

Village of Freeport
Council Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2024

A regular monthly meeting of the Freeport Village Council was held October 14, 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, Damon Cove, Madison Cove, Treasurer Joyce Callihan, and Clerk Shari Clark. Absent – Trustee Shawn Hill.

Staff present – Police Chief Tim Griffin, Water Operator Duane Weeks, and DPW Director Collin Crumback.

The minutes of the September 9, 2024 meeting were approved.

Police Report was read by Chief Griffin.

Moved by Forbes and supported by D.Cove to provide \$20,000.00 expense towards outfitting new police vehicle (includes new radar unit). Upon roll call, all voted “Aye”. Motion passed.

No Public comment.

Treasurer’s Report was read by Callihan.

Moved by D.Cove and supported by M.Cove to accept budget amendments as presented by Forbes: General Fund Delinquent Property Tax revenue increased \$4,000.00, General Fund Insurance & Bonds increased \$4,000.00, Water Account Membership Dues & Training increased \$150.00, Water Account Misc Expense decreased \$150.00, Local Street Reserve increased \$16,000.00, and Local Street other expenses increased \$16,000.00. Upon roll call, all voted “Aye”. Motion passed.

Moved by D.Cove and supported by M.Cove to pay monthly bills totaling \$199,228.02. Upon roll call, all voted “Aye”. Motion passed.

Water Operator Duane Weeks reported that the overall wellhouse improvement project is more user friendly, needs & concerns were readily addressed, and working well. The Complete Distribution System Materials Inventory (CDSMI) is complete and working on submitting it online to EGLE. Weeks and Crumback are working together to organize past records in a better manner.

DPW Report was read by Crumback. He presented two tree removal quotes. Moved by Forbes and supported by D.Cove to accept Hickory Ridge Tree Service, LLC \$5,800.00 estimate to remove maple trees at 194 State St, 113 Division St, and 246 S. East St including clean up, haul away, & stump grinding. Upon roll call, all voted “Aye”. Motion passed. Crumback will get more clarification for the bid process on the East Street Bridge project. Shared an update on the replacement street light poles in process of being powder coated, needing to pick up 6 more tall poles to replace total of 14 existing.

Forbes presented a cemetery rate comparison sheet. She will put together a new rate sheet, which will include updated cemetery fees and also include other fees charged by the village, for adoption at the beginning of each fiscal year.

Moved by D.Cove and supported by Forbes to appoint JD Forbes and Hannah Clewell as Village Trustees to fill upcoming vacancies. All in favor, motion passed. Both will be officially sworn in at the next meeting to fill remaining vacant terms.

Letters of resignation, due to moving outside of the village, from Damon and Madison Cove were accepted by council. Council expressed appreciation and thanked them for the 3 years they each served on the Village Council.

Village Residents interested in serving as Trustee on the Freeport Village Council may submit a letter of interest with resumé to freeportclerk@gmail.com or mail to PO Box 10, Freeport, MI 49325.

Public comment was heard from Jon Smelker sharing an update from Barry County Board of Commissioners.

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

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

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

Submitted by Shari Clark, Village Clerk