

VILLAGE VOICE

MAY 2020

DRAFT

Volume 16, Issue 5

Minutes of the Board of Review Meeting, May 12, 2020

The Village Board of Review meeting was called to order by Village President Phil Budde at 5:50 pm. He examined the affidavit of posting and verified that advance public notice of the meeting conformed to statutory requirements. Open Book will be in mid-July and Board of Review will meet July 28th. Naxera/Malmberg moved to adjourn to a later date. **Motion carried.**

Minutes of the Village Board Meeting of May 12, 2020

The Village Board meeting was called to order by Village President Phil Budde at 6:00 p.m. Board members present were Garry Bahe, Jim Malmberg, George Naxera. Village staff Ron Senger, Margaret Budde, Justin Schultz, and Robin Meier were present. Members of the community present included John and Mitz Schueman, Kirk Olson, Andrew Gallus, and Bob Pfaff.

Item 1. Call to Order. President Budde examined the affidavit of posting and verified that advance public notice of the meeting conformed to statutory requirements. Item 9 was moved forward ahead of Item 4.

Item 2. Oaths of Office. Ron Senger administered the oaths of office for Jim Malmberg and George Naxera, as they begin their 2-year terms.

Item 3. Public Input: Members of the community introduced themselves.

Item 9. Review of 7 Candidates for Board Vacancy. Margaret conducted the election process for the vacant Board seat. After two rounds of voting, in which Trustees indicated their first and second favorite candidates, Amy Buffardi was selected as having the highest cumulative score. Malmberg/Naxera moved to appoint Amy to the position, **Motion carried.**

Item 4. Approval of Outstanding Bills. Naxera/Bahe moved to approve payment of the bills as listed on the Agenda and the In-Progress Checks report, along with the Prepaid Expenses as listed on the Agenda and Reprint Check Register. Upon roll call vote, all ayes, **Motion carried.**

Item 5. Balance Sheets and Budget Comparison. Trustee Naxera asked why the Ordinance expense exceeded the budget. President Budde indicated the cost was for the lawyer's review of the Short-Term Rental Ordinance. Budde/ Naxera moved to accept the Balance Sheets and Budget Comparison by Fund. **Motion carried.**

Item 6a. Approval of Minutes. Bahe/Naxera moved to approve minutes of the April 14, 2020, Village Board Meeting. **Motion carried.**

Item 6b. Election Inspector. Malmberg/Bahe moved to approve June Anderson as Election Inspector. **Motion carried.**

Item 6c. Building Permit Fees. President Budde indicated that the cost for Village staff to work with building permit applicants was not being covered by the Village's 10%

share of GEC's fees. Naxera/Malmberg moved to approve Proposed Building Permit Fees with a 25% Village share. **Motion carried.**

Item 6d. Appointment of Interim Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer Margaret Budde. Ron Senger indicated, in his 4 weeks training Margaret, he has concluded that she is capable of performing the duties required. He will continue to assist through the end of May and will be available by phone to answer questions. Wisconsin Law requires that she accept at least minimum wage. Naxera/Malmberg moved to appoint Margaret Budde as Interim Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer as a salaried employee at a rate of \$7.25/hour. Three Ayes, President Budde abstained. **Motion carried.**

Malmberg/Bahe moved that signature authority be given to Margaret and Jennie Klecker effective Wednesday, May 13. **Motion carried.**

Item 6e. Change of Meeting time to 5:00 pm. Board members felt that a 5:00 pm meeting time would allow all participants more time in the evening after the meetings. Plan Commission meetings will be scheduled for different days. Naxera/Malmberg moved that future Board Meetings be scheduled for 5:00 pm. **Motion carried.**

Item 7. Review of Bids for Purchase of ¾-Ton Pickup Truck. Ron presented three options, including all add-ons required to serve as Village maintenance vehicle, ranging in cost from \$42,762 (Dodge Ram) to \$44,407

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REGULAR OFFICE HOURS: Monday—Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m

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(Chevy). After discussion, Budde/Bahe moved to purchase the Ram 2500 Pickup Truck and to approve Budget Amendments to the four affected Major Funds not to exceed a total of \$45,000, with allocations of costs per the 2020 Model Comparison Spreadsheet, with capital purchases to come from four "Fund Balances." Upon a roll call vote, all Ayes, **Motion carried.** Naxera/Malmberg moved to give Margaret authority to sell the 1998 Chevy pickup by sealed bid, with a minimum bid threshold of \$1,000. **Motion carried.**

Item 8. SCADA Computer/Monitor Replacement Project. Margaret presented the need for an upgrade of the Village Hall and WWTP SCADA computers and monitors. Budde/Bahe moved to approve Budget Amendments to the Sewer and Water funds in the total amount of \$53,150, with allocation of costs as shown on the SCADA Project Summary document, from funds as shown on "Fund Balance & Cash Balances." Upon a roll call vote, all Ayes, **Motion carried.** Budde/Malmberg moved to approve LW Allen Proposal 19110415MKA for the SCADA PC upgrade in the amount of \$53,150. All Ayes. **Motion carried.** Budde/Bahe moved to approve Resolution 2020-01-05, Resolution Declaring Official Intent to Reimburse Expenditures from Proceeds of Borrowing. **Motion carried.**

Item 10. Administrator's Report. The Board of Review is scheduled for July 28, 3-5 pm. The Village received a \$1,000 grant from the Alliant Energy Foundation toward new swingsets at Jeff Voll Park. The Village is in discussion with the Methodist Church, the School District, and Kraemer Brothers, considering whether new sidewalks should be placed on the north side of Thomas Drive and west

side of School Street during the MCCS construction project.

Item 11. Water/Sewer Operations and Maintenance. S&L Under-ground submitted a \$6,900 proposal to perform repair on a damaged segment of sewer main on Baraboo St. It appears either the cable or gas company damaged the line, and S&L will help document the cause of damage, so the Village can be reimbursed.

A resident on River St. experienced a sewer lateral collapse. On May 5, Pump 2 and LS2 had become completely clogged with wipes and a piece of PVC; addressing this required both operators a full day.

Item 12. Updates on Candidates for Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer position. Trustee Malmberg reported we have had 17 applicants, and they plan on interviewing 2 candidates the week of May 18.

Item 13. Adjourn. At 7:47 pm Bahe/Naxera moved that the meeting be adjourned. **Motion carried.**

Minutes of the Village Board Special Meeting of May 26, 2020

The Village Board Special Meeting was called to order by Village President Phil Budde at 5:00 pm. Board Members present were Garry Bahe, Amy Buffardi, Jim Malmberg, and George Naxera. Interim Administrator Margaret Budde, Jacob Wood, and Bob Pfaff were also present.

Item 1. Call to Order. President Budde examined the affidavit of posting and verified that advance public notice of the meeting conformed to statutory requirements.

Item 2. Public Input: None.

Item 3. Lift Station 1 (LS1). Margaret presented a Power Point presentation on LW Allen's emergency repair call on

May 19. Three options were presented for addressing wear-related damage to the 20-yo 30 HP pumps, ranging from \$21,200 to \$38,000.

Item 4. Lift Station 2 (LS2). Four options were presented for addressing the recurring wipe-induced pump plugging problems, ranging from \$11,600 to \$19,900.

Item 5. Baraboo St Sewer Repair. Sewer televising images of a damaged segment of Village sewer main between MHs 33 and 34 were shown, apparently caused by another utility. S&L Underground submitted a bid for \$6,900 to perform the repair. The potentially culpable utilities will be called to witness S&L's work, so that the cost can be recouped by the appropriate utility's insurance.

Malmberg/Naxera moved to select Option 3 for LS1, one new pump and one pump "wet end" repair for a cost of \$29,600. Upon roll call vote, all Ayes. **Motion carried.**

Bahe/Malmberg moved to select Option 4 for LS2, one new pump and one conversion to mono vane for a cost of \$15,800. Upon roll call vote, all Ayes. **Motion carried.**

Bahe/Naxera moved to approve S&L's bid for the Baraboo St. sewer repair for a cost of \$6,900. Upon roll call vote, all Ayes. **Motion carried.**

Margaret recommended that the Board approve the General Fund to loan the Sewer Utility for these projects, using a total of \$55,000, which includes a 5% contingency, and that the Clean Water Fund's subsidized interest rate of 1.76% be applied for Sewer Utility's loan payments to the General Fund.

Buffardi/Bahe moved to expend not-to-exceed \$55,000 for repair and replacement of pumps for LS1 and LS2, and for repair of the Baraboo St Sewer,

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with the General Fund providing an internal line of credit to the sewer utility at a rate of 1.76%. Upon a roll call vote, all Ayes. **Motion carried.**

Malmberg/Naxera moved to approve Resolution 2020-02-05, Resolution Declaring Official Intent to Reimburse Expenditures from Proceeds of Borrowing. **Motion carried.**

Item 6. Consent Agendas for Future Meetings. For streamlining future meetings, items such as approval of minutes, budget-to-date information, Inspection Reports, and other matters that do not require discussion will be presented in the Board Packets as a "Consent Agenda." Board members are encouraged to review these in advance of the meeting and asked questions as required. The Consent Agenda will be reviewed and approved as a single item in the meeting.

Item 7. Adjourn. At 5:50 pm, Malmberg/Naxera moved that the meeting be adjourned. **Motion carried.**

Minutes of the Plan Commission Meeting of May 26, 2020

The Village of Merrimac Plan Commission was called to order by Chairman Malmberg at 6:00 pm. Commission members present included Tom Gallus, Bob Garrison, Ann Hoffman, and George Naxera. Administrator Margaret Budde and Village President Phil Budde were present. Members of the community present were Jacob Wood, Bob Pfaff, Stan and Rae Senger, Marty Senger, Pat Gallus, and Cat Lawrin.

Item 1. Call to Order. Chairman Malmberg examined the affidavit of posting and verified that advance public notice of the meeting conformed to statutory requirements.

Item 2. Public Input. Ann Hoffman reported an issue of people driving fast in the neighborhood of Memorial Park. Also, the number of dogs kept by one of the residents has become an issue again. Margaret reported that another resident called to complain about the unsafe driving and the conduct of a particular resident towards her children. Residents are urged to call Sauk County Sheriff dispatch at 608-356-4895 when they witness unsafe driving or experience inappropriate behavior by neighbors. Ann asked that this be placed on the agenda for the next Board meeting.

Item 3. Gallus Property. Pat Gallus presented a proposal to locate an approximately 1,500 sf cabin on the SE corner of their Ferrylanding Marine property at 217 Wisconsin St, observing required setbacks. Cat Lawrin presented objections to the proposal based on how it would affect her property at 226 Palisade. Naxera/Hoffman made a motion that, if a lot can be defined to accommodate a home with the required setbacks, then it is a permissible activity. **Motion carried.** (Tom Gallus abstained.)

Item 4. Senger Property. Stan Senger presented an updated proposal for a water and sewer service for his proposed home and future Senger sibling homes between 510 and 550 River St. The cost of his previous water/sewer proposal before the Plan Commission in 2018 came in prohibitively costly at \$90,000.

Chairman Malmberg indicated that Ordinance 176-5 stipulates that Senger family's proposal should not be considered constrained by the Planned Unit Development ordinance because it was created in the will of George Senger, Sr.

Margaret described a modification proposed by DPW Justin Schultz: instead of a 4" water main, a 40'

segment of 6" water main with a hydrant would provide for both flushing and fire protection, without the need to shut down Hwy 78 to access the nearest hydrant. Phil Budde disagreed with this proposal, indicating instead that the Village should seek in writing from the Sengers that the Village will not be held responsible for utility maintenance or water quality within their proposed private water and sewer system. Although expressing opposite points of view, both the Administrator and President cited the desire to avoid saddling the Village with the responsibility for maintaining potentially non-standard (public vs. private) utilities. The Village will also require a clear statement/agreement from the Senger LLC for perpetual care of their private systems, holding the Village harmless.

Naxera/Garrison made the motion that the Administrator review the Senger's proposal as it stands to determine if it meets legal requirements for a private water/sewer system. **Motion Carried.**

Malmberg/Gallus moved to adjourn. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Margaret Budde,

Interim Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer

**VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 9
5:00 P.M. VILLAGE HALL
Please note the NEW TIME**

Congratulations, Tana Holmblad,
on Retirement!

It is with bitter sweetness that we bid congratulations and farewell to Tana Holmblad, who has served us all faithfully as Deputy Clerk for nearly 11 years. Tana's combination of positive attitude, strong work ethic, and willingness to help wherever needed has made her an indispensable neighbor, community member, and member of the Village staff. She has been a sounding board for colleagues during moments of difficulty, and a behind-the-scenes advisor on Village affairs. Like a tough-love mom, she got us all back in the habit of paying our utility bills on time, told us when we needed building permits, and said "No" when we needed to hear it. Also, like a mom, she always made time for the phone call from us. And, somehow, she did it with unassuming style and class. Tana, we will miss you so much! Thank you for being a friend and having such a servant heart.

Drivin' our Chevy to the Levee

At the May 12 Board meeting, the Trustees voted to purchase a new pickup truck. As a result, the Village will accept sealed bids over \$1,000 on the 1998 truck being replaced. This oldie-but-goodie red Chevy, which has 95,200 miles, is sold "as is" with no expressed or implied warrantee. See next month's Voice for details.

2020 Festival Cancelled

After much discussion, in light of COVID-19 uncertainty, Festival Co-ordinators and Village staff and leadership determined that, for the safety of our residents, the 2020 Merrimac Community Festival would be cancelled. We are hopeful that the Festival can be held in 2021.

HELP SUPPORT THE 2021 MERRIMAC COMMUNITY FESTIVAL WITH DONATIONS

Although we feel sadness about having to cancel the Festival, we are optimistic that future Festivals can continue to successfully bring our community together. Merrimac residents and friends have been so very generous in the past, making donations every year during the late spring and early summer.

This year the Village asks you to consider making a cash donation – large or small – towards our next Merrimac Community Festival. Even small contributions of will say to the Committee, "Yes, We Love the Festival!" Please use our drop slot in the Village Hall, and place a note on the outside indicating "Donation for Festival," with your name, if you wish.

Alternatively, if you would like to make a contribution directly towards Park improvements, they will be happily accepted!

villageofmerrimac.org

Our Village website is updated virtually every day with news, announcements, and features. To receive updates, email "Sign Me Up" to merrimac@merr.com. If you would like to receive your Water and Sewer Bill and Village Voice by email, be sure to add "Yes, Email it!" We hope to begin email billing later in the fall, for those who sign up.

Brush Pick-Up Weds. June 10 and 24

For Justin and Derek's safety, and the safety of our equipment, brush will NOT be picked up unless it is properly stacked:

4 feet wide by 4 feet high, up to 8 feet long with brush stacked parallel to and near the roadway. If Village staff have painted an "X" on your brush pile, it has been deemed unsafe for pickup. In some cases, other Village priorities may cause a one-day delay in pickup. Also, at times, larger properly-stacked piles will be picked up later in the day or the next day. We will post a website News item if pickup has been delayed.

"I LOVE THIS!!"

In a recent phone conversation with our website support service GovOffice, one of their Web Designers was clicking through our site. Suddenly she gasped and said, "I Love This! I've never seen any other community do an Our Veterans page!" I think she was tearing up, but was too embarrassed to say so. Check it out!

VillageofMerrimac.org/OurVeterans

This page shows photos of many of our native sons and current residents who have served in the military. Three prominent Merrimac families have had multiple members serve: five Sengers, four Rajchels, and two Olsons. Did you or do you currently serve in the military or National Guard? Please email a picture of you in uniform to Merrimac@merr.com. Your mom would be so proud.