

Unapproved  
Village Council Minutes  
March 14<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 February 8<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 7:31 pm by Village President Bill Andrews in the Village Office.

Present roll calls were Council Trustees Allen Scholma, Josh Endsley, Scott Ploeg, Bill Andrews, Present roll call Treasurer and Clerk Kathy Kunde and Shawna Hill.

Public Present:

Prayer- none

Motion by Al Scholma and supported by Scott Ploeg to approve the agenda with addition under new business by Al Scholma to add Goblet Tank, also add Reliability study, and wants to put an addition to #3 under new business for VBS week fee set at \$300. Scott Ploeg wants to add the acceptance of our 2016-2017 budget.

Motion Carried

Motion by Al Scholma and seconded by Josh Endsley to approve the February 8<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 Al Scholma supported Scott Ploeg by to approve the "To Be Approved" bills  
Roll call vote: Al Scholma, Scott Ploeg, Bill Andrews, and Josh Endsley. All Yes  
Passed

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

Motion made by Scott Ploeg and supported by Josh Endsley to remove Chris Sensing and Mary Murphy from the Union Bank Signature Cards.

Motion Passed

Motion made by Scott Ploeg and supported by Al Scholma to remove Harold Andrus and Mary Murphy from Hastings City Bank signature card.

Motion Passed

Motion made by Josh Endsley and supported by Scott Ploeg to approve Al Scholma and Scott Ploeg to the signature card for Union Bank and Hastings City Bank signature cards.

Motion Passed

Motion made by Al Scholma and supported by Scott Ploeg to have the Bowne Township VBS be increased to \$300 for the week they rent the community center.

Roll Call: Al Scholma, Scott Ploeg, and Bill Andrews, 3 yes and Josh Endsley 1 no

Motion Passed.

Motion made by Scott Ploeg and supported by Al Scholma to have the village property survey, not to exceed \$2500.

Roll Call: Al Scholma, Scott Ploeg, Bill Andrews, and Josh Endsley All yes

Motion Passed.

Motion made by Al Scholma and supported by Scott Ploeg to have Goblet Tank come and do tank inspection and mud value replacement not to exceed \$2900.

Roll Call: Al Scholma, Scott Ploeg, Bill Andrews, and Josh Endsley All Yes

Motion Passed

Al Scholma made a motion and supported by Scott Ploeg to have reliable study done not to exceed \$8350.

Roll Call: Al Scholma, Scott Ploeg, Bill Andrews, and Josh Endsley All Yes

Motion Passed

Motion made by Scott Ploeg and supported by Josh Endsley to accept the 2016-2017 budget.

Roll Call: Al Scholma, Scott Ploeg, Bill Andrews, and Josh Endsley All Yes

Motion Passed

Motion was made by Josh Endsley and supported to Scott Ploeg to appoint John Raymond and Karl Wilkins to the new Village Trustee position.

Roll Call: Bill Andrews, Scott Ploeg, and Josh Endsley 3 yes. Al Scholma 1 no.

Motion Passed

**Public Input:**

Tim McKay wanted to let everyone know he does have information on Josh Endsley's business. He has found out that the property is not owned by Josh Endsley, so he would not be the one

that would need to have the property surveyed. Tim McKay also has concern with one of the board members. Tim McKay has worked very hard at his job for and has not received payment from the village for all the work he has done. He doesn't understand how he can research and have all the information for the project and get questioned when he asked for a specific amount of money, yet the other person can ask for more the \$8000 for a survey that they don't even know the last time that it has been completed. He wants us to please establish who knows what, who has researched, what and who has all the information before they just approve it. Bill Andrews responded with how much appreciation that the council does have for Tim McKay and the work that he does.

Travis Kamp wanted to know why the water committee had not and does not know why the water test has not been done and why there are not any records of it being done in the past. Kathy Kunde responded that the water has been in violation a long time with the reliability test. It is supposed to be done every 5 years and they were in violation of it back in 2007. Al Scholma said on this matter too, that he had gotten his letter from DEQ back in Jan 2016 and his self, Chris Shepard, Kathy Kunde and Russ Yarger have been keeping in touch on how to fix what is going on. Al Scholma explains Williams and Works will be doing the study because they were the company that took care of this for the Village when first initiated and they will have all our records and information.

Travis Kamp wondered why the records where not kept in the office from the treasurer. He also wonders why there are technical rules for other people on the board but why Kathy doesn't have to follow the technical rules? Kathy Kunde responded with, yes technically the records should be kept up here but none of the other treasures ever kept their information up in the office. She stated that she does have more record up here than normal because she has been trying to balance the accounts for more than a year. She works all day so this is why the records are at her house because she needs to get to them. She states that no one has the right to go through her files or the clerk's records. She said she can bring the records back up to the office. She also wanted everyone to know that if they do need a copy of something all they need to do is ask.

Harold Andrus wondered about a question that was asked in the budget meeting by Josh Endlsey; about why some of the payroll accounts where increased. He said Josh Endlsey was told it had to do with not having enough help this summer and the DPW, when Chris passes his water test, will have an increase in salary. Harold believes this to be incorrect. He believes that we had more jail help this year then we have had in the past. He believes that it might not have needed to be increased as much as it, because even if Chris Shepard passes his test and gets paid more we won't have to pay Russ Yarger any more so it should just be a wash. Bill Andrews responded with yes we did have more jail help but we also had to use our summer help more than we have had before. Harold Andrus also wanted to note that there was an error in the minutes about the water phone bill. He also wanted to know what the qualification for becoming a Village Trustee. Kathy Kunde responded that they are not allowed to be in debit to the Village, whether it is water bills, or taxes. She said you also have to be a registered voter and a resident of Freeport. Harold Andrus wanted to know if these checks had been done on the two people that where just appointed and who did them. Scott Ploeg was not aware that they needed to be a registered voter to be accepted on the council. He apologizes for not knowing this information and said he will look it up to make sure.

Debby Ploeg wanted to make a statement that no one on the council is working together everyone, besides two people, are new to the board. There have been so many turn overs. If someone has information wrong they get so much guff from everyone else but no one will try and help each other out. She wants to know if there is a certain guideline that needs to be followed, and check list type of thing.

Harold Andrus joined Debby Ploeg and stats that no one is getting anything done he has asked over and over again for where the salt container is and how they coming on finding a spot for it. Bill Andrews responded with we have been trying hard to find a spot to get it fixed. It is on the building and ground meeting minutes and spoke with Chris Shepard about finding a spot and a way to fix this problem. As for it taking a long time, he explained that at one point in time Harold Andrus was in his positon and they were trying to find the best they can to get this fixed. Harold Andrus asked why the equipment hasn't been taken care of in a timelier manner. Bill Andrews said that Dave

Smelker has been working on getting things fixed. Travis Kamp wants to know what our insurance liability is to have him working on and operating the equipment. Thomas Steensma explains that if something was to happen to Dave the Village would be the one who is responsible to cover damage while operating machines or working on machines.

Charity Raymond wanted to ask a question on behalf of Darrel Smelker as to why he was not notified to the fire hydrant flushing. He had brown ice and was not happy about it. Chris Shepard responded back with it was on the board downtown and posts it in the local business.

Josh Endsley wanted to make a statement that he feels the Village Trustee Board that we have now does care and wants more than anything to fix what is going on. He believes that we can make a difference. There have been things that have been not taken care of for so long that everyone on the board is trying very hard to find a solution to all the problems. There needs to be change.

Bill Andrews wants to move some of the council members around to cover the open board positions. Al Scholma is now head of Building Street and Ground and second on Water Committee. John Raymond will be the head of the Water Committee. Karl Wilkins will be second on Building Streets and Ground.

#### **Correspondence:**

Debby Ploeg and Travis Kamp from Buskirk Lumber called on Thursday 3-3-16 to ask why the roads have not been salted or sanded since the storm. He feels that the roads need to be taken care of at a higher priority level; this is the second time now that he has had to mention the quality of the roads, and how they are affecting his business. He still has concern as to who Chris Shepard is answering to now that Bill Andrews is no longer Building Streets and Ground Commissioner.

#### **Announcements:**

Bill Andrews wanted to answer the question about who Chris Shepard will be responding too, and the will now be Al Scholma.

Bill Andrews reappointed board members. Board members read as following

Building Streets and Ground Commissioner- Al Scholma  
Second Building Streets and Grounds Karl Wilkins  
Administration Commissioner- Scott Ploeg  
Second on Administration- Josh Endsley  
Water Commissioner- John Raymond  
Second Water- Al Scholma  
Planning- Scott Ploeg

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm

Shawna Hill

Village Clerk

Posted 3/28/16

Correction made by Scott Ploeg