

VILLAGE VOICE

March 2024

Volume 20, Issue 03

Draft Minutes of the Plan Commission Meeting March 7, 2024

Item 1. Call to Order: The Village of Merrimac Plan Commission Meeting was called to order in Village Hall by Chairperson Malmberg at 5:30pm. Commission Members Collin Bourgeois, Ann Hoffman and Bob Pfaff were present, with Bob Garrison absent. Also in attendance were Administrator Klecker and members of the public as listed on the sign-in sheet. Chairperson Malmberg examined the affidavit of posting and confirmed that advance public notice of the meeting conformed to statutory requirements.

Item 2. Public Input: None

Item 3. Parcels 151-0200-00000, 151-0201-00000, 151-0202-00000 & 151-0203-10000: Certified Survey Map and Request for Rezoning: Scott Hewitt of Grothman & Associates presented the Olson Certified Survey Map and Rezoning request to the Plan Commission. The Commission reviewed the map and confirmed that the proposed CSM conforms to Village Ordinances. Commission member Bourgeois noted that the current Comprehensive Plan indicates that the Village has an oversaturation of R-1 Single Family Residential zoning. He voiced concern that rezoning B-1 Business lots to R-1 Single Family by the Ferry would impede the economic development goals for that area. Pfaff/Hoffman motioned to recommend the Board approve Mr. Olson's request to rezone parcels 151-0203-10000 and 151-0202-0000 from B-1 Business to R-1 Single Family Residential All Ayes, **Motion Carried.** Pfaff/Hoffman motioned to approve the proposed Certified Survey Map. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.**

Item 4. Comprehensive Plan Update:

The Commission discussed various aspects of the Comprehensive Plan Update Project. In addition to the new plan covering the topics of "Developing an Identity for Merrimac", "Providing Public Lake Access," "Addressing Environmental Impacts," and "Leveraging Community Resources," the group talked about the importance of incorporating economic development goals. The Commission set a polished rough draft completion goal of May, with final Plan Document completion by the end of summer.

Item 5. Adjourn: At 6:41pm, Hoffman/Bourgeois motioned to adjourn. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.**

Draft Minutes of the Village Board Meeting March 12, 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 spoke on behalf of Green Merrimac to invite the public to attend the 3rd and final film in the Friday Night Eco-Flicks series on March 22 at 6:30pm at Merrimac Village Hall. Patricia Ruda asked the Board to review a 10 foot section of land next to her property on Elma Avenue. According to Mrs. Ruda, the land was given to her father,

the previous landowner, by the Town of Merrimac back in the 1970's or 80's. However, neither the Town of Merrimac nor Sauk County register of Deeds has record of this transaction. Documents from the 2005 Village Annexation of Sunrise Shore, indicates the land belongs to the Village of Merrimac. She is in the process of selling the property and would like the Village to give the land to her so she can include it in the sale. The Board asked Mrs. Ruda to try to find some kind of documentation that proves the land belongs to her.

Item 3. Review Consent Agenda: Trustee Budde/Taylor motioned to amend the February 13, 2024 meeting minutes under Item 5. to include; *"Trustee Budde said the Village had already received one solar installer's proposal and expected to have two more for Board review in March. Taking rebates into account, the solar project appears to have a 7 year payback period. Our net cost would be \$33,000, 75% of which we can finance through a 3% loan from NRWA. Our Alliant bill would be about \$4,000 lower per year."* All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 4. Approval of Village Bills: Naxera/Taylor 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. Olson Parcels 151-0200-00000, 151-0201-00000, 151-0202-00000, and 151-0203-10000: 5.a. Certified Survey Map and Rezoning Application - Plan Commission Recommendation; Scott Hewitt of Grothman and Associates presented the Olson Certified Survey Map, which redraws the lot lines for parcels 151-0200-00000, 151-0201-00000, 151-0202-00000, and 151-0203-10000 to make them more conducive to Single Family

Website: merrimacwi.gov

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

Residential homes. A request to rezone parcels 151-0203-10000 and 151-0202-0000 from B-1 Business to R-1 Single Family Residential was submitted and discussed. Trustee Malmberg informed the Board that the Plan Commission reviewed the CSM and rezoning application at their meeting on March 7, 2024 and voted to recommend the Board approve both requests. Gallus/Taylor motioned to approve the rezoning application. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.** Taylor/Malmberg motioned to approve Olson Certified Survey Map. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.** 5.b. Request for Release of Utility Easements; Taylor/Malmberg motioned to release sewer utility easements on lots 1, 2, and 3 as described by the legal terminology provided by Grothman & Associates, that Olson is responsible for capping the main, and that no further liability can come upon the Village. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 6. Operator's License Application - Virginia Fisher for Ferry X-ing Bar & Grill: Naxera/Malmberg motioned to approve Operator's License Application for Virginia Fisher for Ferry X-ing Bar & Grill. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 7. Palisade Lake Access Gate Repair: The Board discussed options to replace the gate and lock at the Palisade Street Lake Access point due to vandalism damage. Efforts to prevent future damage were discussed. Taylor/Malmberg motioned to authorize Village staff to seek estimates for gate replacement. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.**

Item 8. Review Employee Handbook Updates - DRAFT: Administrator Klecker reviewed the changes to the second draft of the Employee Handbook update. Naxera/Taylor motioned to table the PTO section of the handbook until budget season. Naxera/Gallus motioned to approve all other changes to the handbook. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.**

Item 9. Evaluation of Proposals for WWTP Solar Project: Trustee Budde presented her research and review of three proposals for installing solar panels at the WWTP. Based upon payback periods, she recommended Olson Solar Energy as the best choice financially. The total pre-rebate system will cost around \$49,800, however, a Focus on Energy rebate of \$3,700, and a Federal rebate of \$14,900, will bring the total post-rebate cost down

to \$31,200. The Village can apply for a 7 year loan for 75% of the project cost (\$23,400) with National Rural Water Association at 3% interest, with a \$3,760 per year payment. While the Village pays off the loan, the annual net energy cost savings will be around \$600. Once the loan is paid off, the estimated cost savings to the Village will be \$4,300+ per year. Budde/Gallus motioned to select Olson Solar Energy, based on proposal price and references, for the proposed WWTP solar project; to request written contract from Olson Solar Energy for Village review and approval at April Board Meeting; to authorize Administrator or Trustee Budde to apply for National Rural Water Association's low interest loan for 75% of the Solar Project's net cost, for a 7 year loan term. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motions Carried.**

Item 10. School Street Project: Trustee Budde presented a review of issues on School Street, including storm water management, sidewalk installation and repair needs. The Board discussed various engineering and design options. Budde/Gallus motioned to authorize DPW, Administrator, and Trustees' Budde and Taylor to write and send to engineers an RFP for evaluation of School Street. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.**

Item 11. Report of the Director of Public Works: 11.a. Sludge Pumping West Tank at WWTP; Country Plumber will begin sludge pumping the west tank at the WWTP tomorrow and will be spreading on approved fields. DPW Schultz also informed the board that trees were recently trimmed on Church St, Grove St. and Second St.

Item 12. Report of the Administrator: 12. Cell Tower Construction Update; Cell Tower construction is set to begin by the end of this month or first week in April. 12.b. Two Laptop computers donated to Village for Board or Committee member use; Colin Bourgeois has donated two laptops to the Village to be used by Village Board or Committee members who are interested in digital/paperless meeting packets. 12.c. Directional Sign Concepts; Gallus/Taylor motioned to approve directional sign concept #2. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.** The Board directed Administrator Klecker to determine a plan for where the signs should be located and

what information should be displayed, and report back. 12.d. 2023 ACT 12 Information; Administrator Klecker reviewed the Maintenance of Effort requirement that is part of the 2023 Act 12 and its possible effects on the Village's State Shared Revenue. She assured the Board that the Town and Village of Merrimac are working with the Merrimac Fire Department to make sure all requirements are met. 12.e. Budde/Malmberg motioned to authorize the Village President to sign the 2025-2027 MOU Between the Village of Merrimac and the County of Sauk for the Statewide Voter Registration System (WisVote). All Ayes, **Motion Carried.**

Item 13. Adjourn: At 7:35pm, Naxera/Budde motioned to adjourn. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennie Klecker



Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer

Next Village Board Meeting
April 9, 2024
5:30 PM @ Village Hall

AA Meetings
Wednesday Evenings 7:00
@ Merrimac Village Hall
Questions?
Contact Chuck @ 608-795-0050


Recycling Pickup Dates:
April 1, 15, & 29

Brush Pick-up Date
April 17th
4 feet wide by 4 feet high, up to 8 feet long with brush stacked parallel to and near the road.

Scrap metal recycling will resume in April. Please place items in the dumpster located in the Village Hall parking lot.
METAL ONLY!
No TV's Please!

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
or call Village Hall @ 493-2122

2024 Election Schedule

Spring Election - April 2, 2024
Partisan Primary - August 13, 2024
General Election - November 5, 2024



For Pollinators' Sake,
PROCRASTINATE!

As warm weather approaches, you may feel the urge to tackle outdoor chores, such as cleaning up last season's dried plant material. Experts suggest *holding off until May* to help protect butterflies, bees, and other helpful pollinators that overwinter in the dead leaves.

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

or call Ms. Trish @ 608-643-1995



Sauk County Aging & Disability Resource Center

RURAL COMMUNITY

MEET & GREET

Monday, April 15th

10:15AM

Merrimac Village Hall

100 Cook Street

Meet ADRC staff and learn what services and programs are available to Sauk County residents!

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



Want to join the Festival Team?

Next Meeting is April 24
5:00pm At Village Hall

Merrimac
Fire & Rescue

"I joined Merrimac Fire & Rescue in 2008. It's a family thing. Merrimac is our home, and it's how we serve. As a First Responder, I've given CPR dozens of times. Nothing beats the feeling of saving the life of someone in your own hometown.

You feel like Superman.

I never thought one day I'd be the one whose life was on the line. I got stung by a yellow jacket at work. I went unconscious and wasn't breathing right. In minutes, my Merrimac Fire & Rescue family was there. They gave me oxygen, got an EpiPen in me, and helped get me on Med-Flight. My Merrimac Fire & Rescue friends saved my life."

Captain Justin Schultz

DPW, Firefighter, First Responder, All-Purpose Hero.

JOIN OUR TEAM
You need us. We need you.



EARTH DAY
HIGHWAY CLEANUP

Sponsored by Green Merrimac
April 20, 2024 – 9:00am to Noon

Meet at Village Hall.
Safety vests, gloves, & bags supplied.
Any Questions? Call Village Hall @
608-493-2122



MERRIMAC COMMUNITY WIDE
REUSE, REDUCE, RECYCLE EVENT!!



FRIDAY AND SATURDAY- MAY 17 & 18
8: 00 AM TO 2:00 PM

3 Ways to Participate

- **Village Wide Garage Sale Days!** Maps available at Village Hall or merrimacwi.gov. To participate and have your sale listed on the map, contact Village Hall at 493-2122 or email merrimac@merrimacwi.gov
- **Large Dumpster Available** in the Village Hall parking lot as a service to residents for disposing of non-recyclable & non-hazardous items. A fee will be required to help cover the cost of renting the dumpster.
- **Green Merrimac Rummage Sale** inside Village Hall. This is a fundraiser for Green Merrimac with all proceeds going toward future green projects and events. If you would like to donate items for the rummage sale, please drop them off at Village Hall the week before (May 13th- 16th).



HOSTED BY GREEN MERRIMAC