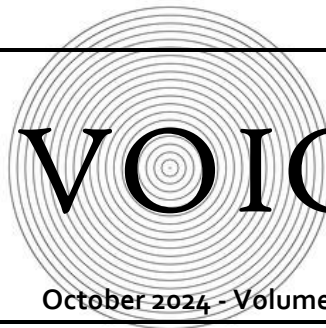


# The VILLAGE VOICE

"The Official Publication of the Village Board"  
FREE to Every Family in Merrimac

October 2024 - Volume 50, Issue 06



## Draft minutes of the Village Board Meeting October 08, 2024

**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, and Stan Senger were present, with Trustee Taylor joining via speaker phone. Also in attendance were DPW Justin Schultz, 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:** Cheryl Anderson presented her friend and current candidate for Wisconsin's newly redistricted 40th assembly district, Karen DeSanto. Ms. DeSanto introduced herself to the Board and those in attendance. She's running to replace our areas previous representative, Dave Considine, who is retiring. Bob Garrison suggested the Board ensure that strong internal control measures are in place if the Village plans on foregoing an annual audit this year. Joe Krasovec, current owner of the old Varsity Club, spoke to the Board about unexpected obstacles he's facing in regard to planned renovations. Due to the high elevation of the building, the biggest challenge is the high cost of redesigning an entrance that meets current ADA requirements. Mr. Krasovec proposed converting the building into a private residence and asked the Board if they would be open to that idea. President Gallus responded that any zoning changes would first need to be reviewed by the Plan Commission. The Trustees had mixed views, with some in favor and some against the idea. Mr. Krasovec will present

a more detailed proposal to the Plan Commission at a future meeting.

**Item 3. Review Consent Agenda:** The following edits were made to the September meeting minutes; Item 8. from the 9/10 meeting was amended to read \$36,700 instead of \$37,600, Item 3. from the 9/25 meeting was amended to read, "The Feasibility Study applied a 35% contingency figure, instead of the typical 20% contingency, so the original Alternative B would have cost about \$45K less than presented at the Public Hearing," instead of "The Feasibility Study estimated a 35% contingency figure, rather than 20%, so the project will cost about \$45K less than originally thought, and Item 6. from the 9/25 meeting was amended to remove the words, "last year." Gallus/Senger motioned to accept the amendments and approve the consent agenda. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

**Item 4. Approval of Village Bills:** Budde/Gallus motioned to approve payment of outstanding monthly bills as listed on items 4.i.-4.iv. of the Agenda, except for the SJE invoice in the amount of \$1,486. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

**Item 5. Report of the Director of Public Works:** 5.a. WWTP Splitter Box; To improve plant efficiency and help relieve extra wear on pumps due to high usage after heavy rainfall, Budde/Gallus motioned to approve expenditure of up to \$2,000 to replace weir plates. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.** DPW Schultz also informed the Board that Robinson Brothers will be performing work on the recirculating sand filter next week and the forestry mower will be rented October 15-17.

**Item 6. Discuss Village Options to Reduce Speeding on Hwy. 78:** Trustee Senger has been approached by several residents inquiring what the Village can do about

excessive speeding. Of particular concern are semi-truck drivers not slowing down and engine braking. Last year, Trustee Senger contacted Alsum Produce to urge their drivers to slow down, which did seem to help, but there are still far too many others speeding. Administrator Klecker contacted WISDOT over a year and a half ago to ask them to conduct a speed study, and lower the speed limit if possible, but has struggled getting them to respond to repeated inquires as to the status of their findings. The Board discussed the possibility of re-routing semi-truck traffic around the Village. They also discussed the effectiveness of Radar Speed Limit signs that alert drivers to "slow down" when speeding. All agreed that the Village needs to take action on the matter. Administrator Klecker will bring Radar Speed Sign quotes to the next meeting.

**Item 7. Firewall Update:** Administrator Klecker informed the Board that (2) computer firewall licenses are up for renewal. There is a promotion going on for a three year license renewal with updated firewall hardware for \$1,193 each. Budde/Gallus motioned to authorize Administrator Klecker spend up to approximately \$3,000 to update the firewall. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

**Item 8. School Street Project:** 8.a. Alternative B-Prime; Trustee Budde reviewed Strand Associates Draft School Street Feasibility Study Alternative B-Prime with the Board. 8.b. LRIP Grant; The Board discussed delaying the School Street project to 2026 in order to apply for a discretionary LRIP grant, which could cover 50% of eligible costs. 8.c. Design Agreement; The Board discussed the advantages of performing the design now, rather than waiting until after we find out if the Village is awarded the grant. Performing and paying for the design

upfront could put us in better standing to be selected to receive the grant, and also in better position to begin the project sooner, should we not receive the grant. 8.d. Short-Term Design Loan; Should the Board decide to go ahead with the Project Design now, the Village would take out a short-term loan for Strand's design fee of \$41,000. Budde/Senger motioned to select Alternative B-Prime for the School Street Project. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.** Budde/Malmberg motioned to apply for the LRIP grant in November 2025, thereby delaying project construction to 2026 or 2027. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.** Budde/Senger motioned to proceed with design of Alternative B-Prime to improve our chances to receive an LRIP grant. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.** Budde/Senger motioned to authorize Administrator Klecker to sign Strand's design agreement for approximately \$41,000, plus an "if-authorized" amount of \$9,900 for potentially DOT-required modeling and analysis. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.** Budde/Taylor motioned to authorize President Gallus, Administrator Klecker, and Trustee Budde to execute short-term loan documents with the Bank of Prairie du Sac for the design of School Street, including the required Resolution. The loan amount shall not exceed \$41,000, and the interest rate shall not exceed 5.25%. The loan proceeds shall be received in November 2024. The principal and interest payment shall be rolled onto the upcoming 2024 tax levy, and the single payment would occur on January 15, 2025. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.**

**Item 9. 2025 Budget:** Gallus/Budde motioned to forego the annual financial audit and hire Village Accountant, Robin Meier to file our Form C and PSC Report. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.** The Board reviewed the proposed budget and decided to add \$4,500 for the purchase of a Radar Speed Limit sign.

**Item 10. Adjourn:** At 6:37pm, Gallus/Senger motioned to adjourn. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

### Draft minutes of the Plan Commission Meeting October 23, 2024

**Item 1. Call to Order:** The Village of Merrimac Plan Commission Meeting was called to order in Village Hall by Chairperson Malmberg at 5:30pm. Commission Members Collin Bourgeois, Bob Garrison, Ann Hoffman, and Bob Pfaff were present. Also in attendance were Administrator Klecker and members of the public as listed on the sign-in sheet. Chairperson Malmberg 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. Comprehensive Plan Update:** 3.a. Review Current Zoning Map and Discuss Possible Changes; The Commission discussed the current zoning map and examined ways that rezoning could encourage business and residential growth. The current map was designed by MSA in 2015 as part of the last Comprehensive Plan update. There are many parcels currently zoned for business on Main Street and other areas that have had single family residential homes on them for decades. Most of them are not realistically set up for business development. They also discussed the lack of R-2 Two-Family Residential and R-3 Multi-Family Residential lots. To work towards improving our zoning and better position the Village for future growth, several ideas were explored including reaching out to other similar communities, and working with a Village planning consultant. 3.b. Develop/Review Action Plan Items; Current Action Plan items were reviewed and new items were added. The group spent time identifying key stakeholders who will be responsible for carrying out each action item. 3.c. Finalize Draft Plan Document; Commission Member Bourgeois will continue working on final touches, with a goal of completing by the end of the year.

**Item 4. Adjourn:** At 6:57pm, Hoffman/Bourgeois motioned to adjourn. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jennie Klecker

*Jennie Klecker*

Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer

### 2024 General & Parks Budget Hearing

With Regular Village Board Meeting  
Immediately Following  
**November 12, 2024**  
5:30 PM @ Village Hall

### AA Meetings

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



Recycling Pickup Dates:  
**November 11 & 25**

Brush Pick-up Date  
**November 6 & 20**  
*4 feet wide by 4 feet high, up to 8 feet long with brush stacked parallel to and near the road.*

Scrap metal recycling has ended for the 2024 season. It will resume in April 2025

### Sign Up Today!

Keep it simple with Auto-Pay & E-Billing for monthly utilities.



Visit the Village website at [merrimacwi.gov](http://merrimacwi.gov) and click on the Utilities icon for sign-up page

**Village Hall will be closed**  
**November 28 & 29**



## Senior Fitness Program

Going on now and runs through May 2, 2025. Join us any time!

- 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



### **TOWN OF MERRIMAC DEPUTY CLERK - TREASURER POSITION**

The Town of Merrimac, population 1,296, is seeking to fill the part-time position of Deputy Clerk - Treasurer. The Deputy Clerk reports to the Town Administrator to perform administrative duties as required by State Statutes, basic accounting, payroll, assisting with elections, handling phone calls and correspondence, clerical work, and other duties as assigned by the Administrator. The qualifications for this position include at minimum a high school diploma or equivalent, vocational/technical training and two to three years of related work experience preferred. Starting wage is \$19.50, depending on experience, with 15-25 hours a week. We offer an excellent and competitive benefits package including participation in the Wisconsin Retirement System, health, dental, deferred compensation, and life insurance, in addition to paid vacation. For more information, see <https://townofmerrimac.net/town-officials/>.

## Fall Leaf Clean-up Policy

Placing leaves in plastic bags for pickup is unnecessary and strongly discouraged. Residents should either pile them near the curbside on the Village's designated brush pick up days, or compost their leaves on their own property. **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!



### **Fall/Winter Street Parking Regulations Begin November 15, 2024**



**Between 2AM through 8AM** vehicles cannot be left 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.

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

## **Livin' the Dream**

Ever since the advent of the Fire Engine, little kids have dreamed of becoming Firefighters... especially after 9/11 when **Firefighter** became synonymous with **Hero**. Alas, dreams move on. You've snagged that great career in construction or demolition or sales or IT or accounting or whatever. But now, *your* little kids dream of being Firefighters, and your old dream is back. That dream can happen at...

## **Merrimac Fire & Rescue**

Bill Gmeinder



We are an all-volunteer department and most of us work full time jobs.



We've got high quality vehicles, equipment, and gear, purchased in part with the generous donations of the appreciative community we serve.

**JOIN OUR TEAM**  
**You need us.**  
**We need you.**



**Lights Out for Migrating Birds**

Bird migration begins in early September and continues through November. They go to warmer southern climates. Most bird migrations take place at night. It is a tough journey, and many birds do not survive. This mass movement of birds must contend with a dramatically increasing but still largely unrecognized threat: light pollution. More than an estimated one billion birds are killed annually from direct collisions with illuminated buildings, towers, and other structures across the country.

**Light pollution harms birds, but we can help by:**

- ♦Turning off spot lights and/or decorative lighting.
- ♦Turning off interior lights when leaving a room or drawing shades.
- ♦Using down-shielded lighting outdoors.
- ♦Adding timers and/or motion sensors to outdoor lighting where possible.



**GENERAL ELECTION**

**NOVEMBER 5, 2024**

**Polls Open From**

**7:00am to 8:00pm**

**Merrimac Village Hall**

**100 Cook Street**

**Questions? Please call the Village Office @ 493-2122**

**Coming Soon!**



Blush Bakery is proud to present our 1st annual fundraiser to support local families in need this holiday season!

There will be donation bins for food, warm clothing, and unwrapped toys throughout the area starting November 1st.

**For donation opportunities or to volunteer, please contact (608) 448-1600.**

*Thank you to all in advance!*

Also...All families that would like to sign up, there are no age or income requirements and your personal information will be completely confidential. We just want everyone to have a Very Merry Christmas!! The deadline for all participants will be 11/25/2024.

**\*\*\*EVENT DATES\*\*\***

**November 30th:** Enjoy raffles, a silent auction, and much, much more at Ferry-Xing!

**December 16th:** Gift Wrapping and Food Box Assembly at Village Hall.

**December 17:** Gift and Food Box Pickup @ Ferry X-ing Parking Lot

**Santa Claus is Coming to...  
The Fire Station!!!**



Santa has decided to once again meet kids at the fire station in person!

**On December 8th,** Santa will be visiting the Merrimac fire Station. Kids can arrive at 3:00pm with Santa arriving at 3:15pm on the fire truck. He will read a book to kids at 3:30 pm. The kids will be able to tell Santa what they want for Christmas. He will be leaving at 5 pm to go judge those that have entered the holiday light decorating contest.

Anyone that would like to enter the holiday light decoration contest needs to send their name and address to **moey6078@yahoo.com.**

**Sewer Customer Charges**

The monthly sewer customer charges will increase to \$55 per month for 5/8" meters, to \$134 per month for 1" meters, and to \$245 per month for 1.5" meters, effective November 1, 2024.



Daylight Saving Time Ends at 2:00a.m. on Sunday, November 3. Don't Forget to Set Your Clocks Back One Hour!