

**VILLAGE OF FREEVILLE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING MINUTES**

August 20, 2026

A regular meeting of the Village of Freeville Board of Trustees was held on August 20, 2026, at the Village Hall.

Call to Order: Mayor McCarty called the meeting to order at 6:03PM.

Present: Mayor Miles McCarty; Trustees: Juan Vazquez-Leddon, Stephanie Ortolano, Will Olson; Village Engineer Jeff Tubolino, DPW employee Dylan Schlee, Accountant Heather Murray (joining remotely)

Engineer Jeff Tubolino provided a detailed update on the wastewater treatment plant redesign. He explained that the original recommended alternative, which reused existing lagoons with ammonia-removal technology and UV disinfection, was no longer viable due to new DEC nitrite limits. The DEC is now enforcing nitrite limits due to its toxicity to fish. Other regional plants across the state are receiving similar limits.

Tubolino presented trustees with a new recommended design which includes a membrane bioreactor, use of one of the existing lagoons as a surge tank, and an improved auto-sampling setup. We'll be decommissioning the other existing lagoons and will have a modular capacity sized for 140,000 gallons of water per day, which is above our current flows. The new system will produce liquid sludge which will require off-site hauling, which will cost 20-30 cents per gallon to haul, which will have to be hauled every few weeks.

The replacement cycles under this new system is expected to be as follows:

- Pumps should be replaced every 10 years
- Blowers should be replaced every 15 years
- Membranes should be replaced every 15 years

Tubolino says that this schedule will require us to budget for short-lived assets.

Tubolino also provided the board with updated cost projections. Our existing operations and management cost at the plant is about \$170,000 per year. The new recommended alternative would cost about \$767 per user; an increase of about \$123 per billing cycle. This is equivalent to an increase of about 35 cents per day or \$67 per month.

Tubolino stated that the aim is to submit the amended engineering report to the DEC/EFC by October of 2026. The goal remains to bid the project in January of 2027, though review timelines may delay this.

The board then discussed the capacity for future villager growth with this new plant and what will be needed to keep it up and running after the project's completion. They confirmed with DPW employee Dylan Schlee that he is working on obtaining his WWTP operator license for a 2A plant and began planning when and how residents will receive the information regarding increasing sewer rates.

After the conclusion of Jeff's presentation, Trustee Ortolano made a motion to approve the following resolution:

**A Resolution Selecting WWTP Nitrite Compliance Alternative and Authorization of Engineering
Amendment**

WHEREAS, the Village Board of Freeville had an Engineering Report prepared to address long term improvements associated with their wastewater water treatment plant (WWTP) and compliance with their State Pollution Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit; and

WHEREAS, the Engineering Report, dated September 26, 2024, recommended the rehabilitation of the existing aerated lagoons, new moving bed bioreactors (MBBRs), new disc filters, and new ultraviolet (UV) disinfection; and

WHEREAS, by letter correspondence dated December 26, 2024, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) approved the Engineering Report; and

WHEREAS, a SPDES permit application was submitted to the NYSDEC on April 23, 2025; and

WHEREAS, on February 3, 2026, the Village, NYSDEC, and the Village Engineer participated in a conference call to discuss the draft SPDES permit limits, and the proposed limits were consistent with prior discussions with NYSDEC, except for the effluent nitrite limit; and

WHEREAS, the proposed effluent nitrite limit prompted the Village Engineer to evaluate its impact on the improvements recommended in the September 26, 2024 Engineering Report, and the Village Engineer determined that the recommended improvements could not be guaranteed to consistently meet the proposed effluent nitrite limit; and

WHEREAS, the Village Engineer prepared three new alternatives to address consistent compliance with effluent nitrite limits, consisting of: (1) rehabilitation of the existing aerated lagoons, moving bed bioreactors (MBBRs), disc filtration, and advanced oxidation utilizing hydrogen peroxide and ultraviolet (UV) light; (2) rehabilitation of the existing aerated lagoons, MBBRs, disc filtration, and breakpoint chlorination; and (3) membrane bioreactors (MBRs), UV disinfection, and decommissioning of the existing aerated lagoons; and

WHEREAS, after consideration of capital costs, operation and maintenance costs, and short-lived asset costs, the membrane bioreactors (MBRs), ultraviolet (UV) disinfection, and decommissioning of the existing aerated lagoons alternative resulted in the lowest Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU) cost; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Village Board of Freeville as follows:

1. Based upon its review of the three new alternatives prepared to address consistent compliance with effluent nitrite limits, the Village Board hereby accepts the Village Engineer's recommendation to proceed with membrane bioreactors (MBRs), ultraviolet (UV) disinfection, and decommissioning of the existing aerated lagoons as the selected project alternative.
2. The Village Board hereby directs the Village Engineer to prepare an amendment to the September 26, 2024, Engineering Report incorporating the alternative analysis prepared to address consistent compliance with effluent nitrite limits.
3. The Village Board authorizes the Mayor to execute Contract Amendment 1 for additional engineering fees associated with the preparation of additional alternatives and Engineering Report amendment to address the effluent nitrite limits.

Trustee Olson seconded. All members voted in favor. Resolution adopted.

Trustee Vazquez-Leddon made a motion to adjourn, Trustee Ortolano seconded. All members voted in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:45PM.