

Village of Freeport
Council Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2024

A regular monthly meeting of the Freeport Village Council was held November 18, 2024 at the Freeport Community Center. Village President Bill Andrews called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Other council members present – Trustees Lani Forbes, Hannah Clewell, Treasurer Joyce Callihan, and Clerk Shari Clark. Staff present – Water Operator Duane Weeks and DPW Director Collin Crumback. Absent – Police Chief Tim Griffin.

Newly elected officials President Bill Andrews & Trustee Lani Forbes and newly appointed Trustee Hannah Clewell were each officially sworn in by the Clerk.

The unofficial results of the November 5, 2024 General Election were reviewed. 277 total ballots cast of 409 total registered voters within the village = 67.73% turn out.

Newly elected Village Officials: President Bill Andrews receiving 188 votes (2 year term) and Trustee Lani Forbes (4 year term) receiving 134 votes. Trustee Madison Cove received 150 votes had resigned due to moving outside of the village and there were no write-in filings for the other Trustee position.

Moved by Forbes and supported by Andrews to accept the results of the November 5, 2024 General Election. All in favor, motion passed.

Two Trustee Vacancies remain. Newly appointed Trustees will each serve a partial two year term and 3 positions will be placed on the November 2026 ballot (one for a partial two year term and two for a four year term).

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.

The minutes of the October 14, 2024 meeting were approved.

Police Report was read by President Andrews. Forbes shared that all equipment for the new cruiser is on order and Chief Griffin is seeking bids for decals.

Public comment was heard from new Barry County Administrator Eric Zuzga to introduce himself and shared an update from Barry County Board of Commissioners. Diana McGuire inquired when cemetery gates will be closed this winter. Gates are closed annually to vehicle traffic after snow falls, walk in is allowed for people to have access to visit gravesites.

Treasurer's Report was read by Callihan.

Moved Forbes and supported by Clewell to pay monthly bills totaling \$78,772.41. Upon roll call, all voted "Aye". Motion passed.

Water Operator Duane Weeks reported that the wellhouse is running well, the improvements have it running much more consistent decreasing the amount of chlorine needed.

DPW Report was read by Crumback. He plans to research best types of trees and look at buying six trees to plant. Final Leaf Pick Up for raked or blown leaves is November 26th, following that date leaves must be bagged. Crumback shared updates on street light poles, meeting with a contractor for electrical boring estimate, and the East Street Bridge Project work to begin April – June 2025.

Treasurer will research village costs to cover library expenses and present to council to determine annual rental fee for the 2025/26 bi-annual contract renewal with the Freeport District Library Board.

Public comment was heard from Diana McGuire asking about multiple police vehicles using up parking spaces.

Correspondence from Barry County Community Mental Health Outreach Specialist Christa Wetzel was reviewed. She is welcome to attend a future meeting to share information as requested during public comment.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

The next COW meeting will be held December 3, 2024 at 6:30 pm.

The next regular Council Meeting will be held December 9, 2024 at 7:30 pm.

Submitted by Shari Clark, Village Clerk