

# VILLAGE VOICE

February 2024

Volume 20, Issue 02

## Draft Minutes of the Village Board Meeting February 13, 2024

**Item 1. Call to Order:** The Village of Merrimac Board of Trustees Meeting was called to order in Village Hall by Village President Andrew Gallus at 5:30pm. Village Trustees Margaret Budde, Jim Malmberg, George Naxera, and Nate Taylor were present. Also in attendance were Administrator Jennie Klecker, Deputy Clerk Amy Pieplow-Stevens, and members of the public, as listed on the sign-in sheet. President Gallus examined the affidavit of posting and confirmed that advance public notice of the meeting conformed to statutory requirements.

**Item 2. Public Input:** Cheryl Anderson encouraged the Village Board and Merrimac community to attend the next Friday Night Eco-Flicks, hosted by Green Merrimac, on February 23 - 6:30 @ Village Hall.

**Item 3. Review Consent Agenda:** Malmberg/Budde motioned to approve the Consent Agenda. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

**Item 4. Approval of Village Bills:** Budde/Naxera motioned to approve payment of outstanding monthly bills as listed on items 4.i.-4.iv. of the Agenda. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

**Item 5. Green Merrimac Annual Report:** Chairperson Bob Pfaff presented the first Annual Report for local environmental organization, Green Merrimac. He thanked the Board for their continued support of Green Merrimac's efforts to help make our community a greener, safer, cleaner place. He highlighted the organization's achievements over the last year, such as the Village street and highway clean up events, Merrimac Festival information booth, and initiating energy audits at Village Hall and the WWTP. Future goals

include working with the Village to install solar panels at the WWTP and continuing to educate and encourage Village residents to engage in environmentally friendly practices.

**Item 6. Operator's License Application - William Quast for Mac's Pub & Grub:** Naxera/Taylor motioned to approve Operator's License Application for William Quast for Mac's Pub & Grub. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

**Item 7. George Naxera - Update on Sauk Prairie Ambulance Committee:** Trustee Naxera gave an update on the Sauk Prairie Ambulance Committee. The Committee collected \$15K in donations and another \$29K through fundraising, along with receiving 1.1 million from the State of Wisconsin. With those funds, they were able to purchase 3 power stair chairs and order a new ambulance. He also expressed his wish to stay on the ambulance committee after his Village Trustee term expires in April.

**Item 8. Accountant Robin Meier - Quarterly review of Village Finances and occasional assistance as needed:** Naxera/Budde motioned to hire accountant Robin Meier at the rate of \$50.00 per hour to perform quarterly reviews of Village finances and occasional assistance as needed. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

**Item 9. Review Employee Handbook Updates - DRAFT:** The Board reviewed Employee Handbook updates and additions. Additional research and edits are needed. A second draft will be presented at the March Board Meeting.

**Item 10. Street Openings & ROW Work Permit Application DRAFT and Fee Review:** Budde/Naxera motioned to approve DRAFT ROW Work Permit Application and set fee at \$500.00. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

## Item 11. Report of the Administrator:

11.a. Mayberry electrical quote for new Village sign lights; The initial quote from Mayberry Electric is \$6-8K to install lights at both signs, however, Public Works staff may be able to perform some of the work to bring the cost down. Additionally, there are funds leftover from the Sauk Prairie Chamber of Commerce (approximately \$2K) that can be used towards lighting. The Board will continue to examine lighting options .11.b. Municipal Room Tax Revenue - 2023 Review & 2024 Plan; The Village collected \$39,366.47 in Municipal Room Tax Revenue for 2023. From those funds, the Village keeps 30% and sends 70% to the Sauk Prairie Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber uses the funds to purchase advertising to promote tourism in the Merrimac area. The Village once again exceeded revenue expectations for 2023, so the Chamber has agreed to return around \$8,000 to the Village to be used for directional signage and other branding projects.

**Item 12. Adjourn:** At 6:34pm, Naxera/Budde motioned to adjourn. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Jennie Klecker  
Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer

Next Village Board Meeting

**March 12, 2024**

5:30 PM @ Village Hall

Plan Commission Meeting

**March 7, 2024**

5:30 PM @ Village Hall

**Website:** [merrimacwi.gov](http://merrimacwi.gov)

**Email:** [merrimac@merrimacwi.gov](mailto:merrimac@merrimacwi.gov) **Village Hall:** 608-493-2122  
**REGULAR OFFICE HOURS: Monday—Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

### **AA Meetings**

Wednesday Evenings 7:00  
@ Merrimac Village Hall  
Questions?

Contact Chuck @ 608-795-0050



Recycling Pickup Dates:

**March 4 & 18**

Brush Pick-up Date

**March 13th**

4 feet wide by 4 feet high, up to 8 feet long with brush stacked parallel to and near the road.



### **Did you know?**

You don't have to be a firefighter to serve on Merrimac Fire & Rescue. Over 90% of our dispatches are for Emergency Medical Responders (EMRs). Our roster of EMRs include men & women ages 22 - 70, and we provide the training. Email [merrimacfiredept@gmail.com](mailto:merrimacfiredept@gmail.com) for more information.

### **Women of Merrimac**

We will be getting together for our first meeting on Thursday, March 7 from 9:00am to Noon at Merrimac Village Hall. We plan to meet the second Thursday of each month in the future. Hope to see you there!

### **SAVE THE DATE!**

**Merrimac Community School**

**Rummage Sale**

**Saturday, May 4**

Start saving your items to donate!

\*Drop off clean, no holes, nice smelling items:

Thursday, May 2 from 3-5pm &

Friday, May 3 from 10am -2pm.

All proceeds will go to Merrimac Community School

Come shop the bag sale on

**Saturday, May 4**

Buy a bag (or a few!) and fill it up

9am-12pm \$5 per bag

12pm -2pm \$3 per bag

2pm-2:30pm free!

Any items left over will be donated.

Questions? Email Carol Gagnon

[carol.gagnon@saukprairieschools.org](mailto:carol.gagnon@saukprairieschools.org)

or call Ms. Trish @ 608-643-1995

### **SPRING ELECTION** **Tuesday, April 2, 2024**



**Polls Open**

**7:00am – 8:00pm**

Merrimac Village Hall  
100 Cook Street

Registered candidates on the ballot for two Village Trustee

Positions include:

**James Malmberg**

**James Ziegler**

**Stan Senger**

Need to register? Want to request an absentee ballot? Have questions?

**Go to [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov)**

or call Village Hall @ 493-2122

### **2024 Election Schedule**

Spring Election - April 2, 2024

Partisan Primary - August 13, 2024

General Election - November 5, 2024



### **Friday Night Eco-Flicks**

**Friday, March 22, 2024**

**6:30pm at Village Hall**

Green Merrimac kindly invites you to attend a showing of the film "Inhabitants," a documentary that follows five Native American Tribes across deserts, coastlines, forests, and prairies as they restore their traditional land management practices. Run time: 1h 16 m.

*Light refreshments provided*



### **3 ShamROCKIN' Tips to Really Go Green for St. Patrick's Day:**

- 1.) Instead of buying a brand new "Kiss Me, I'm Irish" T-shirt, try your luck finding something green to wear off the rack at the thrift store.
- 2.) Skip the cheap plastic & glitter decorations that are destined for the landfill and choose longer lasting materials such as felt, cloth or metal.
- 3.) Planning on going out for corned beef and a pint of green beer? Consider carpooling or better yet, celebrate locally and just walk to one of Merrimac's fine establishments!

### **Mark Your Calendars!**



**The Merrimac Community Festival will be held at Memorial Park on SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 2024!!**

Village Hall will be closed on March 29th in observation of Good Friday

