiving the fees for the dumpsters used at the spring clean-up. ESDA – He said we had money set aside to purchase a siren controller, since we didn't purchase it, we can use it on other things for ESDA. MFT – He said Tim, Chris and Bob worked to get the numbers together for the maintenance resolution that was recently passed. He explained how it all works. WR – He said there is an annual 2% rate increase. He said a couple of the reserves could be higher depending on new developments. He talked about the bypass funding. He raised other professional services for the repair for the water tower. He put money in training in water and sewer for licenses. SR – There is \$300,000 in infrastructure for sewer & manhole lining. There is \$10,000 for the west plant shed repair. There was a discussion on the sludge hauling. He said he had a hard time getting this to balance as is, so he had to take \$20,000 from reserves. EL – He raised infrastructure to \$400,000, since the north sub has been paid off, to give them an opportunity to do some projects and other things that need to be done.

*Trustee Tom Carpenter motioned to send to the Special Board Meeting on March 30, 2026, FY27 Budget, and Trustee Ray Matchett seconded the motion. All voting yea, the motion carried.*

3. Waste Management Contract: Discussed above.

#### **H. GENERAL CONCERNS:** None.

- I. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Resident Loren Sinn asked if a stop sign could be placed at W. High St. and S. Walnut St. Mayor Seth Speiser said Chief Schutzenhofer will take a look and then discuss at the streets committee meeting. He also asked about what can be done with vacant mobile homes. There was a discussion on what actions can be taken and that mobile home parks are considered private not public.
- J. ADJOURN:** *Trustee Ray Matchett motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 p.m., and Trustee Bob Kaiser seconded the motion. All voting yea, the motion carried.*



Mary Downen  
Office Manager