

VILLAGE VOICE

September 2021

Volume 17, Issue 9

Minutes of the Village Board September 14, 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, Cheryl Anderson and Village Accountant Assistant Robin Meier.

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:

President Budde inquired whether there was any public input to be shared. Merrimac resident Bart Olson stated he had reviewed the Village's proposed Short-Term Rental and Municipal Room Tax Ordinances and had additional questions. Mr. Olson explained his observations and stated a few of the Ordinance stipulations could be modified or removed in order to better fit the goals initially proposed by the Plan Commission. Upon discussion, it was agreed to discuss at greater length during that agenda topic.

Mr. Mooney next informed the Board he had received contact from a Village resident inquiring about needed repairs to the Village's public boat launch on Palisade Street. The resident asked whether the Village would dedicate funding to its repair/modifications to accommodate watercraft to resume use.

Village DPW Justin Schultz commented that due in part to the shallow bay, the Village would likely need to include dredging work, and possibly an accompanying pier. President Budde stated with the 2022 budget work is underway, Mr. Mooney could add the item as a future agenda topic with an eye to the 2023 budget cycle.

Item 3. Consent Agenda:

Gallus/Olson 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:

Naxera/Malmberg 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. Planning and Zoning Considerations:

Plan Commission Chairman Malmberg briefed the Board on the topics recommended for approval at the last Village Plan Commission Meeting. As the only issues pertained to the Short Term Rental and Municipal Room Tax topics already discussed, Mr. Malmberg provided context to the Plan Commission's approach for these Village Ordinances. Naxera/Malmberg moved to adopt Ordinance 1 (Short Term Rental Policy) with the omission of paragraphs H, J, N, Q and V to present to our Village Attorney, and barring any legal objection, adopt. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried**

Gallus/Naxera moved to adopt Ordinance 2 (Municipal Room Tax) as presented before the Board. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried**

Item 6. Report of the Administrator:

A.) Short-Term Rental Ordinance/Room Tax Ordinance Mr. Mooney discussed the Short-Term Rental/Room Tax Ordinance. He stated he would begin the process of updating and provide a copy to the Village Attorney for review as soon as possible.

B.) Tentative HWY 78 Rebuild Plan within Village Village staff recently contacted the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to determine the expected timeline for Highway 78 repairs within the Village limits. The Wisconsin DOT stated this repair work was tentatively scheduled for completion within the Village in 2026.

C.) Peterson Sanitation Update During the August meeting there were additional questions pertaining to the conversion from Tim's Trucking to Peterson Sanitation for Village garbage/recycling services. The updated Peterson Sanitation pricing for special pick-up items has been added to the Village website. Tim's Trucking will retain their office location within Sauk City, and residents can still make in-person drop offs as needed at this site.

D.) Village Scrap Metal Recycling The Village Scrap Metal trailer is gone as of today. The Village intends to contact Diehl & Neumaier Metal Recycling Company in Spring, to coordinate delivery of a scrap metal dumpster to be used for the 2022 season. The Village trailer was junked along with its contents.

E.) Village Senior Fitness Update The Board discussed participant numbers, COVID concerns and Village costs. Trustee Gallus moved to recommend the Senior Fitness program proceed with the same pay rate as the prior year. As there were no second, the motion died.

F.) Verizon Water Tower Antenna A status report was given on

developments between the Village and Verizon Wireless in their pursuit of a cellular antenna on the Village Water Tower.

G.) Village Ordinance Violations and Enforcement Mr. Mooney next turned the floor over to Trustee Olson to discuss the matter of Village Ordinance violations and enforcement Mr. Olson stated he will continue to research best approaches for the Village as it seeks to remedy Ordinance violations and citation practices, and will provide the Board with future recommendations.

H.) Letter from DNR Trustee Gallus was subsequently given the floor to discuss a recent Department of Natural Resources correspondence. Mr. Gallus stated the Village was copied on a recent letter to a resident regarding a pier compliance matter.

I.) Tentative Fall Budget Schedule Mr. Mooney's last topic was to share the need to begin work on the 2022 Village draft budget in the coming weeks. Mr. Mooney stated he will have a prepared draft budget to share with the Board at the October Board Meeting.

J.) Wage and Salary Adjustments Mr. Mooney turned the floor over to President Budde to discuss the topic of Village Employee Salary Adjustments. Mr. Budde stated a copy of the 2020 Resolution regarding employee salary adjustments was included in the Board packets for reference. Mr. Budde discussed individual Village employee salary proposals for 2022.

Item 7. Report of the DPW:

Village Public Works Director Justin Schultz informed the Board that Darwin Drive is currently scheduled for chip-sealing maintenance in the coming weeks. Scott's Construction will perform the work, and will be notifying him of the date work will begin.

Mr. Schultz's next topics involved recent repair work/updates around the Village. Mr. Schultz informed the Board a new fire hydrant has been ordered to replace

a recently damaged hydrant that needed replacement. Mr. Schultz also stated a failing transducer had recently been replaced at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Lastly, Mr. Schultz notified the Board that the Village Water Tower inspection is scheduled for October 5th, and prep-work for this process is already underway within the Public Works Dept.

Item 8. Report of the Village Assistant:

A.) Well 1 and Well 2 Projects Village Assistant Budde began her presentation by briefing the Board on the two ongoing well projects within the Village. First, Mrs. Budde stated the Village Engineers at Strand had identified three primary well sites within the Village for consideration. Mrs. Budde stated that in order for the Village to stay on target with the test well, the Village would need to assemble a team to engage in discussion with the private landowners. Upon discussion, Trustee Olson volunteered to assist the Village Administrator and Village President in approaching these landowners.

Mrs. Budde's next topic covered the scope of Strand Task Order number 3, which included updates and maintenance plans for Village Well Number 1. Upon review of the Task Order and items for scheduled updates, Olson/Gallus moved to approve Strand Task Order 3 as outlined. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried**

Mrs. Budde next briefed the Board on the Village's need to schedule a Radio Path Survey to ensure our second well site can send and receive an accurate uninterrupted radio signal to Village Hall for Well site computer monitoring purposes. Malmberg/Gallus moved to approve \$4,000.00 for LW Allen to complete Radio Path Survey for the Village. Upon Roll Call Vote/All Ayes. **Motion Carried**

B.) PSC Rates Determination Mrs. Budde's final topics covered the upcoming PSC Public Hearing within the Village on September 17th. Mrs. Budde stated this hearing would decide the final Water rate adjustment within the

Village. Mrs. Budde stated this virtual hearing will take place in Village Hall, and is open to the public. Mrs. Budde stated a determination on when these new rates would go into effect would be decided at the next Board meeting.

Item 9. Future Planning/Zoning Issues:

Mr. Mooney informed the Board the Village's Comprehensive Plan has been in effect since 2005. This plan, which describes the Village's vision for planning/zoning and development initiatives, needs to be updated every 10 years per the Wisconsin Department of Administration. Mr. Mooney proposed passing Resolution (2021-02-09) Recommending Extension of the Existing Adopted Village of Merrimac Comprehensive Plan. Updates to the Comprehensive Plan will be addressed by the Plan Commission during 2022. Olson/Gallus moved to approve Resolution Extending Existing Adopted Village of Merrimac Comprehensive Plan. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried**

Item 10. Adjourn:

At 7:05 pm Gallus/Olson moved that the meeting adjourn. **Motion Carried**

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Mooney

Brian Mooney,

Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer

Calendar Reminders

Next Board Meeting
OCTOBER 12, 2021
5:00 PM @ Village Hall

AA Meetings

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

Merrimac Community



Blood Drive

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

Sign Up Today!

The Village encourages all residents to sign up for Auto-Pay with e-Billing for monthly utilities.

See Village Website:

villageofmerrimac.org>
utilities and billing>
Direct Debit form & Email Bill
Sign-Up,
Or call Village Hall for more
information

HALLOWEEN



SATURDAY
OCTOBER 30TH
4:00 – 7:00 P.M.

Fall Leaf Clean-up Policy

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. Leaf remnants that are not picked up by the Village tractor bucket can be placed in clear plastic bags for future pick up. Village staff composts leaves and lawn clippings at our designated site. **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!



WATER TOWER INSPECTION

Tuesday October 5th

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.

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.

BRUSH PICK-UP DATES

Wed. October 6th

Wed. October 20th

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

Scrap metal recycling drop-off has ended for the 2021 season. Please check the Village Website for updates on Village recycling in 2022.