

# The VILLAGE VOICE

"The Official Publication of the Village Board"  
FREE to Every Family in Merrimac

May 2024 - Volume 50, Issue 01

### A Message from the Clerk:

While searching through the Village Voice archives a few months back, I noticed something interesting. Our current Village Voice shows that we are on Volume 20, however, the Village Voice has been running a lot longer than just 20 years. I love history and a good mystery, so I set out to find the very first issue. It took a bit of digging, but I finally found it. As it turns out, this May will be the **50 year anniversary** of the Village Voice! In honor of this impressive milestone, I've recreated the original masthead from the first edition. I hope you enjoy!

**Draft minutes of the Village Board Meeting May 14, 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, Stan Senger, and Nate Taylor were present. Also in attendance were DPW Justin Schultz, Administrator Jennie Klecker, 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:** Bob Pfaff, president of Green Merrimac, once again thanked the Village for its continued support, and in particular, wished to thank Trustee Budde for her enthusiastic and thorough effort regarding the WWTP Solar Project. He believes that the Village's proposed solar array would inspire our residents, area business and other municipalities to consider solar, as it has already inspired St. Vincent de Paul in Sauk City. Several solar contractors he's spoken believe this is the

best time they have seen for incentives, grants, and credits for solar installation. While the project has encountered several setbacks, he encouraged the Village Board to move forward with installing solar this year and offered Green Merrimac's full support in that endeavor.

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

**Item 4. Approval of Village Bills:** Taylor/Malmberg 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. Provisional Liquor License: Lindsey Heyntsen for Mac's Pub & Grub:** Gallus/Senger motioned to approve Provisional Operator's License for Lindsey Heyntsen for Mac's Pub & Grub.

**Item 6. Security Camera for Outside Village Hall:** Trustee Taylor spoke about exploring options for installing security cameras covering the perimeter and entryways at Village Hall. He asked the Board for their support to seek quotes for a variety of cameras and installation costs, which they agreeably gave. Trustee Taylor will update the Board on his findings at the next meeting.

**Item 7. WWTP Solar Project:** After careful consideration, Trustee Budde recommended the Village not pursue the WWTP solar project in 2024 for a number of reasons. Additional costs associated with applying for the Federal rebate push the payback time out to 10 years, uncertainty with grants, and changes to net metering all leave the Village vulnerable to financial risk. The Board agreed to revisit the project in the future if conditions become more favorable.

**Item 8. School Street RFP and Selection of Engineer:** The Village received proposals from Grothman and Associates, General

Engineering Company, and Strand Associates. President Gallus, Trustee Budde, DPW Schultz, and Administrator Klecker met to review the proposals and unanimously agreed to recommend Strand Associates. Budde/Gallus motioned to hire Strand and Associates for the School Street Feasibility Study, for \$19,500. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried.** Budde/Gallus Motioned to authorize President Gallus to execute the Strand contract after review by himself and one other Board member. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.**

**9. Committee Appointments:** 9.a. Plan Commission; Gallus/Budde motioned to reappoint Trustee Malmberg as Plan Commission Chairperson, and Ann Hoffman, Bob Pfaff, Bob Garrison, and Collin Bourgeois as members. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.** 9.b. Board of Appeals; Gallus/Budde motioned to appoint Trustee Taylor, Ann Hoffman, Ed Nawrocki, Phil Strathman, Cheryl Anderson, Amy Buffardi, and Bart Olson to the Board of Appeals. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.** 9.c. Ambulance Committee; Gallus/Budde motioned to appoint George Naxera to the Ambulance Committee. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.** 9.d. Fire Commission; Gallus/Budde motioned to appoint Trustee Senger to the Fire Commission, and as the Village's second voting member: Tom Gallus for the months of June-November and Phil Budde for the months of December-May. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.** 9.e. Dissolution of Parks Committee; Gallus/Taylor motioned to dissolve the current Parks Committee. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.** 9.f. Creation of new Parks and Recreation Committee; Gallus/Malmberg motioned to create new Parks and Recreation Committee with the following appointed members: Trustee Taylor as Chairperson, Amy Buck, June Krbecek, Tim Klecker, and Jennifer Thompson. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.**

**Item 10. Report of the Director of Public**

**Works:** 10.a. Lift Station 8 Valves; The new Check Valves for Lift Station 8 have arrived. Gallus/Budde motioned to authorize S&L Underground to install the new valves at LS8, to be billed as Time & Materials. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried.** DPW Schultz informed the Board that Sprecher Plumbing will be installing the new generator next week. Vandalism to street lights has been reported and a solution to the problem is being worked on. Lift Station 2 had to be repaired due to clogging from flushable wipes. A reminder will go out in the Village Voice as well as targeted door hangers reminding the public that no wipes are actually "flushable."

**Item 11. Report of the Administrator:** 11.a. Sauk Prairie Chamber of Commerce - Financial Support for Hosting Fishing University Show; Gallus/Budde motioned to authorize the Sauk Prairie Chamber of Commerce to use a portion of their share of the Village of Merrimac's 2025 Municipal Room Tax revenue to pay half of the \$7,500 hosting fee for the TV show "Fishing University," with the Town of Merrimac paying the other half. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.** 11.b. In response to a request made by a local business owner, Administrator Klecker performed a records search to determine the official number of "Class B" liquor licenses the Village is allowed to issue. Based on her research and in consultation with Special Agent Derrick Schleis of the Wisconsin Division of Alcoholic Beverages Bureau of Enforcement, she determined the Village's "Class B" license quota to be four (4), with zero licenses on reserve. Budde/Gallus motioned to approve Resolution 2024-05-01 Authorizing the Total Number of Issued and Reserve "Class B" Liquor Licenses. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

**Item 12. Adjourn:** At 6:50pm, Taylor/Gallus motioned to adjourn. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jennie Klecker

Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer

Next Village Board Meeting

**June 11, 2024**

5:30 PM @ Village Hall

**AA Meetings**

Wednesday Evenings 7:00

@ Memorial Park Pavilion

Questions?

Contact Chuck @ 608-795-0050



Recycling Pickup Dates:

**June 10 & 24**

Brush Pick-up Date

**June 5 & 26**

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

Scrap metal recycling is available at Village Hall. Please place items in the dumpster located in the Village Hall parking lot.

**METAL ONLY! No TV's Please!**

The Merrimac Women's Club will not meet until the fall. We will notify you with the exact date in the Aug/Sept Village Voice.



**Want to join the Festival Team?**

**Next Meeting is June 12, 5:00pm @ Memorial Park**

Thank you to all who participated in the Reduce, Reuse Recycle Event!  
It was a tremendous success!!



**"Flushable" wipes were recently the cause of a costly lift station repair for the Village!**



# Merrimac Fire & Rescue

Where Young Adults Can Make a BIG Difference



Bailee (now 23)

Just two years after joining, Marcus was selected by our members as **Firefighter of the Year**. In 2023, Bailee was chosen **Emergency Medical Responder of the Year**, attending 73 calls in 12 months. Plus, she attended 67 calls in her voluntary service with Sauk Prairie Ambulance. It is young people like Bailee & Marcus who continue the Merrimac Fire & Rescue tradition of service, helping our community to thrive. Marcus (now 21)



Are you a young adult, hoping to make a BIG difference?

**JOIN OUR TEAM**

You need us. We need you.



**Merrimac Fire & Rescue Annual Fireworks Show! Saturday, July 6, 2024**

NEW LOCATION on the corner of Hwy 78 & Idlewild Road!!

Just follow the signs for parking.

**\* \$5.00 a carload \* Gate opens @5pm\* Concessions Available\***

*Bring your blankets & lawn chairs, but please leave your fireworks & grills at home.*



Merrimac Community School is hosting a 5k run (or 1 mile walk) on Saturday, June 1st beginning at 9:00am. The route will be on the sidewalk parallel to Hwy 78.

**Please slow down and watch for racers** and volunteers, especially at intersections. Thank you!