

Village of Freeport
Committee of the Whole
Minutes
January 6, 2026

President Bill Andrews called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm.

Others present – Trustees Lani Forbes, Hannah Clewell, & Amanda Faunce, Clerk Shari Clark, Treasurer Joyce Callihan, Water Operator/DPW Director Collin Crumback, and Back Up Water Operator Duane Weeks.

Absent – Police Chief Tim Griffin.

No Public Comment.

Reports:

Administration

WOW contracts for phone & internet are being reviewed.

Library Rental fee for 2026 was approved 12/9/24 at a rate of \$3,300.00. The Annual Agreement will be reviewed at the next Council Meeting.

Budget was brought up for review. Treasurer will provide an updated budget to Forbes. Each department head is asked to review their 2026-27 budgets and provide an update to Forbes.

Trustee Vacancy has been published in the December Council Minutes. Seeking Applicants notice will be posted on the Village Website, Facebook page, notice board, and Freeport Library & Post Office.

Clerk will research options for office copier replacement.

Business cards will be ordered for Water Operator/DPW Director Collin Crumback. Forbes has a source who will design them once detailed information is given to her.

New CD will be placed on the January Council Agenda for formal approval.

Zoning Administrator Lani Forbes gave an update regarding some recent zoning issues. She has communicated with PCI regarding misinformation given out authorizing construction & issued permits to some Freeport residents prior to Freeport Zoning approval. Documentation from Barry County Zoning Department will be provided which will be attached to the village's zoning permit case files.

Water

Home inspections for galvanized or lead service lines are still in process.

Water rates for Readiness to Serve & Commodity Charges, as established by Resolution #25-02, will incur a 2% yearly increase as of April 1, 2026.

Review of Waste Recovery invoice increase was due to additional work requested by DPW Director; it will be listed on January 2026 bills to be paid.

Buildings, Streets, & Grounds

Estimate for a new garage door for the storage building from Garage Door Doctor was reviewed, no other estimates have been received.

Due to trash removal issues, the two village trash receptacles on Division Street will be removed and placed only during the Homecoming and other special events.

Parks & Recreation

(no new business)

Police

Chief Griffin inquired about hiring additional police officers for limited patrol hours as needed. If considered, this would be handled through the routine application process.

Public Comment - Forbes shared that Barry County United Way will be offering a volunteer tax program to conduct free tax preparation for residents with an income under \$69,000.00 which is scheduled at the Freeport Community Center on March 9, 2026. Anyone interested must contact Barry County United Way directly after January 19, 2026 to schedule.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

The next COW meeting will be held February 3, 2026.

Submitted by Shari Clark, Village Clerk