

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

President pro tempore Lani Forbes called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Others present – Trustees Amanda Faunce, Alex Hobday, Clerk Shari Clark, and Treasurer Joyce Callihan. Staff present – Water Operator/DPW Director Collin Crumback, Back Up Water Operator Duane Weeks, and Shane Faunce. Absent – President Bill Andrews, Trustee Michael Underwood, and Police Chief Tim Griffin.

No Public Comment.

Reports:

Administration

Forbes will present pay increase recommendations at next council meeting.

The draft audit report was reviewed. Forbes requested a management letter from Gabridge & Company before final acceptance. Eight bound copies of the final audit and an electronic copy to post on the village website will be requested.

Correspondence was read from resident Mason Rittenberg seeking volunteer opportunities to help out our community. His contact information was shared with Freeport Goodworks and Village DPW department.

Trick-or-Treating in the village is set for Saturday October 31, 2026 6-9pm.

The Village Office will not be open on December 17, 2026.

Water

Final expenses to submit for the LSLR deadline is extended through October 9, 2026. Available funds \$10,495.07 specific to outreach, education, & planning remain. Crumback will follow up with Waste Recovery to correct invoice description to reflect two lead line inspections, submit DPW hours for inside inspections since October 2025, and any additional expenses to Forbes. Community outreach documents shall be uploaded to the village website.

Buildings, Streets, & Grounds

Will be meeting with Evans Electric in the next two weeks seeking an electrical proposal for street light poles.

A new cylinder estimated at \$2,400.00 + shipping fee is needed for the small dump truck. This urgent repair must be completed to perform leaf removal within the village. Crumback was authorized to pay ACH from Major Street Account. Treasurer given authorization to transfer \$3,000.00 from General to the Major Street account to cover the expense.

Parks & Recreation

Some caulking has been completed on the pickleball courts, not much progress has been made this year, coating may need to be postponed to next year. Forbes will follow up with Barry County Parks & Recreation if the village is still eligible for the grant funds previously awarded in May 2025 for this project.

Police *(no new business)*.

Public Input

Back Up Water Operator Duane Weeks offered to return his August & September salary back to the village due to not contributing much work. October salary will be voided. He requested that his employment change to “on call as needed” and monthly salary changed to an hourly consultant rate. His net pay for August & September to be tracked and hours going forward deducted from that total until used up. He will submit a proposal with a rate for his services to the village.

Crumback shared issue of brush being brought in from outside the village and dumped off at cemetery by a resident. Council suggested posting “Village Residential Brush Only” and putting up cameras. Police Chief Griffin will be asked to follow up and research methods to prohibit and which rules may be enforced.

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm.

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

Submitted by Shari Clark, Village Clerk