

# VILLAGE VOICE

JUNE 2020

DRAFT

Volume 16, Issue 6

## Minutes of the Village Board Meeting June 9, 2020

The Village Board meeting was called to order by Village President Phil Budde at 5:00 p.m. Board members present were Garry Bahe, Jim Malmberg, George Naxera, and Amy Buffardi. Interim Administrator Margaret Budde was present and members of the community present were Aric Weitzel and Cheryl Anderson. Kirk Olson arrived at 5:55 pm.

**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. Consent Agenda.** Bahe/ Naxera moved to approve Items 3a-f of the Consent Agenda, including May meeting minutes, Balance Sheets and Budget Comparison, Village Inspection Reports, Alliant spreadsheet, letter to Kelly family, and approval of election inspectors Karen Strathman and Pat Gallus. **Motion carried.** Malmberg/Bahe moved to approve renewal of Annual Liquor Licenses for Ferry X-ing Bar & Grill, Merrimac Bar & Grill, LLC (Varsity Club), and Mac's Pub & Grub; Operator's Permits for the staff of each establishment; Tobacco License for Ferry X-ing; and Class B Beer License for Candy's Merrimac Café. **Motion carried.**

**Item 4. Approval of Outstanding Bills** Bahe/Malmberg 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. Approval of Resolution regarding the Operation of the Merrimac Ferry.** Naxera/Buffardi moved to approve the Resolution to respectfully ask WisDOT to restore 24-hour, 7-day operations of the Merrimac Ferry, as soon as practical. **Motion carried.**

**Item 6. 396 Baraboo Street Proposal.**

Aric Weitzel is interested in gaining Village approval for a 4'x8' trailer-mounted LED sign for on-site and off-site advertising, both for operation at his Adventure LLC business located in Zone B-2, but also at Village Hall entrance off of W. Main Street. Existing ordinances define this proposed use of the sign as a "Billboard," which is currently a prohibited use; however, LED signs represent a change in technology since the ordinances were adopted in 2006. Mr. Weitzel envisions providing low cost – or possibly free – advertising for community events, churches, and local governments. For example, when/if the sign is located on Village property, about a quarter of the advertising messages could be for Village needs, without charge. This could be very beneficial for making important announcements about emergencies, elections, COVID-matters, etc. Mr. Weitzel was asked to provide the Village with other Wisconsin municipalities' ordinances where such LED signs are a conditional use. Malmberg indicated that any proposal to modify the ordinances would need to go before the Plan Commission and then before Village Board for approval. An application for a Conditional Use Permit for the LED sign would also need to be approved by both Plan Commission and Village Board. Trustees were asked individually if they had any objections to the proposed sign, and no objections

were stated. Mr. Weitzel also briefly discussed his business plan for storage of boats and shipping containers; such a plan would also need to be approved by the Plan Commission and Village Board.

**Item 7. Refinancing Highway and Wastewater Loans.**

The Village's current debt service schedules were compared with proposed debt service schedules based on rates and terms provided by Bank of Prairie du Sac. Refinancing would appear to save approximately \$7,400/year in debt service, and potentially shortening the duration of the wastewater debt. Naxera/ Malmberg moved to allow the Administrator to pursue refinancing documents for Highway, Wastewater, and Tractor Loans through the Bank of Prairie du Sac, for approval at a future Board meeting, with Interim Administrator, Village President, and Trustee Malmberg as signatories on loan documents. **Motion carried.**

**Item 8. Energenecs Screen Maintenance Proposal.**

The Huber Fine Screen at the WWTP requires maintenance be performed every 800 hours of operation, and it has been 1,700 hours since the last service visit. The technician will inspect the gear box, wear brushes, and wear bars; the oil, brushes and bars will be changed as needed. Naxera/Bahe made a motion to approve the Energenecs service visit of \$2,862.50.

**Item 9. LW Allen Service Visit LSs 3&8.**

Malmberg and Senger Lift Stations 3 and 8) on River road require a service visit to determine why SCADA alarms have been triggered, and to possibly take one pump from each to have the motors rebuilt. Bahe/Naxera moved to approve an LW Allen service visit of approximately \$900, not to exceed \$1,100. Upon a roll call

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**Email:** [Merrimac@merr.com](mailto:Merrimac@merr.com) **Village Hall:** 608-493-2122

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

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vote, all Ayes, **Motion carried.** Naxera/Bahe moved to authorize the Administrator and DPW to have LW Allen perform pump repair of approximately \$3,000 per pump, not to exceed \$7,000 total for two pumps. Upon a roll call vote, all Ayes, **Motion carried.** Buffardi/Malmberg moved to approve Resolution 2020-02-06, Resolution Declaring Official Intent to Reimburse Expenditures from Proceeds of Borrowing. Upon a roll call vote, all Ayes, **Motion carried.**

**Item 10. Interim Administrator to Attend Clerk-Treasurer's Institute (CTI).** Bahe/Buffardi moved to approve the Interim Administrator's tuition of \$489 to attend CTI July 13-17. Upon a roll call vote, all Ayes, **Motion carried.**

**Item 11. Administrator's Report.**

**11a. Noon Siren.** Brief consideration was made this week of reinstating noon siren; however, contact with one household on Palisade showed there would be resistance from residents closest to the siren. Therefore the subject was tabled.

**11b. CARES Subgrant for COVID-Related Elections Expenses.** The Village will receive a grant of approximately \$553. Naxera/Malmberg moved to allow the Interim Administrator to sign the CARES Subgrant agreement on behalf of the Village. **Motion carried.**

**11c. Village Office Closure July 13-17.** Naxera/Bahe moved to allow the Village office to be closed during the Clerk Treasurer Institute, since the Deputy Clerk has a long-standing annual family reunion that week.

**11d. Date change for August Board Meeting.** Due to a conflict with the Fall Primary on August 11, Malmberg/Bahe moved to change the August Board meeting to be held on the Wednesday August 12 at 5:00 pm.

**11e. Status of Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer search.** One of the two short-list candidates has been interviewed again, this time by Village staff. It was

also discovered that Madison Newspapers had discontinued our electronic ad, despite having been asked to maintain the ad until otherwise instructed.

**11f. Other Matters.** Administrator reported that road damage occurred on the east end of on Lake Wisconsin Drive on June 4, caused by a private delivery vehicle. An insurance claim has been initiated.

**Item 12. Water/Sewer Operations/Maintenance Items.** None reported.

**Item 2. Public Input:** Kirk Olson is interested in constructing rental storage units at his property on Darwin Dr. He was referred to the Plan Commission.

**Item 13. Adjourn.** At 6:23 pm Bahe/Naxera moved that the meeting be adjourned. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Margaret Budde,

Interim Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer

## UPCOMING VILLAGE MEETINGS

### Board of Trustees

TUESDAY, JULY 14

\*WEDNESDAY\* AUGUST 12

5:00 P.M. VILLAGE HALL

\*Please note date change\*

### Plan Commission

MONDAY JULY 13

5:00 P.M. VILLAGE HALL

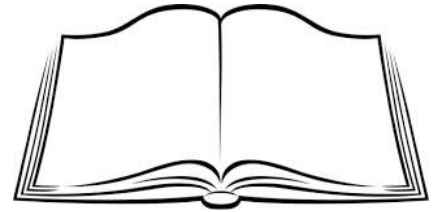
### Partisan Primary Election

Tuesday, August 11, 2020

Go to [villageofmerrimac.org/elections](http://villageofmerrimac.org/elections) for information on: What's on the ballot, voting Absentee, registering to vote, proof-of-residency.

## Real Estate Tax

(meetings held at Village Hall)



### Open Book

TUESDAY JULY 21 2:00-4:00 P.M.  
(Municipal appraiser will be present)

### Board of Review

TUESDAY JULY 28, 3:00 – 5:00 P.M.

## VILLAGE OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED JULY 13-17

...due to the Clerk Treasurer Institute and Deputy Clerk vacation. Email will be monitored for URGENT items, and phone messages will be checked in the morning, around noon, and in the afternoon.

### Brush Pick-Up

Weds. July 15 and 29

## DRIVIN' OUR CHEVY...



The Village will accept sealed bids for our 1998 Pickup Truck until Friday, **July 10 at 1:59 pm.** It will be sold "as is" with no expressed or implied warranty. **Bids will be opened beginning at 2:00 pm.** Email [merrimac@merr.com](mailto:merrimac@merr.com) with questions, or call; answers will be posted on website and with truck, parked at Village garage.

Specs: 1998 Chevy HD Fleetside Pickup with 95,300 miles, Vortec 5700 V8 SFI Engine, victory red exterior with red cloth interior, 4-speed automatic transmission with OD, A/C, locking differential-rear axle, heavy duty trailering equipment, cold climate package, 8600 lb GVW rating, maximum tow rating is 6,500 lbs with appropriately rated trailer hitch.



### BE THE PERSON YOUR DOG BELIEVES YOU ARE

Village staff have been receiving numerous complaints about nuisance dogs, including off-leash, incessant barking, too many dogs, and bites. Dogs on any sidewalk, public street, park, or public grounds must be under your immediate control, which means Rover obeys the first time you give a command. Otherwise, your dog must be on a leash. The violation of this ordinance will receive a \$25 fine for the first offence, and \$300 for any offence thereafter. Unpaid fines will be put on property tax bills.

ANY of following constitute proof of an offence: 1. A date-stamped, unaltered photograph or video that clearly shows the offending dog and the location, 2. A written statement by any Village Official (staff, Trustee, or Plan Commission member), OR 3. A letter signed by three independent witnesses. Please show respect towards people who may not like or feel comfortable around dogs. If you catch yourself saying, "It's ok he's friendly," take that as a reminder: dogs need to be on a leash. Let's protect the safety and well-being of all our neighbors, two-legged and four legged alike. Besides, your dog wants you to be the boss.

Ordinances allow *two* dogs per household only. All dogs that live in Merrimac must be licensed in Merrimac. To license your dog, contact [vomdeputyclerk@merr.com](mailto:vomdeputyclerk@merr.com). Failure to do so by July 15, 2020, will result in a \$25 fine per unlicensed dog. Think this won't be enforced? Read on, McDuff.

## I BESEECH THEE.



(A personal plea from your minimum wage Administrator)

Right before I started as Volunteer for the Village back in mid-March, I thought, "How hard can this possibly be??" I soon discovered what Tana always insisted: It is *very* hard. The regulations the Village must follow are daunting: accounting, elections, holding public meetings, setting water and sewer rates, maintaining water quality, issuing liquor licenses, levying taxes, real estate. Despite all this, working as Interim Administrator for the Village of Merrimac is a pretty good gig most of the time, and it can be very rewarding interacting with residents. However, when Justin or I have to deal with dog complaints, Ordinance violations, speeding, and people building without a permit, it becomes deeply unpleasant. Just today I have to issue a \$150 Red Tag Fee and a \$325 fine for chronic dog-related Ordinance violations. It is *no fun* issuing stern letters, calling Sauk County Sheriff, and speaking sternly when violators try making excuses for themselves. Make your children proud. Follow the rules. Help us make working for the Village of Merrimac a Good Gig!

### No Cat Litter in the Sewers



Nothing but H<sub>2</sub>O, TP, and *human* poop and pee should go in the sewers. Nothing. Floor dry? No. Kleenex. No. Pads and Tampons? Gross! Hypodermic needles? You're *joking*! No. "Flushable" wipes? **THERE'S NO SUCH THING. This year alone, "Flushable" Wipes cost the Village \$16,000.** No cat litter either.



### Merrimac Fire and Rescue Shoes and Bags Tournament

Saturday August 1<sup>st</sup> at 10 am  
Merrimac Memorial Park  
Registration is \$10 per person  
To preregister or for more information  
Horseshoes: Justin 608-697-2862  
Cornhole: Ryan 608-697-6715



Remember: to set off Fireworks in the Village, you need a permit. Email or call for details. [Merrimac@merr.com](mailto:Merrimac@merr.com)



### Your mother called.

She thinks you should check the Village website more often.

[villageofmerrimac.org](http://villageofmerrimac.org). We post new things almost daily, most of it GOOD. Take that, MSNBC and FoxNews.