

Village of Freeport  
Committee of the Whole  
Minutes  
May 7, 2024

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

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

Staff Members present – DPW Director Collin Crumback. Absent - Water Operator Duane Weeks.

No Public Comment. Written correspondence was read from Cathy Garnaat regarding water due dates suggesting a 30-day payable policy without penalty. Quarterly billings go out the first week following each quarter (April, July, October, & January) and will remain due by the 20<sup>th</sup> as stated in the Ordinance.

Reports:

**Administration**

Police department resumés (Timothy Griffin & Ricky Odette) were reviewed. Recommendation will be presented at council meeting to hire Timothy Griffin as Freeport Police Chief at a rate of \$25.00 per hour.

Engagement letter from Walker, Fluke, & Sheldon to conduct the audit for FY ended February 29, 2024 was reviewed. Since the Village has not expended more than \$750,000.00 in federal funds, a regular audit will be sufficient. A recommendation for approval will be made at the council meeting.

Employee evaluations will go out in September, reviews in October/November, finalized by December to impact January implementation.

A Special Use Permit is on hold until documentation is provided.

Lani attended a meeting with the EPA training group. Freeport may qualify for the SEARCH (Special Evaluation Assistance for Rural Communities) grant through USDA, generally it is up to \$30,000.00.

**Water** *No report.*

**Buildings, Streets, & Grounds**

Crumback is waiting to hear back from Lamar Schrock to deliver street light poles to VP Coatings / West Michigan Powder Coating.

President Andrews shared correspondence from Mike TenBrock/ Kent County Road Commission who has plans to repair the Freeport Avenue Bridge over the Coldwater River. TenBrock has consulted with Ryan Worden/Scott Civil Engineering, will make sure scheduling of their project doesn't occur at the same time as Freeport's East Street Bridge Project (which will be given priority), and to coordinate detour routes with the village.

Spring Clean up to be scheduled June 6-8, 2024 with volunteers to monitor the site.

Forbes will post for sidewalk work and for those wanting sidewalk repair.

Cemetery Rules were reviewed. A sign is posted at the Cemetery and Cemetery Ordinance #47 rules may be posted at the office.

Crumback completed the locations of veteran's gravesites in the cemetery. Forbes will update the excel document.

Street grant is due June 12, 2024. Superior Asphalt has provided a quote for Beech Street \$51,600.00 and St. Johns Street \$49,800.00.

**Parks & Recreation**

Barry County Parks & Recreation Mini-Grant Program application was not submitted.

**Police** *No report.*

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm.

The next COW meeting will be held June 4, 2024.

*Submitted by Shari Clark, Village Clerk*