

# VILLAGE VOICE

August 2021

Volume 17, Issue 8

## Minutes of the Village Board August 10, 2021

The Village Board meeting was called to order in the Village Hall Large Meeting Room by Village President Phil Budde at 5:00 p.m. Board members Jim Malmberg, Andrew Gallus, George Naxera, and Kirk Olson were present. Administrator Brian Mooney, Village DPW Justin Schultz, and Village Assistant Margaret Budde were present. Members of the public in attendance were Bart Olson, Pat Gallus, Cheryl Anderson, Catherine Lawrin 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 2. Public Input:

Ms. Lawrin introduced herself and asked for a few minutes to explain how she's using a fence within her property. Ms. Lawrin informed the Board she had some photographs to share regarding where this fence had been previously located, where it has now been moved off the property line, and her intentions to use the fence as a garden. Mrs. Gallus commented that the fence was non-conforming to the Village Ordinances and needed to be removed, regardless of its location. Village Trustee Malmberg stated if the fence was completely located within the property line of the Lawrin Family lot, the Village could not instruct a garden fence to be taken down, as it is permissible within the Village ordinances.

### Item 3. Consent Agenda:

Olson/Gallus moved to approve items 3a., 3b., 3c., 3d. of the Consent Agenda as posted. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes.

**Motion Carried**

### Item 4. Approval of Village Bills:

Malmberg/Gallus moved to approve payment of outstanding monthly bills as listed on items 4i.-4v. of the Agenda. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried**

### Item 5. Report of the Administrator:

Mr. Mooney's first item on his agenda covered the Village's recent decision to transition from the current ICHRA employee health benefits account to a QSEHRA health account. This account would provide the same health benefit coverage as the ICHRA account, but can be utilized by all employees within the Village, regardless of health insurance coverage status. The monthly costs will remain the same, and the only change would be the annual allowable rollover limit offered to employees.

Mr. Mooney next updated the Board on the recent notification from Tim's Trucking on their pending sale. Tim's contacted the Village to state they are being purchased by Town and Country Sanitation/Peterson's Sanitation effective September 1, 2021. Town and Country Sanitation will honor the contract the Village signed with Tim's Trucking, and maintain the same garbage and recycling pick-up schedule within the Village. Administrator Mooney will confirm if Town and Country Sanitation will have a local office for garbage drop-off, and whether they will have a different price for special item home pick-up requests for disposal.

Mr. Mooney informed the Board the Verizon Wireless Cellular Antenna will be discussed at the August 17<sup>th</sup> Village Plan Commission meeting. The Plan Commission will hear Verizon's proposal on the placement of the antenna on the Village Water Tower, and the location of the corresponding ground equipment on the Village Water Tower parcel. If the Plan Commission recommends approving Verizon's plans, the next steps would be beginning lease contract terms.

Mr. Mooney turned the floor over to Trustee Olson to discuss the matter of Village Ordinance violations and enforcement. Mr. Olson stated he is still researching other municipal ordinances and approaches, as well as speaking with area lawyers. Mr. Olson asked the Board for a motion to explore the Village's Attorney relationship to draft and proceed with a means to resolve ordinance violations. Olson/Naxera motioned to approve Trustee Olson's request to serve in this Village capacity. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried**

Mr. Mooney's last topic was to request approval from the Board to move Village Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) funds to the Village Bank of Prairie du Sac checking account. Naxera/Malmberg motioned to approve Administrator Mooney to move \$30,000 from the Village LGIP account to the Bank of Prairie Checking account. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried**

### Item 6. Report of the DPW:

Village Public Works Director Justin Schultz informed the Board of his intention to have Scott's Construction proceed with a chip sealing of Darwin

**Website:** [villageofmerrimac.org](http://villageofmerrimac.org)

**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.**

Drive, and a section of School Street. Mr. Schultz stated Darwin was on the schedule for this work in 2021, but it was decided to prioritize School Street over Elma Street due to use demands.

Mr. Schultz's last topic involved recent work on Village Lift Station 2 at the Ball Park. Mr. Schultz stated the Public Works team successfully removed one pump with the winch system, but that pump was determined to be working appropriately. The Public Works team will attempt to remove the second pump in the near future for routine maintenance.

**Item 7. Report of the Village Assistant:**

Village Assistant Budde provided the Board with a brief update on the recently submitted Village PSC Water Rate Increase proposal. Mrs. Budde informed the Board the final approval figure from the PSC was lower than anticipated (69%), of which the majority of the increase went to Public Fire Protection.

Mrs. Budde's next topic covered recently completed sewer televising and the Village plan for the remainder of 2021. Mrs. Budde notified the Board the CIPP tape that was found within the sewer was a normal occurrence, and not a sign of structural concern. The manufacturer of the sewer CIPP recommended full jetting and televising to remove the excess tape. As the Village is slightly behind schedule on regular sewer televising needs per our 5 year plan, Mrs. Budde recommended we schedule and complete the duration of Lake Wisconsin Drive to simultaneously clear the sewer of any remaining CIPP tape residue, as well as bring the Village in line with our current sewer televising requirements per the 5 year plan. Naxera/Olson moved to authorize the Public Works Director to schedule an additional 5,200 feet of sewer televising and necessary jetting. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried**

Mrs. Budde next briefed the Board on recent repair work on the Lu Foster

subdivision Lift Station. Mrs. Budde stated that LW Allen initiated the repairs and various updates, ensuring the Station functions at a high level for years to come.

Mrs. Budde's final topics covered two additional Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) update needs. First, Mrs. Budde notified the Board that it was discovered an effluent flow meter had failed at the WWTP, and required replacement. Mrs. Budde next informed the Board the Public Works team had successfully removed the 4 failing original splitter box weir gates at the WWTP, and installed the newly fabricated replacements. Mrs. Budde was pleased to state the replacements have been working and will result in improved wastewater treatment. Naxera/Gallus moved to approve approximately \$2,600 for replacement of the failed effluent flow meter at the WWTP. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried**

**Item 8. Adjourn:**

At 6:15 pm Naxera/Malmberg moved that the meeting adjourn. **Motion Carried**

Respectfully Submitted,

*Brian Mooney*

Brian Mooney,  
Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer

**Minutes of the Village Plan  
Commission August 17, 2021**

**Item 1. Call to Order:** The Plan Commission (PC) Chairman Jim Malmberg reviewed the affidavit of posting and confirmed it adhered to statutory requirements. PC members present were Ann Hoffman, Bob Garrison, Tom Gallus, Bob Pfaff, and Tim Klecker. Members of the Public in attendance were Aric Weitzel, Bart Olson, Kirk Olson, Lee Anderson, David Baehr, and Phil Budde.

**Item 2. Public Input:** None

**Item 3. Verizon Wireless Antenna:** Village Administrator departed from meeting to contact Verizon as they had not joined the Zoom Meeting. Topic tabled.

**Item 4. Weitzel Building Projects:** Mr. Weitzel elaborated on his proposal to offer outdoor parking storage for boats and RVs. Mr. Weitzel also discussed plans for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to finish a primary residence basement in order to create a rental space. Chairman Malmberg asked the Commission if there was a motion to approve these projects. Mrs. Hoffman recommended conducting separate votes for the two proposals. Hoffman/Garrison moved to recommend approval of the CUP home rental as presented. All Ayes-**Motion Carried**. Pfaff/Hoffman moved to approve the exterior storage proposal as presented. All Ayes-**Motion Carried**

**Item 5. Short Term Rental Ordinance:**

Chairman Malmberg provided the PC and attendees a brief overview of the past discussion and decisions related to Short Term Rentals within the Village. Mr. Malmberg asked Mr. Mooney to provide some context on the topics requiring decision at the evening's meeting. Mr. Mooney informed the attendees of some of the recent Wisconsin Legislative updates related to Short Term Rentals and Municipal Room Taxes. Mr. Mooney stated he had reviewed a number of different Municipalities' Ordinances, Third-Party Rental Websites, and Wisconsin Municipal Room Tax guides in order to prepare materials for consideration at the evening meeting. Mr. Mooney recommended the Village implement a Conditional Use Permit Ordinance requirement for all homes seeking to operate as Short Term Rentals within the Village. Mr. Mooney recommended the Village adopt similar Ordinance requirements that the Town of Merrimac currently utilize, for the sake

of consistency and application within Merrimac, including the seven percent municipal room tax. Upon discussion from the PC and public, Chairman Malmberg inquired whether the PC would like to make a motion on how the Village proceed. Pfaff/Hoffman moved that the Village proceed with adoption of a similar Short Term Rental Ordinance and Conditional Use Permit requirement currently in place within the Town of Merrimac, as well as a modified Municipal Room Tax Ordinance to be crafted by Village Administrator Mooney. Upon Roll Call Vote-All Ayes **Motion Carried**

**Item 6. Adjourn:** At 6:05pm Committee members Garrison/Pfaff moved that the meeting adjourn. **Motion Carried**

## Calendar Reminders

Next Board Meeting  
**September 14, 2021**  
5:00 PM @ VILLAGE HALL

*Village Hall will be  
closed Monday  
September 6, 2021 in  
observance of*



### IMPORTANT UTILITY NOTICE

Beginning in October, Merrimac Municipal Water & Sewer will resume water shut-offs for past due utility balances greater than \$200 that have been delinquent for over 90 days. Customers at risk of having their water turned off will be mailed a Deferred Payment Agreement and given an opportunity to make reasonable payment arrangements. Please call or email the Village Office if you have any questions or concerns.

### **Merrimac Community**



### **Blood Drive**

October 4, 2021  
1:00PM – 6:00PM  
Merrimac Fire Department  
120 School Street

### TRASH & RECYCLING NEWS

Beginning September 1, 2021 the Village of Merrimac will be switching to Peterson Sanitation for trash collection & recycling. Pick-up times and dates will remain the same. More detailed information will be added to the Village website shortly.

### Water Tower

### Inspection Tuesday October 5<sup>th</sup>

**The Village will have  
our Water Tower  
drained to allow for  
internal inspection.  
Water service will  
remain in place, but  
we ask residents to  
please be aware and  
try to minimize water  
usage.**

### AA Meetings

Wednesday Evenings  
7:00 @  
Memorial Park Pavilion  
Questions? Contact Mike  
@ 608-643-9521

### BRUSH PICK-UP DATES

Wed. September 8th  
Wed. September 22nd  
*4 feet wide by 4 feet high, up to  
8 feet long with brush stacked  
parallel to and near the  
roadway.*

Scrap metal recycling is available in the trailer located in the parking lot at Village Hall.

## PUBLIC NOTICE TO ALL CUSTOMERS OF THE MERRIMAC MUNICIPAL WATER UTILITY

The Merrimac Municipal Water Utility (Utility) has filed an application with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW) to increase water rates. The increase is necessary due to a 188.14 percent increase in gross plant investment and a 171.22 percent increase in operating expenses since the last water rate case was completed in 2000.

The total increase in water revenues requested is \$77,637 which will result in an estimated overall rate increase of 69.16 percent over the water utility's present revenues. If the request is granted, the water bill for an average residential customer with a 5/8-inch or 3/4-inch meter who uses 3,000 gallons of water per month will increase from \$21.02 to \$30.40, or 44.62%, not including public fire protection.

The Utility currently collects \$42,751 annually from the Village of Merrimac (Village) for providing PFP to the Village. This cost, which is 100 percent of the total PFP cost, covers the additional storage, pumping, and distribution required to provide the high flows and pressures needed to fight fires. The Village collects the funds for the current municipal PFP charge of \$42,751 from property taxes and pays this charge to the water utility. The Utility has requested PSCW approval to change the method of recovering the PFP charge from the current municipal PFP charge to direct PFP charges that are collected directly from water utility customers, based on the property values method. This change will allow for the collection of a portion of PFP charges from property owners who are not subject to property taxes. If approved, the Utility intends to charge non-general service customers.

A telephonic public hearing on the application has been scheduled for Friday, September 17, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. This hearing has no physical location. Parties and Commission staff appear by audiovisual connection over the internet. Parties and Commission staff may use the audio-only telephone connection as a backup, or if no practicable internet connection exists. Members of the public attend by audiovisual connection over the internet, or by audio-only telephone connection.

Join by audiovisual connection at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/my/pschearings>

To join by telephone:

1. Dial: + 1 312 626 6799
2. Enter: 809 513 2930 # (Meeting ID)

Each participant shall provide their name, and status as either a party representative, Commission staff, or a member of the public. Each participant using the internet connection shall provide this information in the "Join Meeting" dialog screen, or by renaming the participant's screenname after gaining admittance to the hearing. Each person connecting by telephone shall provide this information immediately after gaining admittance to the hearing.

Upon connecting to the hearing, each participant will enter a waiting room and await admittance to the hearing. Before commencing the hearing, the ALJ will admit each participant who connected before the designated start time. The ALJ will admit each participant who connects after the hearing begins at the earliest opportunity that does not disrupt the hearing. Each member of the public shall remain muted until the ALJ invites that person to comment.

The Commission will livestream the audio of this hearing on its website. The livestream allows anyone to listen to the hearing without connecting to it as described above. To access the livestream, go to the Commission's website at <http://psc.wi.gov>, and select "Live Broadcast" button. The live broadcast webpage provides neither: 1) an opportunity to make a comment, nor 2) closed captioning.

A person may testify in this proceeding without becoming a party and without attorney representation. A person may submit this testimony in only one of the following ways:

- **Web Comment.** File a comment on the internet. Go to the Commission's web site at <http://psc.wi.gov>, click on "File a Comment". On the next page select the "File a comment" link that appears for docket number 3630-WR-102. Web comments shall be received no later than Tuesday, September 21, 2021.
- **Oral Comment.** Speak over the telephone during the public session. The Administrative Law Judge may receive an oral comment from any member of the public in attendance after the close of any party and Commission staff testimony. The Administrative Law Judge will receive an oral comment by unmuting each phone connection one at a time and inquiring into the each caller's desire to comment.
- **Mail Comment.** Send a comment by U.S. Mail. All comments submitted by U.S. Mail shall be received no later than Tuesday, September 21, 2021 and shall be addressed to: Attn: Docket 3630-WR-102 Comments, Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 7854, Madison, WI 53707-7854.

All documents in this docket are filed on the Commission's Electronic Records Filing (ERF) system. To view these documents: (1) go to the Commission's E-Services Portal at <http://apps.psc.wi.gov>, (2) enter "3630-WR-102" in the box labeled "Quick Single Docket Search," and (3) select "Documents". **If you have any questions, please contact Merrimac Municipal Water Utility at (608) 493-2122.**