

Village of Freeport
Council Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2024

A regular monthly meeting was held February 12, 2024 at the Freeport Community Center. Village President Bill Andrews called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm.

Other council members present – Trustees Lani Forbes, Madison Cove, Damon Cove, and Clerk Shari Clark.

Absent - Trustee Shawn Hill and Treasurer Joyce Callihan.

Staff present – Water Operator Duane Weeks, DPW Director Collin Crumback, Brian Allbright, and Ben Christie.

The minutes of the January 8, 2024 meeting were approved.

Public comments were heard from Freeport Goodworks /Madison Beuhler & Jeff Depew inquiring about future street light poles offering to assist with expenses towards wiring for potential speakers on each. President Andrews stated that the Village is open to this idea, costs need to be researched for budget consideration. Replacement poles will need to be painted first, determination of how many to be installed, and excavation & cement work will need to be scheduled.

Treasurer's report was read by D.Cove.

Moved by Forbes and supported by D.Cove to pay monthly bills totaling \$27,239.97. Upon roll call, all voted "Aye". Motion passed.

Water Operator Duane Weeks presented CMS Mechanical, LLC's proposal for Wellhouse Improvements, answered questions, and made recommendation for approval. Moved by D.Cove and supported by Forbes to accept the \$249,670.00 proposal including \$29,000.00 plumbing scope. Upon roll call, all voted "Aye". Motion passed. Remaining ARPA funds will be used to fund this project.

Weeks reported that the EGLE DWSRF grant application for lead water line replacement has been submitted, waiting to hear back if Village of Freeport will be awarded.

President Andrews designated Duane Weeks as Voting Delegate and Collin Crumback as Alternate representing the Village during the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Michigan Rural Water Association held at the Conference.

DPW Director Crumback reported: The generator work is done and fully operating. Replaced water line at 223 N. State St and new water meter. New water meter also placed at 104 Beech St. Received another request for tree removal. A local resident volunteered to remove a dropped limb & clean up near the park. Mower bids reviewed, Burnips is reasonable. DPW has started filling pot holes. Graded Hammond Rd last week. Crumback will arrange pick up of street poles from Hastings and follow up with Lamar Schrock/West Michigan Powder Coating regarding street poles, if he can deliver directly.

Resumés are being accepted for Cleaning of the Community Center, Rental Coordinator, and Police Department.

Moved by D.Cove and supported by M.Cove to adopt the proposed 2024/25 Budget. Upon roll call, all voted "Aye". Motion passed.

Moved by D.Cove and supported by M.Cove to adopt RESOLUTION #24-01 TO SET WATER RATES AND CHARGES FOR THE VILLAGE PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM. Upon roll call, all voted "Aye". Absent: Shawn Hill. Motion passed.

Moved by D.Cove and supported by Forbes to accept Water Billing Change Request Forms (Owner/ Tenant) as presented. Upon roll call, all voted "Aye". Motion passed.

Public comment was heard from Jon Smelker to share updates from Barry County Board of Commissioners.

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.

The next COW meeting will be March 5, 2024 at 6:30 pm.

The next regular Council Meeting will be held March 11, 2024 at 7:30 pm.

Submitted by Shari Clark, Village Clerk