

VILLAGE VOICE

August 2023

Volume 19, Issue 08

Draft Minutes of the Plan Commission Meeting August 7, 2023

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, Bob Garrison, Ann Hoffman and Bob Pfaff were present. 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. Bourgeois Conditional Use Permit - Shed Project - Parcel No. 1151-0029-00000:

Mr. Bourgeois requested a Conditional Use Permit to construct a 240 square foot, 15 foot tall shed on his R-1 property. Village Ordinance §185-12 requires a CUP for accessory buildings exceeding 120 square feet of floor area or exceeding 12 feet in height. Garrison/Hoffman motioned to recommend the Village Board approve the Bourgeois accessory building CUP. All Ayes, with Mr. Bourgeois abstaining. **Motion Carried.**

Item 4. Substandard Lot Ordinance Review - Parcels 151-0020-00000 & 151-0021-00000:

A realtor selling parcels 151-0020-0000 and 151-0021-00000 in a combined listing, contacted the Village to ask if the unimproved substandard parcel 151-0021-00000 could be marketed as a buildable lot. After lengthy discussion and thorough examination of Village Ordinances, Bourgeois/Pfaff motioned to recommend the Village Board respond "No," to the realtor's question on whether parcel 0021 is allowed to be sold as a buildable lot, based upon the Plan Commission's interpretation of Chapter 185 Article V, Nonconforming Uses, Structures and Lots, and §185-3(K.). All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 5. Comprehensive Plan Update: The Commission discussed the First Impression Program report and reviewed the Sauk Prairie Chamber's "Sauk Prairie Riverway" themed sign samples. The Commission collectively felt that signs depicting the Ferry best capture the identity of Merrimac, rather than aligning with the Sauk Prairie Riverway branding. Committee Member Hoffman spoke about a survey that the Merrimac Identity group handed out at the Festival. The survey will be available on the Village Website and at Village Hall. The group continued working on developing the Comprehensive Plan update.

Item 6. Adjourn: At 6:40PM, Hoffman/Garrison motioned to adjourn. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Draft Minutes of the Village Board Meeting August 8, 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 5:30PM. 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: Merrimac Community Festival Coordinator, Nicole Hartman gave an update on the success of last Saturday's Festival. We had a record-breaking 2,000+ people in attendance and sales were up by \$2,000. Resident donations, business sponsors & raffles are key to making the Festival a success. Nicole thanked the Board, community and volunteers for their support and hard work. There will be a wrap-up meeting in a few weeks to go over details and financial reports.

Administrator Klecker shared public input on behalf of a local resident who was concerned about vehicles idling while waiting at the Ferry. He wondered if the Village would consider installing "No Idling" signs. The Board determined that it would be up to WISDOT to install the signs, not the Village. They further agreed that the rule would be hard to enforce and that during the hot summer, most people keep their vehicle running for the air conditioning.

Item 3. Consent Agenda: Budde/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: Budde/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. Report of the Director of Public Works: 5.a. Storm Damage Cleanup Progress; DPW Shultz informed the Board that storm damage cleanup efforts are still on-going and that Public Works has taken over 150 loads of tree debris to our burn pit. He asked that the community continue to have patience with brush pickup due to the unusually large amount of debris resulting from back-to-back windstorms. 5.b. Ball Park Sinks; New Ball Park faucets and airline have been installed.

Item 6. Plan Commission Recommendations: 6.a. Conditional Use Permit Approval - Bourgeois Shed Project; Trustee Malmberg informed the Board that the Plan Commission unanimously voted to approve the CUP for the Bourgeois Shed Project. The CUP was required to exceed the 120 square foot and 12 foot height limit. Budde/Naxera motioned to accept the Plan Commission's approval of the Bourgeois Shed Project. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.** 6.b. Rathermel Sale of Substandard Lot 151-0021-00000; Trustee Malmberg explained to the Board that the Plan Commission came to the unanimous decision that substandard parcel 151-0021-00000 should not be considered a buildable lot

Website: merrimacwi.gov

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

based upon their interpretation of Village Ordinance §185-39 Substandard Lots: "In any residential district, a one-family detached dwelling and its accessory structures may be erected on any legal lot or parcel, provided that such lot or parcel was of record in the County Register of Deeds office before the effective date or amendment of this chapter. Such lot or parcel shall be in a separate ownership from abutting lands. **If abutting lands and the substandard lot are owned by the same owner, the substandard lot shall not be sold or used without full compliance with the provisions of this chapter.**" Budde/Naxera motioned to assert the Board's agreement with the Plan Commission's decision that parcel 151-0021-00000 should not be sold as buildable as is. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 7. Operator's License - Ashley Riha for Mac's Pub & Grub: Naxera/Gallus motioned to approve the Operator's Permit License for Ashley Riha for Mac's Pub & Grub. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 8. Sign Proposal from Sauk SP Chamber of Commerce: The Board discussed the "Sauk Prairie Riverway" sign design options provided by the Sauk Prairie Chamber of Commerce. The Board expressed their desire to include the Merrimac Ferry on the new Village Signs as well as the motto "Heart of Lake Wisconsin." The Trustees agreed to seek out alternative design quotes.

Item 9. MicroC Purchase Request: Naxera/Gallus motioned to authorize the purchase of MicroC, either 1000 gallons bulk for approximately \$7,000 (\$6.93/gal) or a 265 gallon tote for approximately \$2,600 (\$9.80/gal), at the discretion of Village staff. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 10. Crown Court: The DNR is requiring the Village install a flushing hydrant on Crown Court. A quote from S&L Underground will be provided at the next meeting, but is expected to be around \$13,000.

Item 11. Front Street Easement - McSherry Property: Trustee Budde presented her in-depth research, along with information received through a Wisconsin River Title Letter Report on the McSherry Properties. More investigation is needed, but it appears that the Chicago and Northwestern Railway Company originally owned the land and may have granted an easement to the Village for the water main back in 1959.

Item 12. Report of the Administrator: 12.a. UWGB Clerk & Treasurer's Institute - Key Takeaways; Administrator Klecker announced that she graduated from the Clerks Institute this year, having completed the required 100

hours of training. Next year she will begin the Treasurers Institute, and she thanked the Board for continuing to invest in this worthwhile program. 12.a.i. With the knowledge gained through this program, she plans on working with the board to create an Emergency Preparedness Plan for the Village, and will be attending NIMS Training. 12.a.ii Intergovernmental Collaboration; The Institute offered several interesting examples of small municipalities successfully working together to achieve common goals, such as sharing the cost of hiring one grant writer to work for multiple communities. 12.b. Wisconsin Disaster Fund Assistance Due to Recent Storm Damage; Village staff is working with Sauk County Emergency Management Director, Jed Seidl, to apply for Wisconsin Disaster Fund to help recover cleanup costs from the 7/16 & 7/28 storms. President Gallus acknowledged the outstanding efforts and hard work of the Public Works staff in cleaning up the damage from the storms, and proposed using some of the disaster relief funds to pay out overtime rather than offering comp time.

Item 13. Adjourn: At 7:49pm, Malmberg/Budde motioned to adjourn. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennie Klecker

Jennie Klecker
Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer

Next Village Board Meeting
September 12, 2023
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:
***Tuesday*, September 5**
& Monday, September 18

Senior Fitness Program

Starts October 9, 2023 & runs through April 26, 2024

- Open to anyone 50 years of age or older.
- ONLY \$10.00 per person for the entire program!



Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays,
9:30 – 10:00am
Merrimac Village Hall



Sauk County Aging & Disability Resource Center

RURAL COMMUNITY MEET & GREET
Wednesday, October 11th
10:00AM

Merrimac Village Hall
100 Cook Street

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



School Starts September 5th
Please slow down & watch out for school buses and children crossing our streets.



Hats Off To Another Fabulous Festival!

The Village would like to extend a very heartfelt thank you to all those involved with putting on this year's Merrimac Community Festival. It was an incredible success!

Festival Committee Members:

Nicole Hartmann, Collin Bourgeois, Amy Stevens, Justin Schultz, Jennie & Tim Klecker, Mark Lyon, Herb & Cindy Spradlin, Vic Pucel, Nehomah Thundercloud, Kate Hartmann and Cheryl Anderson.

Diamond Sponsor:

Frosch Tree Service

Gold Sponsors:

Strand Associates
Palmer Manufacturing

Silver Sponsors:

Ferry Landing Marine
Merry Macs Campground
General Engineering Co.
Terrytown Plumbing
CTW

Ferry X-ing Bar & Grill
Bank of Prairie du Sac

Copper Sponsors:

Grothman & Associates
Supreme Awards
Hills Wiring
Village Family Dental

Raffle Sponsors:

Fitz's on the Lake
Napa Auto Parts
Fish Tails
Kwik Trip
Green Acres Supper Club
Tools of Marketing
Baehr House Vacation Rentals
Frey Construction
Devils Head Golf Course

We would also like to thank all of our event day volunteers - We truly couldn't pull this off without you! Special thanks to the talented musicians, the Mad City Ski Team for putting on an amazing show, Jack Shoepf and the amateur wake board competitors, and the wonderful craft and food vendors. And last but certainly not least, we would like to thank all of **YOU** for showing your support through donations and attending the Festival.

THANK YOU!!!

Main Street Sweep

Please join Green Merrimac for a fall street clean-up on **Saturday, October 7th** **9:00AM to Noon** Meet at Village Hall Coffee & Donuts will be provided. Questions? Email **greenmerrimac@gmail.com**



***OUR MISSION:** Green Merrimac is a dedicated team of community volunteers implementing changes for the Merrimac area that help protect our environment through education and active citizen participation.*

Village Hall will be closed on Monday, September 4th, in observance of



Sign Up Today!

Keep it simple with Auto-Pay & E-Billing for monthly utilities.



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.

Short-Term Rentals

Thinking about renting your home independently or on a short-term rental platform such as Airbnb or VRBO? You'll find everything you need to get started on the Village website. Look for "Short-Term Home Rental Permit" under the "Permits, Licenses & Forms" section to read the ordinance and fill out a Conditional Use Application. Have questions?

Call Village Hall or email merrimac@merrimacwi.gov and we'll be happy to walk you through it.





ARE YOU A RESIDENT? We want to hear from you!

The Village of Merrimac has been developing a State of Wisconsin required Comprehensive Plan. This plan will identify our needs, ambitions, and values as a community for the next 10 years.

Your participation is invaluable and will help determine how we shape our community. Please take a minute to answer a few short questions by scanning the QR code with your smart phone camera. Stop by Village Hall or visit <https://merrimacwi.gov/> for a paper copy.

Thank you!



Green Merrimac Community Survey

The newly formed environmental action group, Green Merrimac, asks that you share your ideas about how Merrimac (village and town) can improve the environment and energy efficiency in your home and in the village. Any ideas are welcome!

Green Merrimac has an email if you wish to reach out to the members of the team. It is: greenmerrimac@gmail.com. Please complete by September 18, 2023.



Thank You!