

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
14 SOUTHGATE CENTER, FREEBURG, IL 62243
PHONE: (618) 539-5545 • FAX: (618) 539-5590
Web Site: www.freeburg.com

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, August 30, 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, August 30, 2023. Those in attendance were Chairperson Tom Carpenter, Trustee Mike Blaies, Trustee Bob Kaiser, Trustee Ray Matchett, Mayor Seth Speiser (absent), Village Clerk Jerry Menard, Treasurer Bryan Vogel, Trustee Mike Heap, Trustee Lisa Meehling (5:40 p.m.), Village Attorney Fred Keck, Public Works Director John Tolan, Police Chief Mike Schutzenhofer, Zoning Administrator Matt Trout, Finance Clerk Laura Wolf, and Office Manager Julie Polson. Guest present: Janet Baechle. There were no guests present via Zoom.

- A. REVIEW OF BOARD LISTS:** Trustee Blaies questioned the three BHM&G Engineering invoices paid in one month, and Finance Clerk Laura Wolf advised she pays based on when they are received; Cogent (Vandeventer), \$3,150, hatch on the new lid; Eitzenhefer Excavating, \$850. – grapple bucket; Ed Morse Ford, \$1,659.57 – 2016 Ford Explorer sensor malfunction on the airbag, Freeburg Glass, \$308 – a limb hit the backhoe window and broke it out; Midwest Industrial Supply, \$976.62 – shirts for parade.
- B. REVIEW OF INVESTMENTS:** Treasurer Vogel reported we do not have any renewals in the near future. In looking at the short-term rates, we may want to look at shifting money market account funds over to a CD. He will talk to Matt about it.
- C. INCOME STATEMENT:** We should be around 40-42 %. Trustee Blaies commented both electric revenue and expenses are down. Village Administrator Matt Trout advised this will be looked at in the rate study.
- D. TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer Bryan Vogel presented the March – May, 2023 Treasurer's Reports for approval.

Trustee Ray Matchett motioned to recommend to the full Board approval of the Treasurer's Reports for March 31, 2023, April 30, 2023 and May 31, 2023, and Trustee Bob Kaiser seconded the motion. All voting yea, the motion carried.

- E. FUND AND ACCOUNT BALANCE REPORT:** Matt commented we made up about \$4,000 in the water fund from last month. Everything looks in line from last month.
- F. OLD BUSINESS:**
1. Approval of July 26, 2023 Minutes. Trustee Mike Blaies motioned to approve the July 26, 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: Julie is starting to gather information for the October – December newsletter.

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G. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Water Rate Increase: We discussed TWM's proposed rates at the last Water/Sewer committee meeting. We have also received Illinois Rural Water Association's proposed numbers to compare. Matt stated at our current rate, we would be at a -\$217,000 which confirms what we were seeing. Matt provided our water rate study as well as the rates he put together to IRWA, and they will come back with an updated rate proposal. IRWA will send their information to IEPA for their review as well. They said you want the base rate to be at least 20% of the budget. IRWA used our 2022 audit while Matt used our budget numbers, and there was a difference of about \$1,000,000. Both Matt and John believe we are in the ballpark. IRWA did not take into account the upcoming water projects. Matt said there has to be a balance between the small and big users when deciding on the rates. Janet is concerned about the rate increase. Trustee Meehling said we are providing a service and can't take losses to run a village. John said if you compare our rates to other communities, we are very low. He further stated we have a very old infrastructure, and EPA has mandated to get rid of lead services. We are also experiencing a decrease in water usage with everything becoming more efficient. Matt said we are looking at multiple different angles so we make sure we come up with the right numbers, and it will be a gradual increase. IRWA told him there are 26 other communities in the southern area that are asking for studies. Matt advised he is not looking for a decision tonight, but would like to take this to the October 2nd board meeting for action. We will be receiving updated information from IRWA. Matt advised both he and John are available for conversations about the rate increase as well as Bryan. Matt encourages conversations in the next week or so so we can move forward. Trustee Carpenter asked for surrounding community rates. This will be further discussed in the next Water/Sewer committee meeting.

H. GENERAL CONCERNS: None.

G. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None.

H. ADJOURN: *Trustee Ray Matchett motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:58 p.m., and Trustee Bob Kaiser seconded the motion. All voting yea, the motion carried.*


Julie Polson
Office Manager