

Unapproved  
Village Council Minutes  
February 8<sup>th</sup> 2016

All those present stood and said Pledge of Allegiance.

The regular scheduled session of Freeport Village Council was called to order of Monday January 11th, 2016 at 7:33 pm by Trustee Bill Andrews in the Village Office.

Present roll calls were Council Trustees Allen Scholma, Mary Murphy, Scott Ploeg, Bill Andrews, Kathy Kunde, Shawna Hill.

Public Present: John Raymond, Regina Young, and Jon Smelker

Prayer- none

Motion by Mary Murphy and supported by Scott Ploeg to approve the agenda with one correction to new agenda.

Motion Carried

Motion by Al Scholma and seconded by Scott Ploeg to approve the January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Village Council minutes.

Motion carried.

**Police Report:** Tom Steensma

**Committee Report:**

**Administration, Budget, Grants, and Personal Reports:** Report by Scott Ploeg

**Streets, Building & Grounds Report:** Report by Bill Andrews

**Water Report:** Report by Al Scholma

**Planning Commission:** Report by Scott Ploeg

**Treasurer's Report:** Kathy Kunde

Motion by Mary Murphy supported by Al Scholma to approve the "To Be Approved" bills  
Roll call vote: Passed

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

Josh Endsley is appointed and sworn in as new Village Trustee,

Council made recommendation in December 14<sup>th</sup> 2015 meeting. All agree  
Motion passed

Acceptance of Charity Raymond resignation from Village Trustee

Motion by Al Scholma supported by Scott Ploeg, All agree

Motion Passed

Acceptance of Josh Wagner resignation from Village Trustee

Motion by Scott Ploeg supported by Josh Endsley, All Agree

Motion Passed

Al Scholma made motion to buy DEQ-OTCU training manual not to exceed \$75 supported by  
Scott Ploeg Roll Call

Motion Passed

Budget Meeting for 2016-2017 budget is to happen on Feb 25<sup>th</sup> 2016 motion by Scott Ploeg  
supported by Al Scholma.

Motion Passed

Acceptance of Mary Murphy resignation from Village Trustee, All Agree

Motion Passed

Bill Andrews also made a recommendation that Josh Endsley to be temporarily added to the  
Administration board so that the board can appoint new council members in the upcoming  
meeting in March. Motion was made by Scott Ploeg and supported by Josh Endsley, All agree.

Motion Passed

#### **Public Input:**

Tim McKay believes that the council needs to look into new legal counsel. The lawyer that the  
Village has now has taken more than a year getting back with more than one member of the  
council. They have sent letters to the lawyer and have not gotten response from them. He  
believes we need to find someone a little closer so that if there is a problem or concern they  
can go stop done and have matters taken care of more quickly. Also Tim McKay wanted to  
know if our resignation that we have gotten from our former Village Trustee, where signed by  
them and signed by a witness. He recommends us to do this for legal reasons.

Harold Andrus asked about the zoning ordinance and if it was advertised in the newspaper, and  
how many days after it was advertised until the ordinance was changed. Village Clerk, Shawna  
Hill, responded that the ad was posted in the January 16, 2016 paper of the Sun and News. She  
also said it was explained to her it took 25 days after it was published to change the ordinance.  
She has also submitted the paperwork to the Barry County court to have the ordinance changed  
and records are corrected to show the change in the new property ordinance. Harold Andrus  
also wondered why or ads are so much smaller than the other local areas such as Middleville.  
Harold also asked about how we are coming on finding a way to buy bulk salt and finding a spot  
to store the bulk salt. Bill Andrews explained they are still looking into that for winter 2017. The  
new storage spot needs to be far enough away from the water supply and able to follow all the  
specific codes.

John Raymond had question about why a new manual needed to be ordered. He believed that  
there should be enough information in the office for Chris Shepard to study to take his test. He  
also wanted to know who paid for the test and how many times a year Chris Shepard was

allowed to take the test. Kathy Kunde and Bill Andrews responded with Chris Shepard is allowed to take two tests a year. Shawna Hill said she would look into the information about who pays for the test. She also responded with why Chris Shepard needs to have the new manual, and that is because the rules regarding water procedures and rules are always changing and so for him to take the test and do the best he can, he needs the new up to date versions of the rules. John Raymond also asked about the sodium test for the water and if the information was sent to the labs. Al Scholma responded back with yes they were sent to the lab and they are still waiting for the test results to come in.

Regina Young from Barry Eaton Health Department came in to explain the different programs that the health department did offered. She wanted us to have a face to go with the department and they offer more than just the standard health programs. They offer things such as special needs health services, programs for local streets and sidewalks, and they also send out a monthly newsletter and the public is more than welcome to sign up to be put on their monthly newsletter list, so that they can receive a copy. She also talked about water services that they provide and they have people that can answer questions about how to make sure you have enough water on supply in case of bad weather.

Bill Andrews has talked about having an extra meeting once a month to go over all the concerns that the public have. He talked with Mary Charles from MML to make sure that this type of meeting was allowed. She explained to him that as long as no decisions were made, and it was posted ahead of time. Bill believes with moving forward, we should keep this idea in our minds and continue to look into it.

#### **Correspondence:**

Bob Cole and Travis Kamps from Buskirk Lumber came in the office on Friday 2-5-16 to ask why the roads have not been salted or sanded since the storm we had on 2-2-16. They feel that the roads need to be taken care of at a higher priority level, so that the people of the village can be as safe as possible. They do not want to see anyone get hurt. They understand side roads still being a little slippery, but they want to make sure the hill on North East ST., Oak Street, and Main Street will be salted/ sanded before the weekend. They also had concerns as to who Chris Shepard will be answering to now that Bill Andrews is no longer Building Streets and Ground Commissioner.

#### **Announcements:**

Next Council meeting is March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm

Shawna Hill

Village Clerk

Posted 2/11/16