

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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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, July 26, 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, July 26, 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, Trustee Mike Heap, Trustee Lisa Meehling, Village Attorney Fred Keck (absent), Public Works Director John Tolan, Police Chief Mike Schutzenhofer, Interim Village Administrator Matt Trout, Finance Clerk Laura Wolf and Office Manager Julie Polson (absent). There were no guests present at Village Hall or via Zoom.

- A. REVIEW OF BOARD LISTS:** Trustee Blaies questioned Interface Security System, \$4,780.51 – Public Works Director John Tolan advised that was for the north substation gate, the gate is getting old and parts are hard to find; Freeburg Printing & Publishing, \$959.81 – Ad Community Relations, quarterly newsletter.
- B. REVIEW OF INVESTMENTS:** We have no CDs maturing until June of 2024. Treasurer Bryan Vogel advised that we stop moving money into CDs and take a break. We do have one CD coming due December 3, 2024 with an interest rate of 2.15%. He would like to cash that in early and put it into a 7-month CD at Citizens with a 5% interest rate. He will calculate that and include the early penalty fee and have that information at the board meeting.
- C. INCOME STATEMENT:** Interim Village Administrator Matt Trout said that he and Laura reviewed the statement. We should be around 32 – 33 % right now. They do not see anything of issue at this time.
- D. TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer Bryan Vogel has nothing new to report.
- E. FUND AND ACCOUNT BALANCE REPORT:** Matt said Tony had mentioned the need to look at the water fund and raising rates in the next three months. Matt said everyone has been working on this, and thinks the main reason we are seeing this deficit is due to 100% of the money going into the insurance stability fund. He has talked to Tony about this and further said we are at the point where we are going to need to borrow from other funds to pay for water. If you do that, you have to pay it back by the end of the fiscal year. We cannot wait for a rate study from the water project. We are meeting with TWM next week, and John has reached out to Illinois Rural Water. We have used them in the past for a water rate study. John said the goal for the meeting with TWM is to get a better idea of the rate increase for the project and if can be tied into a water rate increase at the same time. Matt believes the plan should be to raise the rates all at once but it needs to be done quickly. Matt commented he does not think we should pull from electric and tie it up into a CD if we are going to borrow from that fund to pay for water.

**F. OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Approval of June 28, 2023 Minutes. *Trustee Mike Blaies motioned to approve the June 28, 2023 Minutes, and Trustee Ray Matchett seconded the motion. All voting yea, the motion carried.*
2. Attorney Invoice: The invoice was reviewed by the committee.
3. Newsletter: Nothing to report at this time.

**G. NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Veteran's Property Tax Relief Reimbursement Program: Matt said that is a state pilot program that St. Clair County is included in. The veteran's tax has to make up 2.5% of our EAV. He has reached out to Dina at the county clerk's office. They are handling everything and are working with the state's attorney and treasurer's office. The first year will be reimbursed at 45% and 90% after that. We will receive additional information once the county has it figured out.
2. BHMG Invoice #E03152-109 in the amount of \$1,050.84 and Invoice #E03107-106 in the amount of \$913.68: John said he and Tony met with Verbal to discuss the possibility of a rate study and have received a bill for that meeting. He reminded the committee that we pay a monthly retainer fee of \$1,050. He is going to reach out to Verbal to discuss that.

Matt Trout stated we have received St. Clair County's Park Grant Application for this year. Normally, the grants awarded amount to \$25,000 and this year's grant is \$50,000. We have discussed items needed with John and Scott. We are looking for a shade structure over the playground and an ADA sidewalk around the back side where the bleachers are. We had our pre-renewal health insurance meeting yesterday. Our health insurance renews November 1<sup>st</sup>.

**H. GENERAL CONCERNS:** None

**G. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None

**H. ADJOURN:** *Trustee Mike Blaies motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:54 p.m., and Trustee Ray Matchett seconded the motion. All voting yea, the motion carried.*



Julie Polson  
Office Manager