

VILLAGE VOICE

JANUARY 9, 2018

Volume 14, Issue 1

Minutes of the Village Board Meeting of Jan. 9, 2018

President Hahn called the Village Board meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Board members present upon roll call included Nick Hahn, George Naxera, Garry Bahe, Phil Budde and Jim Malmberg. Ron Senger, Village administrator/Clerk /Treasurer was also present.

President Hahn examined the affidavit of posting and verified that advance public notice of the meeting conformed to statutory requirements.

Public Input:

Calvin Boldebeck, Field Representative from Congressman Mark Pocan's office, was present to give an update of ongoing activities in Congress. Calvin shared that Mark Pocan had returned to Washington DC this week to resume his third term in Congress following his recent triple-bypass heart surgery. Calvin said the Congressman's focus and priorities in the new year included the following topics: expansion of rural broadband funding with expansion of rural internet access; appropriate ACA legislation to stabilize healthcare policy; medicare policy; and children's health insurance program funding. Board members then asked Calvin a series of questions and shared concerns related to the following topics: current partisanship in Congress;

the need for campaign finance reform; the potential of congressional term limits; and the long overdue re-investment in roads and bridge infrastructure across the state and the nation. The Board thanked Calvin for his recent visits to Merrimac and for taking with him and sharing with the Congressman first-hand, our concerns about the topics discussed.

Following review of the Village's outstanding bills and prepaid expenses, Naxera/Malmberg moved to approve payment of the bills as listed on the agenda. Upon roll call vote, **motion carried.**

Budde/Bahe moved to approve the monthly financial reports including the balance sheet and budget comparison by major fund accounts for December, 2017. Upon roll call vote, **motion carried.**

Budde/Naxera moved to approve the draft Minutes of the December 12, 2017 Village Board meeting. **Motion carried.**

Bahe/Hahn moved to approve a \$40.00 per month stipend to Derek Peetz toward his cell phone cost. Derek has been added to the Village's emergency recall system in the event of utility system problems. **Motion carried.**

Hahn/Malmberg moved to approve the purchase of a two-stage air compressor for use in the Village garage. Funds had been allocated for

the equipment within the 2018 budget. **Motion carried.**

Administrator's Report:

Ron provided Board members copies of the Minutes of the Sauk Prairie School Board meeting of 11/27/2017 and the Village Inspection Report for 1/4/2018. Following the December 12th truck accident that destroyed a Village streetlight pole and fixture near 436 N River Street, Ron spent the latter part of December in coordination with the driver's insurance company to initiate the casualty claim; he provided the police report, damage photos, and estimates/bids and invoices for parts and labor). He also coordinated with the streetlight vendor to determine the exact specifications of the replacement fixture, base and pole assembly required. Ron told the Board he had ordered the replacement items through Enterprise Lighting on January 9th, with the estimated delivery date for all items set for February 16, 2018. Village staff and our electrician are tentatively scheduled for installment during the first week of March with weather permitting.

Ron explained the Village's water utility had recently incurred a DNR-directed public education requirement in combination with some additional water sampling requirements levied as a result of a single lead action level exceedance (ALE) from one sampling site within the Village. Five water samples

Website: villageofmerrimac.org **Email:** Merrimac@merr.com

Village Hall: 608-493-2122 **Fax:** 608-493-9908

REGULAR OFFICE HOURS: Monday—Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

were taken on August 31, 2017, with only the one taken at the Merrimac Fire Station (from the kitchen faucet) producing a lab result beyond the allowable 15 parts per billion lead level.

This action level exceedance set in motion three required sets of additional water samples taken within the water distribution system and at the entry point (well head). Water quality parameter samples were collected and analyzed at CT Labs in late October and again by mid-November; in December an entry point sample was taken and analyzed for lead and copper. All these additional lab results were within the approved state and federal standards for lead/copper and other required water quality parameters. During the sampling period of November-December, Ron had communicated with the MFD Fire Chief, Chris Jensen, suggesting the fire station's old faucet fixture should be replaced, as it was the most likely source of the lead found in the one sample. With no lead found within all the distribution system samples, it's likely the water that had remained stagnant within the fire station's faucet for several months (June-August) had likely leached a small amount of lead from the fixture. The Fire Chief is aware of the need to replace the kitchen's old fixture with a no-lead compliant faucet and they plan to do this by January 31, 2018.

On January 4, 2018 Village water utility staff collected ten additional water samples from the distribution system; CT Labs analyzed these samples for lead and copper and all ten DNR-approved residential sites met the federal and state standards.

Ron reminded everyone the Village Caucus was set for 9 a.m. on January 13th. Trustee terms for Jim Malmberg and George Naxera will expire in April and both incumbents are seeking re-election at the April 3rd Spring Election.

Sewer & Water Operations:

Ron had nothing significant to report.

With no further matters brought before the Board, Bahe/Malmberg moved to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried** and the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald D. Senger, Administrator

Alternate-Side Parking

To aid the Village's staff in winter snow removal from our streets, the Village's alternate-side parking policy is now effect for the season.

On odd-numbered days, residents must park on the odd-numbered side of the street. On even-numbered days, residents shall park on the even-numbered side of the street. We thank you all for your cooperation throughout the winter season!

Snow Removal

Clearing snow from sidewalks and ensuring access to mailboxes is the property owner's responsibility pursuant to Village Ordinance 129-5. Sidewalks shall be cleared within 24 hours following the end of a snowfall event. If walks are not cleared within 48 hours, the Village will clear the walks and bill the homeowner for this service. Please contact the Village office for a list of local vendors if needed.

CALENDAR REMINDERS

Village Board Meeting
Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2018, 6 pm

SPRING PRIMARY ELECTION

FEBRUARY 20, 2018
7:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M.
VILLAGE HALL

Brush Pick-Up Date

FEBRUARY 14, 2018

Please place your yard waste at curbside in CLEAR plastic bags; sticks or branches must be in neat 4' x 4' x 8' piles (or smaller) and aligned linear to street with easy access for pick up by our tractor grapple bucket **without driving on grass or lawns.**

NOTE: Brush pick-up will be once per month until April, 2018. Dates for 2018 are posted on our website.

Tip of the Month

For both seasonal residents and occasional part-time residents, we recommend you turn off your home's interior water valve when you leave your home for several weeks, especially during the winter months. Interior water line valves are usually located in your basement (or ground floor, if there is no basement). Most homes have a quarter-turn valve in the water line ahead of the water meter. This simple precautionary action can mitigate potential widespread water damage if your furnace would happen to fail during severe cold periods, or if an accessory hose or line to your dishwasher, washing machine, or refrigerator fails. The old adage "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" holds true.