

Village of Freeport
Committee of the Whole
Minutes
February 6, 2024

Village President Bill Andrews called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Other council members present – Trustees Madison Cove, Damon Cove, Lani Forbes, Treasurer Joyce Callihan, and Clerk Shari Clark. Absent – Trustee Shawn Hill.

Staff Members present – DPW Director Collin Crumbach and Water Operator Duane Weeks.

No Public Comment.

Reports:

Administration

Forbes reviewed the proposed Budget which was accepted to present at the Budget Hearing on February 12, 2024.

Midwest American Mycological Information (MAMI) will be scheduling a training workshop (environmental education about wild foraged mushrooms harvested from Michigan lands) at the Freeport Community Center which will be open to people within our area and surrounding counties. MAMI will pay the usual \$200.00 hall rental fee and will charge attendees a registration fee.

President Andrews will complete the U.S. Census Bureau 2024 Boundary & Annexation Survey.

Freeport Village Council election terms to be listed on the November 2024 ballot are as follows:

President 2 year term, two Trustees 4 year terms, and one Trustee partial 2 year term (ending November 2026).

Water

Weeks has met with Williams & Works engineers and CSM Mechanical, LLC at the wellhouse to determine dollar amount for updates. CSM Mechanical, LLC \$249,670.00 proposal was reviewed. Weeks made a recommendation to approve their revised quote which will be presented at the next council meeting. Remaining ARPA funds will be used to fund this project.

Buildings, Streets, & Grounds

The September 2023 minutes were reviewed which stated “The list for tree trimming & removal needs to be revised due to recent storm damage. The most dangerous trees will be taken down, within budget, and an estimate will be sought out for approval of any remaining trees needing consideration.” Council agreed that there had been discussion about setting an allowance of \$5,000.00 for emergency tree removal.

Moved by Forbes and supported by D.Cove to pre-approve \$2,900.00 payment to Hickory Ridge Tree Service (for recent tree removal & clean up) to be paid on February 6, 2024. All in favor, motion passed.

Parks & Recreation

M.Cove reported that leagues have started scheduling use of ball fields. Tentative dates may also be scheduled into the 2025 season.

Key pad in lieu of key distribution was discussed as a future option to be considered for access to ball equipment. Discussed if consideration should be given to charge a fee to leagues outside of the community to help cover equipment & maintenance costs. No decision at this time.

Police

Need to determine if an outgoing message can be recorded on the answering machine in Freeport Police office.

The public should call 911 in case of emergency and 269-948-4800 Barry County Central Dispatch for non-emergencies.

A resident complaint was reviewed regarding illegal fireworks, which are in violation of state law, future incidents should be directed to call the Central Dispatch non-emergency number.

President Andrews shared estimated replacement costs for a new police vehicle.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.

The next COW meeting will be held March 5, 2024.