

# VILLAGE VOICE

September 2023

Volume 19, Issue 09

## Draft Minutes of the Village Board Meeting September 12, 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:** Cheryl Anderson encouraged the Board Members to fill out the Green Merrimac Environmental survey included in the August Village Voice, and welcomed them to attend the meeting on September 25, as well as the Main Street Sweep event on October 7. Trustee Naxera asked if the Village had heard back from WISDOT about reducing the speed limit on Hwy. 78. Administrator Klecker said WISDOT was planning on conducting a traffic study sometime this summer but hadn't heard back from them as of yet. She will follow up and report back to the Board. Trustee Naxera proposed the Village start charging tree removal contractors for allowing them to bring debris to the Village burn pit. President Gallus suggested that bartering for services might be a worth while alternative.

**Item 3. Consent Agenda:** Malmberg/Taylor motioned to approve items 3.a., 3.b., 3.c., 3.d. of the Consent Agenda as posted. 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. Dolan Realty Advisors - Cell Tower Land Lease Contract Discussion & Possible**

**Approval:** Trustee Budde informed the board that the contract has been thoroughly reviewed by both the Village attorney and DRA and that it appears to be advantageous for the Village to proceed with signing the contract. Budde/Gallus motioned to approve the negotiated DRA "Option and Land Lease" version preliminary final 9/11/2023, pending executable agreement and exhibits. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

**Item 6. New Village Tractor Quotes:** Trustee Taylor shared his research on buy/lease options for a new Village tractor. The Board discussed the pros and cons of trading in the old tractor and either buying or leasing a new tractor in 2024 or waiting a few years. Trustee Taylor will continue to gather more detailed information.

**Item 7. Proposed Generator for Village Hall:** Naxera/Budde motioned to purchase 26KW Generac Generator with installation for approximately \$12,000, using General Fund Balance, to be installed at Village Hall. Upon Roll Call Vote. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

**Item 8. Decision to Pursue Joining Sauk Prairie Municipal Court:** Budde/Gallus motioned to pursue joining the Sauk Prairie Municipal Court. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

**Item 9. ArcGIS Subscription Renewal:** Budde/Malmberg motioned to authorize Village Clerk to renew yearly subscription to ArcGIS for approximately \$550. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

**Item 10. Sauk Prairie School District Memorandum of Understanding - Reunification Facilities:** Gallus/Budde motioned to appoint Administrator Klecker as Village of Merrimac designee, and authorize President Gallus to sign the Memorandum of Understanding, establishing the Merrimac Village Hall as an emergency shelter location for Sauk Prairie School District staff and students. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

**11. Village Hall Floor Refinishing and Wall Painting:** Budde/Taylor motioned to authorize \$1,800 to refinish and repair floor in Large Meeting Hall, and repaint hall,

entryway and bathrooms. Upon Roll Call Vote. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

**Item 12. New Welcome Sign Proposals - Decision on Sign Selection:** Administrator Klecker shared the final Village of Merrimac Welcome sign design consensus. Upon Roll Call Vote. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

**Item 13. New Village Assessor - Municipal Group Proposal:** Village Assessor, Linda Gardiner, is retiring and selling Gardiner Appraisal. The new company has decided not to renew the contract with the Village. Administrator Klecker presented a quote from Muni Group, who proposed a \$6,000 annual fee. Since this amount is much more than what the Village has been paying for assessment services, the Board asked Administrator Klecker to seek additional quotes.

**Item 14. Wipfli Audit Engagement Letter Approval:** Malmberg/Budde motioned to authorize Administrator Klecker to sign Wipfli Engagement letter to perform the 2024 Financial Audit for \$25,000. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

**Item 15. Appoint Alternate Citizen Member to Serve on Merrimac Fire Commission Board:** Budde/Malmberg motioned to appoint Phil Budde to serve as the Village's second voting member on the Merrimac Fire Commission. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

**Item 16. Report of the Director of Public Works:** 16.a. WWTP Mixer #3; The WWTP Mixer #3 has failed and is in need of replacement. Budde/Gallus motioned to authorize DPW Schultz to have the Landia Mixer #3 repaired. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried.** 16.b. WWTP Primary Valve; DPW Schultz explained to the Board the necessity to plan for the replacement of WWTP Primary Valve in the 2024 Budget. 16.c. Crown Court Flushing Hydrant; Budde/Gallus motioned to authorize \$10,000 for installation of Crown Court Flushing Hydrant, with request for DPW Schultz to get a second quote. Upon Roll call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

**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.**

**Item 17. Report of the Administrator:** 17.a. Preliminary Budget Presentation; Administrator Klecker presented the 2024 Budget timeline, highlighted expected revenue and expense increases, reviewed the tax levy, and proposed several projects and purchases for the Board to consider. President Gallus presented Village staff salary increase options and bonuses. Budde/Gallus motioned to preliminarily approve a 5.5% raise for all staff, with a 1% cost of living adjustment for approval at the October Board meeting. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.** Gallus/Budde motioned to approve staff bonuses in the amount of \$1,000 each for Administrator and DPW, \$750 for Operator and \$600 for Deputy Clerk. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.** 17.b. Resolution 2023-09-01 Resolution for Exceeding the State Imposed Levy Limit for Post-2005 General Obligation Debt Service; Resolution 2023-09-01 will be presented at the October Board meeting to consider adding the new Village Tractor to the tax levy.

**Item 18. Closed Session for Board Discussion on McSherry Easement Letter, as authorized by Wis. Stat. §19.85(1)(e):** Budde/Malmberg motioned to enter closed session for Board Discussion on McSherry Easement Letter, as authorized by Wis. Stat. §19.85(1)(e). All Ayes. **Motion Carried.** Upon reconvening regular session, Budde/Malmberg motioned to send the proposed Front Street easement related letter and offer to pay for half of surveying and recording costs, the Village share of which is anticipated to be approximately \$1,000. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

**Item 19. Adjourn:** At 8:12pm, Naxera/Gallus motioned to adjourn. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,




Jennie Klecker  
Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer

Special Village Board Meeting  
**October 2, 2023**  
5:30 @ Village Hall  
Next Regular Village Board Meeting  
**October 10, 2023**  
5:30 PM @ Village Hall

**AA Meetings**  
Wednesday Evenings 7:00  
@ Merrimac Village Hall  
Questions?  
Contact Chuck @ 608-795-0050

**Brush Pick-up Dates**  
**October 11 & 25**  
*4 feet wide by 4 feet high, up to 8 feet long with brush stacked parallel to and near the road.*

**Fall Leaf Clean-up Policy**  
Placing leaves in plastic bags for pickup is unnecessary and strongly discouraged. Residents should either compost their leaves on their own property, or pile them near the curbside on the Village's designated brush pick up days. **Burning leaves is prohibited within the Village.** Because we do not have a street sweeper or vacuum, we ask that you do not rake or blow your leaves into the Village's gutters, or streets. Heavy rains then wash this debris into our storm sewers, impeding proper drainage and flow. Thank you for your cooperation throughout the coming fall season!



**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

## **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.

  
Recycling Pickup Dates:  
**October 2, 16 & 30**

Scrap metal recycling is available in the dumpster located in the Village Hall parking lot  
**\*\*\* METAL ONLY!! \*\*\***

# HALLOWEEN



## TRICK or TREAT



### MONDAY OCTOBER 30<sup>TH</sup> 4:00 – 7:00 P.M.