

# VILLAGE VOICE

July 2023

Volume 19, Issue 07

## Draft Minutes of the Village Board Meeting July 11, 2023

**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 5:32PM. Village Trustees Margaret Budde, Jim Malmberg, George Naxera, and Nate Taylor were present. Also in attendance were Administrator Jennie Klecker, Director of Public Works Justin Schultz, 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:** Village resident, Dave Wiegmann expressed concern about increasing utility bills and wondered if the Board is planning on re-evaluating the rates in the future. He stated that while researching what other Villages' of comparable size are charging, the Village of Merrimac has much higher rates. Trustee Budde explained that the PSC decides the water rates for Wisconsin Municipalities based upon a number of factors, including cost of water infrastructure, repairs, and total debt service. In previous years, the Village didn't always raise rates when eligible and now the PSC is forcing us to increase rates to catch up. Lack of industry and business in the Village also shifts the burden of infrastructure costs onto the residents.

**Item 3. Consent Agenda:** Malmberg/Taylor motioned to approve items 3.a., 3.b., 3.c., 3.d. of the Consent Agenda as posted. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

**Item 4. Approval of Village Bills:** Naxera/Budde 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. First Impressions Program Results Presentation by Tywana German - Sauk Prairie Chamber of Commerce:** Tywana

German shared the First Impression Program Analysis with the Board and highlighted the areas of improvement opportunities identified by the volunteer participants, such as revitalizing the Downtown, increasing public lake access, installing welcome signage and encouraging economic development. Using Municipal Room Tax revenue, the Village will be able to begin working towards some of these goals this year. A digital copy of the report is available on the Village website.

**Item 6. Report of the Director of Public Works:** 6.a. Massey Tractor Discussion; DPW Shultz informed the Board that the Massey Tractor is approaching 10 years old and it's time to start considering options on possible replacement, such as trading in for a new lease. The Village originally leased the current tractor from 2014-2019 and then took out a loan for \$35K to purchase it outright. The tractor loan will be paid off in 2025. Budde/Taylor motioned to authorize DPW Shultz to have the tires on the tractor rotated. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes, with Naxera absent. **Motion Carried.** 6.b. Bathroom Sinks at Ballpark; The faucets at the Ballpark have worn out due to age and wear. Budde/Gallus motioned to authorize DPW Schultz have Sprecher Plumbing install new faucets and add an air-line to clear water out of the pipes during the winter months, not to exceed \$1,000 per quote. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes, with Naxera absent. **Motion Carried.**

**Item 7. Municipal Court Options - Update:** Trustee Taylor gave an update on his research looking into the Village joining the Sauk Prairie Municipal court. It would cost the Village \$500 to join with a fee of \$10 per citation. If a case were to go to trial, we would be billed \$50 per hour and the Village attorney would be required to attend. The Board discussed the pros and cons of joining the court and decided to continue looking into what the process would entail, such as completing a full legal review and update of Village ordinances.

**Item 8. Front Street Easement - McSherry Property:** Administrator Klecker informed the Board that she had contacted Pam McSherry and obtained her permission to have a surveyor access her property for the purpose of drawing an easement for the water main that runs through her lot. Budde/Gallus motioned to authorize Williamson Survey to perform a survey of the Mc Sherry property's water main for an approximate cost of \$1000. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes, with Naxera absent. **Motion Carried.** Upon further discussion and consideration, Budde/Gallus motioned to rescind the previous motion in order to further evaluate all options. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

**Item 9. Report of the Administrator:** 9.a. Dolan Realty Advisors Cell Tower Land Lease Contract - Stafford Rosenbaum Review; The Board reviewed the suggested contract edits performed by Stafford Rosebaum. Dolan Realty Advisors has provided the Village a list of references of municipalities they have previously worked with, and after contacting them, Trustee Budde found them to be satisfied with their experience. Malmberg/Gallus motioned to have Administrator Klecker send the revised contract to Dolan Realty for their review, but only after the Village attorney has a chance to review additional comments from the Board.

**Item 10. Adjourn:** At 7:49pm, Malmberg/Budde motioned to adjourn. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Jennie Klecker  
Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer

**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.**

Next Village Board Meeting  
**August 8, 2023**  
\*NEW TIME\* 5:30 PM @ Village Hall

Plan Commission Meeting  
**August 7, 2023**  
\*NEW TIME\* 5:30 PM @ Village Hall

**AA Meetings**  
Wednesday Evenings 7:00  
@ Memorial Park Pavilion.  
Questions?  
Contact Chuck @ 608-795-0050

Scrap metal recycling is available  
in the dumpster located in the  
Village Hall parking lot.  
No TV's Please! **METAL ONLY**

  
Recycling Pickup Dates:  
**August 7 & 21**



Please join us for a day of  
family friendly fun at beautiful  
Memorial Park!  
**Saturday, August 5th**  
9:00AM - 7:00PM  
**FREE ADMISSION!**

\* Live Music, Ski Show, Food,  
Kid's Games, Bouncy Houses,  
Raffles, Craft & Vendor Show,  
Beer Tent, Horseshoe & Bags  
Tournament and more!

Brush Pick-up Dates  
**August 9 & 23**  
\*\*With all of the recent storm  
damage, please make sure that  
tree branches & limbs are stacked  
**4 feet wide by 4 feet high,**  
**up to 8 feet long**  
with brush stacked parallel to and  
near the road. If piles are too large,  
they will not be picked up.

Keep it simple with  
**Auto-Pay & e-Billing**  
for monthly utility payments



Visit the Village website at  
merrimacwi.gov and click on the  
**Utilities** icon for sign-up links. As  
always, if you have any questions,  
please feel free to call the Village  
Office.

**Volunteers  
Needed!**



**The Merrimac Community  
Festival Needs Volunteers!**

- \*Event Day Workers Needed!
- \*No Meeting Attendance Required!
- \*Short (or long) Shifts Available!

**Saturday, August 5**  
9:00AM - 7:00PM

**Please consider volunteering for  
a few hours to help make our  
Community Festival a success!**

Contact [coordinator.merrimacfestival@gmail.com](mailto:coordinator.merrimacfestival@gmail.com) or call Village Hall to  
sign up today!

**Considering a Building Project?**  
**Don't Forget the Permit!**

Most construction projects in  
the Village require a building  
permit. If you are thinking of a  
renovation project, a new deck  
or pool, or an addition, *please  
contact our building inspector  
before you start!* If you begin a  
construction project without a  
permit, you may be charged a  
\$150.00 Red Tag Fee. Don't risk  
it, just call.



Contact our Building  
Inspector, David Bieno at  
608-617-9869 or email  
[dbieno@generalengineering.net](mailto:dbieno@generalengineering.net)



**PLEASE BE A  
GOOD NEIGHBOR  
CLEAN UP  
AFTER YOUR DOG**  
*Thank You*

**Reminder:**  
In order to maintain a neat and  
attractive appearance, grass  
should be kept at a maximum of 4  
inches.

