

THE BOROUGH OF FREELAND MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING WAS HELD IN PERSON ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2026, AT 6 PM, IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM AT 711 BIRKBECK STREET, FREELAND, PA. PRESENT WERE MR. KAVITSKI, MR. FISHER, MR. THOMAS, MR. TIERNEY, MR. KUKLIS, ATTORNEY MALASKA, BRENDEN MILLER OF HRG, THE TECHNICAL MANAGER AND THE SECRETARY.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

Michael Ritsko, 200 Oak Street, Freeland, came to the meeting to inquire if there is an appeal process or another authority about the blocked sewer issue. He submitted bills for reimbursement, and he says he is not being reimbursed for the months of problems he has had. His sewer lateral is one hundred feet long and he feels he is being penalized because his plumber went into the Sewer Main. The Authority decided to offer him a seventy-five percent reimbursement of the bills, and he was questioning the percentage.

Mr. Kavitski explained the percentage was to help you out, but the amount should have been zero.

The Authority does not know if the blockage started in your sewer lateral.

The Board all agreed for seventy-five percent and nothing more after the discussion.

Mr. Tierney made the motion to offer the customer seventy-five percent of the bills and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 5-0.

Mr. Tierney stated people need to stop doing things and not consulting the Authority first and it needs to stop.

Mr. Kavitski stated it is the same thing with all the plumbers; they need to stop turning the curb stops on and off. It is not their equipment.

Jonathan Stish introduced himself and thanked the Authority for hiring him. He is learning a lot, and it feels great to serve the community he grew up in. It is more hands on here than in Philadelphia and he is enjoying the process. I want to present an idea to the Board, with only being here three weeks, the big topic of conversation has been the filtrate and the Schwing Press. He stated the Philadelphia Department is having some of the same issues so we wanted to see if we could coordinate something and bounce ideas off each other. Two Process Engineers and two Co-Managers would be the people to come if approved on Tuesday August 25th.

Ryan Smith and Dan Murphy would like to have them visit to see if they can give some insight into the situation.

Mr. Kavitski stated he has no problem as long as there would be no data sharing and Mr. Tierney agreed.

The Board agreed to the visit. Brenden Miller of HRG stated make sure notes are taken.

Mr. Tierney thanked Jonathan for his insight and initiative.

APPROVE MINUTES

Mr. Kuklis made the motion to approve Regular Meeting Minutes dated July 15, 2026, and Mr. Tierney second. Vote 5-0.

APPROVE JULY PAID INVOICES

Mr. Thomas made a motion to approve July paid invoices for the Water Division totaling \$412,584.14, and the Sewer Division invoices totaling \$185,629.10, and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 5-0. (Ref. 2767-A).

CURRENT INVOICES

Mr. Kavitski made a motion to approve payment of the current Water Division invoices totaling \$170,682.49, the Sewer Division invoices totaling \$125,478.44, and the Sandy Run invoices totaling \$104.00, with additional invoices from TEAM Supply \$460.25 for Water Division, Fastenal Company \$444.76 which is part Water and Sewer, Precision Vinyl \$74.13 for Water Division, JC Engine \$110.00 for Water Division, and the other invoice in question, and waiting for a response from Guyette Communications on an invoice from Relay Wire for \$469.95, I need confirmation on this invoice prior to payment, and Mr. Kuklis second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2767-B).

FINANCIAL STATUS

The Secretary reviewed the Financial Status as outlined in Reference 2767-C.

Office Manager informed the Board the Authority received the first check from Citterio USA for the stipulated penalties from the COA and it was placed in the Sewer Money Market.

Mr. Tierney made the motion for the acceptance of the 2025 Audit and Mr. Thomas second. Vote 5-0.
Mr. Kavitski stated it was a good audit, and the Authority is in good shape.

ENGINEERING REPORT

Mr. Brenden Miller of HRG, Inc., presented the Engineering Report. (Reference 2768-A).

Sewer Area

-SIUA and IPP Items – Brenden Miller explained to the Board Members, Chris Ferdik is on vacation this week and Steven Walsh is also on vacation. Civil Penalties and the NOV are new items.

Mr. Kavitski stated every month the flows are exceeded and inquired about timely reporting.

Carlene had questions regarding what the cut-off date for late reporting is.

Ryan Smith stated the reports are due on the 28th of every month for the previous month.

Brenden Miller will check with Chris Ferdik regarding this date.

-Sludge Dewatering Project – Various meetings with Sherwood Logan and Schwing working on a data collection plan. Brenden Miller stated four to six weeks of data collection is being collected at this time, and he requested the polymer report.

Mr. Kavitski stated their filtrate was clear during the initial testing phase which it is not now.

Brenden Miller stated the Press Platform update is fabrication is done and some of the platform is at the Authority now and install should be within a week. The VFD failure, Sherwood Logan, recommends a heat exchanger, and Wireworx provided a quote for installing the equipment but let us obtain the certification from Sherwood that they will reimburse the Authority prior to having the work completed.

Mr. Kuklis made a motion to amend the agenda for the Wirework Quote to install the heat exchanger and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 5-0.

Mr. Kuklis made the motion to obtain the equipment and have Wireworx install the equipment and be reimbursed by Sherwood Logan, and Mr. Thomas second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2768-B).

Brenden Miller stated he will work with Ryan and let him know when to move forward with it.

-NPDES Permit Renewal – DEP issued FMA Final NPDES Permit renewal on July 24, 2026; effective September 1, 2026, and expiring August 31, 2031. The Headworks Evaluation needs to be completed.

-ACT 537 Special Study – HRG is waiting for the PAWC Agreement to be finalized.

Water Area

-Oak Street Water Storage Tank – Punch List Progress Meeting last Friday August 14th, Mr. Kuklis attended the meeting. The roadway is in a defective work letter to Linde. Brenden Miller read the email from John Scofield of Linde. (Reference 2768-C).

Brenden Miller stated he wants to know the material they will be using for the roadway. There was a post condition video made by Brenden.

Mr. Fisher questioned what areas they are doing and Mr. Kavitski stated they should be cut square, base and pave it.

Brenden Miller stated the email is very vague, and the Board had a discussion regarding this issue.

Brenden wants more details on the roadway repairs.

At the meeting on August 27, Brenden will walk through the project with the Board to be sure all items are taken care of to their satisfaction.

Mr. Kavitski inquired about the building, is it watertight now. The commissioning of the tank will be on August 27, will the restraint fitting be in. This is the last deadline for the Oak Street Tank Start-up.

The testing of the water in the Oak Street Tank was discussed. Mr. Kavitski stated to drain 10,000 gallons first before August 27.

Mr. Kavitski instructed Ryan Smith to contact PTD for the Authority to own the switch for the dark fiber at the tank. The equipment needs to be the Authority's. The fiber/ethernet switch needs to be placed in a 19" Rack Enclosure horizontally.

Ryan Smith stated the Authority does own the switch; the login credentials have been given to the Authority, and he inquired if other areas should also have the Rack Enclosures.

Mr. Kavitski stated place in all the Wellhouses, and he will get together with Ryan for the correct type.

Mr. Kavitski asked for a motion to amend the agenda for purchasing the rack enclosures and Mr. Kuklis made the motion to amend the agenda and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 5-0.

Mr. Fisher made the motion to purchase up to ten rack enclosures and Mr. Thomas second. Vote 5-0.

Mr. Kuklis inquired if the Oak Street Tank cameras are connected to the system down at the office and

Ryan Smith stated no, they are not linked to his phone yet.

Mr. Kuklis inquired no connection down here at the office like the rest of the system.

Ryan Smith stated it was not spec'd out that way.

Mr. Kuklis stated the cameras up there are not tied in and recorded down here like the rest, why.

Mr. Kavitski stated it should all be done at the office and recorded like the rest and we need to look at it.

Brenden Miller stated no AFPs this month and possible close-out for the September Meeting.

-SRBC Consumptive Use Mitigation Project (Digital Twin) – Attached to the Engineers Report is the monthly WaterSight Report. Taylor Blair and Ryan Smith have been in touch with 540 Technologies regarding ten failed leak loggers.

Mr. Kavitski showed the Board the WaterSight Software with all of the data within the system. The unaccounted water loss is high, but the leak loggers are not showing any leaks. The Authority needs to figure out where the unaccounted water loss is because it should be around 5 to 10 percent.

Ryan Smith stated he thinks that number is inflated based on trends and experience with the system.

Mr. Fisher inquired how this number is figured and Mr. Kavitski stated it is the meters in the houses and the amount pumped out of the wells.

Mr. Kavitski stated we need to verify this information.

Mr. Fisher inquired about slow meters and Carlene stated the meter project is helping with this because the Authority is changing out the meters.

Mr. Kavitski stated he has questions about some of the information within the software. He stated the well levels are lower this year than last year. There is a ton of information on the system.

Brenden stated Staci will need to add the Oak Street Tank to the WaterSight System.

-Sandy Run Corrosion Control Study – HRG was authorized to submit the permit application, and construction will need to be completed by September 2027.

-Iron and Manganese Treatment – No work since the Grant Application for the AdEdge Equipment.

Brenden Miller stated the LSA Statewide Grant is coming up for applications due November 30, with up to one million dollars.

Mr. Kavitski stated the Authority should apply for the rest of the meters and the Antennae System, so the readings come directly to the office. Brenden Miller will look at this for next month.

Brenden Miller stated the CFA Grant applications are due if interested too.

-CFA Small Water & Sewer Grant – The grant for the Water Piggling Project was awarded to the Authority, which is only a partial of the total grant application. HRG and FMA will need to meet to see exactly what can be done for the amount awarded which was \$245,851.00, and three-year time frame to spend the money. HRG would like to wait until the Oak Street Storage Tank is completed.

-CFA Small Water & Sewer Grant – A grant application was prepared and submitted for the Fe/Mn Well Project in November of 2025. HRG will report to the Board when a decision is made by CFA on the application.

Mr. Fisher inquired about the failures with the Leak Logger System and what the manufacturer is currently doing about this situation.

Brenden Miller stated the Authority is packing the failed ones and sending them back and they are accepting them because of the warranty.

Mr. Kuklis inquired about the length of the warranty. Mr. Kavitski stated three years.

Mr. Kuklis inquired about the length of time they have been installed now and Brenden Miller stated approximately 1 to 1-1/2 years now.

Mr. Kuklis inquired about what will happen after the warranty the Authority will need to replace them.

Mr. Tierney inquired about the number of failures now and the answer is a dozen or so of 74.

Atty Malaska asked to see the contract for his review.

Brenden Miller will forward emails to Atty Malaska.

Mr. Fisher is concerned when the warranty expires.

Mr. Kuklis stated the Authority was worried about the batteries but that is not the case.

Ryan Smith stated Kennedy Company was here and gave a demo on iHydrant Plus and another one. They provide temperature, instream pressure, and leak detection connected to the system. They are installed at the seat of the hydrant, API connective and integrate with the software we have. The company would come to a Board Meeting with demos and answer all questions.

Ryan Smith stated the sensors sit within the stream side and the size of our system we would need approximately twenty.

Mr. Fisher inquired how long this company has been selling these on the market and what is the history on them.

Brenden Miller stated he was not familiar with the company or this item.

Mr. Kavitski inquired if they would be willing to install just one so we can see how it will work but also attend a meeting.

Mr. Kuklis stated two demos would be nice.

Brenden Miller stated he will reach out to other places that have the Leak Loggers to inquire about problems.

Mr. Kuklis inquired about a power supply for these items and Ryan Smith stated they have batteries too but with possible solar panels.

Mr. Kavitski stated I would like two on a trial basis but if they are not willing then maybe we will pass.

Ryan Smith stated he will contact them and ask for a history and see if they can be here next month.

Mr. Thomas asked for references regarding where they are installed now.

Mr. Kavitski stated we are not trying to get rid of 540 Technologies but with the track record right now we are not happy. Ryan Smith stated they are not showing leaks only electrical interferences.

SEWER DIVISION

All items on agenda were covered during the Engineer's Report.

WATER DIVISION

Oak Street Road was already discussed during the Engineer's Report.

246 Centre Street – Curb Box

The property is the Freeland Senior Apartments by MMI School. The Authority needs to replace the water meter inside the building, but the curb box is not working properly. The curb box is stuck between the sidewalk, retaining wall and the ramp for entrance to the building. Ryan Gerlach did not want to disturb the wall or sidewalk and wanted to place a new curb box in the grassy area between the school and the building or in their parking lot. (Reference 2770-A).

Mr. Tierney inquired if it was MMI ground and Carlene explained the Water Main is through the property there should be an easement or right of way but will need to research.

Mr. Kavitski stated all the easements that are not in writing would need to be researched and should be taken care of.

Atty Malaska inquired how old the Senior Building is, and it should have building plans. Maybe check with Foster and see if they have records or check with MMI School.

Ryan Smith stated there is a 4-inch line tapped off the 8-inch line going to the building along with the fire suppression system.

The Board Members want permission from the Senior Apartments and place a curb box right in front of the other curb box without disturbing the retaining wall. All Board Members agreed.

Mr. Kavitski informed Ryan Smith to contact Freeland Senior Apartments regarding the work.

630-632-634 Ridge Street – Service Line

Two homes, 630 Ridge is a single home and 632/634 is a double. (Reference 2770-B).

Ryan Smith explained 632-634 Ridge Street is on the disconnect list, but it cannot be turned off. It was discovered the 630 Ridge Street line feeds 632-634 Ridge Street, the service line is tapped off somewhere under the basement floor or the foundation. The line was located between the homes but no shut off is there. Ryan Smith stated his concern is if 630 Ridge wanted to leave and pulled the meter the line would still be live through their basement.

Mr. Kavitski inquired if there is room to place a curb box between 630 and 632 in the yard. Ryan Smith stated yes that he wanted to tap the main and place a new curb box to control the double home.

Mr. Fisher stated that would only take care of half of the problem.

Ryan Smith stated there are two curb boxes outside of the 632-634 Ridge Street property, but they are not connected to the home. The curb boxes were turned off, and no lines ran into the home.

Mr. Kavitski inquired with Atty Malaska whether there was any way to add to the Rules & Regulations to make the property connect with separate service lines.

Atty Malaska stated he is surprised that every home does not have a separate service line.

Mr. Kavitski explained the Authority tried but the Borough and Foster would not pass it.

Carlene explained when a property does not pay the bill and cannot be turned off the Authority places liens.

Mr. Fisher stated the Authority should go into the home and remove the meter, and Mr. Kuklis stated the line would still be live, and a straight pipe could be placed there.

Atty Malaska suggested inquiring with the Borough since there is a new Solicitor.

Mr. Kavitski stated if the Authority removes the meter they cannot live in the house due to no water. Codes need to make them vacate the house and if they are still there then you know the pipes were tampered with.

Mr. Fisher stated to pull the meter and call Code and have the police there too.

Mr. Thomas stated to pull the meters and condemn the house.

Atty Malaska stated the Authority cannot place the condemned sign; the Borough needs to.

Carlene stated if we pull the meters; this still does not take care of the problem because the water is fed from 630 Ridge.

Mr. Kavitski stated to get a drawing together for next month to see Ryan how you want to separate these lines and curb stops.

Mr. Kuklis stated there are two curb boxes there that are not connected.

Carlene stated she called a retired employee to see if he remembered if there was a curb box for 632 & 634 Ridge Street.

Ryan Smith stated the Authority was going to tap the main and cut the line in the yard to supply water to the double home. It is a tight spot between the homes, but it can be done.

There are questions regarding where the property lines are between the homes.

Mr. Kuklis suggested cutting the line completely and forcing them to connect to the curb boxes out in front of the home.

Atty Malaska stated notify the double home owner to cut the water but need to give them notice.

Mr. Kavitski stated the line should be cut on the 632-property line.

Mr. Thomas stated there is a renter there and that is the issue too.

Atty Malaska inquired can the Borough pull the landlord/renter permit. We need help from the Borough with these problems.

Mr. Kavitski stated we could invite the Borough Council to the next Authority meeting.

Mr. Kavitski stated the curb box needs to be placed on the 632/634 Ridge Street property.

Ryan Smith stated Atty Malaska should send a letter giving them a deadline to connect to the curb boxes out front of the double home.

Atty Malaska stated the Borough should be taking the lead on this property.

Mr. Kavitski stated they should be made to connect to the curb boxes out front.

Ryan Smith stated the meter should be placed at the closest place where the service line enters the home.

Mr. Kuklis stated if the house goes up for sale again the home should be made to connect to the curb boxes out front with separate service lines.

Mr. Kavitski stated that would need to be placed in an Ordinance, and we need to speak to the Borough.

They are looking at all their Ordinances currently.

Ryan Smith stated we would like to cut the line and make them connect to the curb boxes out front but coordinate with the Borough and Atty. Malaska stated we need to give everyone a whole lot of notice.

MANAGER REPORT

Ryan Smith presented the Technical Manager report. (Reference 2771-A).

Forschner Wireworx Quote for Well 4, 11, 9, and 10 electrical ground connections work, Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve and Mr. Kuklis second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2771-B).

Cleveland Brothers for service on the CAT Backhoe Quote for \$3,111.84, there is an issue with the backhoe the bucket releases slowly and needs to be looked over.

Mr. Fisher inquired if they could do both things at the same time. Mr. Kavitski stated prior to them coming tell Cleveland the bucket slowly releases so they can bring parts with them and do everything at once.

Mr. Kavitski made the motion to perform the 2,000-hour Service Call for \$3,111.84 and authorize them to replace the parts needed for the bucket as a safety item and Mr. Tierney second. Vote 5-0. (Ref. 2771-C).

Modern Pump & Equipment Inc., Quote for Well 6 Pump and Motor Replacement, the power filter component if it does not work, Ryan Smith requested they remove the equipment and refund the Authority \$1,465.00 and Modern Pump agreed.

Mr. Kavitski stated Well 6 should be brought online only if a drought situation occurs. The Authority should run the Well at reduced times.

Ryan Smith stated the line item for the Wells money is there. Mr. Kavitski stated we need to look at the entire budget, just not one line item.

Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve for \$24,039.30 and Mr. Kuklis second. Vote 5-0. (Ref. 2771-D).

EQ Basin Repairs – Pipe supports damaged by cold weather and ice; Authority Staff will perform the work to replace the supports. Central Clay Products Quote was the best price, the Board recommends to fix the worst one now, at the cost of \$5,923.26, Mr. Thomas made the motion to approve and Mr. Tierney second.

Vote 5-0. (Reference 2772-A).

US Jetting Service for the Jetter – the Authority Staff may be able to take care of the service. Mr. Kavitski stated to ask the guys first to see if they can complete the service prior to quote approval.

Enaqua Quote for 80 UV bulbs for \$7,560.00, Mr. Kuklis made the motion to approve and Mr. Tierney second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2772-B).

Wyoming St PS – The emergency repairs done last week, and additional items needed. CW Sales Quote for fittings and guide rail brackets \$8,010.00 plus freight and it was approved by PAWC already, Mr. Thomas made the motion to approve and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2772-C).

Raven Centrifuge from USA BlueBook Quote for \$1,699.00, Mr. Thomas made the motion to approve and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2772-D).

VFD Replacements – Schneider Drives are no longer made. Ryan Smith will obtain quotes at a later date.

A discussion regarding the subareas from January of 2025 to July of 2026, there was a lot of information to cover including dry rates.

Mr. Kavitski stated the information is a lot to cover and needs additional review and some of the numbers seem out of line. The table and the number of EDUs do not seem to make sense. We need to investigate all of this further.

Ryan Smith stated he talked to PA Rural Water regarding smoke testing which is a free program for the Authority being a member; we are looking toward a September date. The Authority would need to notify the customers first.

Ryan Smith stated the Authority Staff are asking about another vehicle which will be discussed later.

ENGINEERING INVOICES

Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve HRG Invoice #210654 \$10,839.96; Invoice #210655 \$9,496.00; Invoice #210656 \$35.00; and Mr. Kuklis second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2772-E).

ATTORNEY REPORT

Atty Malaska stated all was discussed during the Executive Session. Atty Malaska suggested Freeland Borough change their rental permit for each rental property to have their own service line.

Mr. Tierney stated that sounds like a great idea.

OPEN/OTHER ACTIONS

Rainfall for the month was 6.17".

Garland Communications – Server Support & Warranty for \$2,261.00, Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve and Mr. Thomas second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2772-F).

2012 Equinox AWD for \$4,995.00 and extra warranty for \$800.00, Mr. Kuklis stated the extra warranty is for 12 months or 15,000 miles after speaking to Mr. Evancho. There is 150,000 miles on the vehicle. The Board agreed on the Authority Staff, the ones who are mechanically inclined to look at the vehicle and take it for a ride. If the Authority Staff look at it and agree with the purchase, Mr. Kuklis made the motion to approve the purchase and Mr. Tierney second. Vote 5-0.

Mr. Kuklis brought up about the travel policy which is preapproved by the Board. Meter Reader has been preapproved. Mr. Kuklis stated it is in the Employee Manual, and the Authority should be given starting and ending mileage for the travel.

Ryan Smith stated the Board agreed to allow him to use his vehicle, and Mr. Kavitski stated it was approved but if you are going out of town the Board needs to approve it.

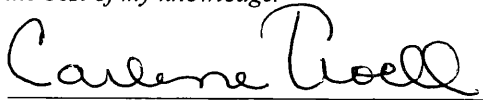
Mr. Kuklis stated there is a 30-day timeframe for the reimbursement and after another vehicle is purchased the mileage should stop for Meter Reader and Technical Manager.

Ryan Smith stated the grass cutter should be dropped off and picked up to free up a vehicle.

Mr. Tierney made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 5-0.

These minutes are certified to be true and correct to the best of my knowledge.


Paul Thomas, Secretary


Carlene Troell, Non-Member Secretary