

# VILLAGE VOICE

October 2023

Volume 19, Issue 10

## Draft Minutes of the Special Village Board Meeting October 2, 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 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:** None

**Item 3. Joint Fire Department Amendment Agreement:** Gallus/Malmberg motioned to adopt Amendment No. 1 to the Fire Protection Agreement to reflect the current Wisconsin State Statutes regarding definitions of Joint fire departments and joint EMS's. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.**

**Item 4. Convene in closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes Section 19.85(1)(c) in order to discuss staff compensation:** Gallus/Budde motioned to enter closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes Section 19.85(1)(c) in order to discuss staff compensation. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.**

**Item 5. Reconvene in open session to take action on staff compensation:** After reconvening in open session, Budde/Gallus motioned to give DPW Shultz a raise of \$1.06 per hour, effective this pay period, to put him at a rate of pay equal to our Administrator. Then any raise for 2024 would also be applied to that salary. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

**Item 6. 2024 Draft Budget Discussion:** The Board discussed revising the preliminary 2024 Draft Budget with the express purpose of achieving a balanced budget without a 2024 sewer rate increase, or adding any new debt to the tax levy. A variety of solutions were explored including reallocating Administrator

salary to reduce the burden on the Sewer Fund, and transferring \$50k from General Fund Balance to the Sewer Fund to pay for needed repairs. Budde/Taylor motioned that for 2024, the Administrator's salary allocation be changed from 40% General, 30% Sewer, 30% Water, to 80% General, 10% Sewer, and 10% Water, to better reflect how she spends her time. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes.

**Motion Carried.**

**Item 7. Adjourn:** At 7:12pm, Budde/Gallus motioned to adjourn. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

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**Item 2 Public Input:** Numerous residents came to speak about **Item 5. Proposal to Ban Fireworks**, so the topic was moved up to Public Input. Lakeview Avenue neighborhood residents June Anderson, Corey Muth, Heather Thompson, and Nicole Nesbit spoke against banning fireworks and fireworks permits in the Village. They view the annual Lakeview fireworks display as a safe, enjoyable, family event. They argued that getting rid of fireworks permits won't solve the issue, as most of the fireworks seen and heard around the Fourth of July holiday, are being launched by individuals who don't have a permit. They feel the permit process should remain the same and the Village should take

steps to encourage more people to use it. Ron and Shelly Senger stated that they were asking the Board to impose stronger restrictions within the permit system, with improved enforcement and communication. They would like the Board to consider a ban on loud, explosive fireworks over 120 decibels, which can disturb wildlife, pets, and those suffering from PTSD. The Sengers' also raised concerns over potential risk of Village liability in the event of a fire or injury. The Board and Administrator agreed to review the permit process, work on educating the public on what types of fireworks are allowed and when a permit is required, and improve communication to residents about when approved fireworks displays are occurring.

**Item 3. Consent Agenda:** Malmberg/Budde 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/Taylor 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. Ron & Shelly Senger: Proposal to Ban Fireworks in the Village:** Item moved to Public Input.

**Item 6. Residents' Test Well No. 2 and Preliminary Approval of Engineering Design:** 6.a. Budde/Gallus motioned to express the Board's gratitude to Milt & Mary Risgaard and Phil Budde for their written commitments of donation totaling \$100,000 to the Village General Fund, to provide interim financing for Test Well No. 2 in 2023 and 2024, of which \$10,000 has already been received and an additional \$6,000 is anticipated to be received by the end of 2023. All Ayes. **Motioned Carried.** 6.b. Budde/Gallus motioned to preliminarily approve entering into an agreement with Strand Associates for the planning design, and construction observation of Test Well No. 2 in the approximate amount of \$26,000, of which \$16,000 is anticipated to be spent up through

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

obtaining contractor bids for Test Well construction. Upon Roll Call Vote, Budde, Gallus, Malmberg, Taylor vote Aye. Naxera Nay. **Motion Carried.** 6.c. Budde/Gallus motioned to authorize General Fund to provide interim financing at 5% interest to the Water Fund for Test Well No. 2, on an as-needed basis, up to donated amounts received. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried.** 6.d. Budde/Gallus motioned to authorize Administrator to open brokerage account to enable Village to accept donated gifts of stock. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried.** 6.e. Motion to authorize and direct Administrator to sell donated gifts of stock when received, unless otherwise directed by the donor or by the Village President. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

**Item 7. Village Tractor Lease Agreement:** Budde/Naxera motioned to signal the Board's intention to enter into a 5 year lease with McFarlanes' for a Massey Ferguson MF5711D tractor, thereby allowing staff to put up our existing tractor for auction. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried.** Gallus/Naxera motioned to authorize Administrator to sign the new tractor lease agreement upon review by Trustees' Budde, Gallus, and Taylor. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

**Item 8. Sell Current Village tractor with Wisconsin Surplus Auction, Reserve set at \$35,000:** Taylor/Malmberg motioned to authorize Administrator to list current Village tractor at Wisconsin Surplus Auction, with a reserve price set at \$35,000. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

**Item 9. Aquafix Purchase for WWTP:** Naxera/Taylor motioned to authorize purchase of approximately \$2,300 for Aquafix's Dynamic Duo, to enhance cold-weather nitrification at WWTP. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

**Item 10. Report of the Director of Public Works:** DWP Shultz reported that the hole in the sewer main on Main St., caused by TDS installation of fiber optic line, has been repaired. Gallus/Budde motioned to raise Town of Merrimac burn pit use fee to \$500. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.** DPW Shultz discovered that the issue with our Landia Mixer is not the motor, rather it's an electrical grounding issue. The cost to repair the mixer should be around \$4,000 instead of the \$10,000 previously expected. The new Village Hall Generator has arrived and a concrete pad and housing structure will be built soon. CTW will be back to fix the vibrations in the Well as soon as average water consumption goes down.

**Item 11. Report of the Administrator:** 11.a. Kleven Property Assessment, LLC Assessment Proposal; Administrator Klecker shared the Kleven Property Assessment proposal with the Board. A second proposal from Municipal Group came in on 10/9, which was less than the Kleven proposal. Naxera/Budde motioned to authorize Administrator to sign 3 year contract with Municipal Group to perform Village assessment duties, in the amount of \$5,000 per year, and perform 2026 revaluation in the amount of \$12,000. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried.** 11.b. Resolution 2023-10-01 Resolution for Exceeding the State Imposed Levy Limit for Post-2005 General Obligation Debt Service; Naxera/Malmberg motioned to adopt Resolution 2023-10-01 Resolution for Exceeding the State Imposed Levy Limit for Post-2005 General Obligation Debt Service. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.** 11.c. 2024 General and Parks Budget Discussion and Pre-Approval for Posting; Naxera/Malmberg motioned to authorize use of up to approximately \$50,000 of General Fund Revenues in 2024 for proposed repair and purchases of the sewer utility. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried.** Taylor/Budde motioned to apply up to \$50,000 of General Fund Balance for the 2024 budget. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried.** Naxera/Gallus motioned to preliminarily approve General and Parks Fund budget for posting, in advance of November 14 budget hearing. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

**Item 12. Adjourn:** At 7:26pm, Budde/Gallus motioned to adjourn. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

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**Item 2. Public Input:** None

**Item 3. Board Decision on New Tractor Financing:** Gallus/Budde made the following motions: If Wisconsin Surplus Online Auction

of Village's tractor exceeds the \$35,000 reserve, to purchase 2023 Massey Ferguson Tractor from McFarlanes' for the sale price of \$101,200, after auction proceeds are received, utilizing all auction proceeds, plus utilizing General Fund Balance in 2023 for the remaining amount; If Wisconsin Surplus Auction of Village's tractor does not meet the \$35,000 reserve, to use Village's existing tractor for a trade-in allowance of \$35,000 towards purchase of 2023 Massey Ferguson Tractor from McFarlanes, and utilizing General Fund Balance in 2023 for the remaining \$66,200; To pay for the tractor from Village's General Fund checking account at the Bank of Prairie du Sac. Administrator shall replenish checking account fund from LGIP if necessary to keep adequate balance; To consider at a future date the option of refinancing the Tractor purchase through a bank loan; To authorize Administrator to adjust 2024 General and Parks Fund Budgets, and Public Notice thereof, as necessary to reflect tractor financing decisions made at this meeting. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motions Carried.**

**Item 4. Adjourn:** At 5:18, Taylor/Budde motioned to adjourn. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Jennie Klecker  
Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer

2024 General & Parks Budget Hearing  
With Regular Village Board Meeting  
Immediately Following  
**November 14, 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**  
**November 8 & 22**  
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!



**Memorial & Ball Park  
bathrooms are  
closed for the season**

## Senior Fitness Program

Join anytime!

Now 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

## Ending November 15!!!

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

**\*\*\* METAL ONLY!! \*\*\***



Recycling Pickup Dates:  
**November 13 & 27**

## **Fall/Winter Street Parking Regulations Begin November 15, 2023**



Vehicles cannot be left between **2AM to 8AM** on the even numbered side of the street on the even numbered calendar days, and on the odd numbered side of the street on the odd numbered calendar days.

## Merrimac Clergy Crisis Fund

is in need of donations at this time. These funds are used to help Village of Merrimac residents experiencing a financial crisis. If you are able to donate, please mail a check to:  
**Merrimac Clergy Crisis Fund  
PO Box 254  
Merrimac, WI 53561**

*Thank you for your generosity!*

**Keep it simple with Auto-Pay for  
Utility Payments. Fill out the  
form on the other side of this  
page and return to Village Hall.**

*Village Hall will be closed  
November 23 & 24*



**Environmental Tip of the Month  
Brought to you by:**



## Helpful Heating Hints

Cold weather is right around the corner. Follow these helpful hints to maximize efficiency and save \$ on your energy bill!

**Inspect your furnace filter.** If it's dirty, replace it. Dust and dirt make your furnace work harder and less efficiently. Replace your filter once a month. You can buy filters in bulk online and set a reminder on your phone to replace them.

**Keep all heat registers and returns open if you have a forced-air furnace.** Your furnace is designed to heat your entire home, even spaces you don't use often. Your furnace also moves a specific amount of air, so closing off registers decreases its efficiency. Plus, cold air from unheated rooms can escape, leading to drafts and cold spots.

**Order a learning thermostat online and install it.** Lowering your home's temperature by 10 degrees for eight hours while you sleep could reduce your heating bills by 10%. You can also control your home's temperature from your smartphone.

**Vacuum your registers and vents.** Move any furniture or drapes that may be covering them so that the air flows freely.

**\*\*\*If you would like to sign-up for AutoPay, simply fill out this form and return it with your Utility Bill, or drop it off at Village Hall.**



## **Village of Merrimac Utilities Automatic Payment Authorization**

### Authorization for *setup* of Automatic Payment

I hereby authorize the Village of Merrimac to deduct my utility payments from my deposit account currently held at:

Name of Financial Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, and Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Account [checking or savings]: \_\_\_\_\_

Account #: \_\_\_\_\_ Routing [ABA]: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\* ATTACH A VOIDED CHECK**

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I understand that if there are insufficient funds in the account to meet the required utility payment, the payment may not be paid and we may impose a \$25.00 fee. I further understand that the Village of Merrimac may terminate this payment authorization at any time, with or without cause. This authorization will remain in effect until written notice of termination is given to the Village of Merrimac.

Customer Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Service Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Utility Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Customer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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The Village of Merrimac Water & Sewer Department is offering you the opportunity to have your utility bill automatically withdrawn from your bank account. The due date for payments will be the 24<sup>th</sup> of each month. You will be sent a statement through the mail or email so you know how much your bill will be. It will state on the statement, "Direct Pay."

Please return the above authorization to the Village Office. The ACH will be in effect for your next billing payment

**If you prefer not to use this ACH withdrawal and continue paying your bills as you do now, do not submit this form.**