

VILLAGE VOICE

November 2023

Volume 19, Issue 11

Draft Minutes of the General & Parks Fund Budget Hearing November 14, 2023

Item 1. Call to Order: The Village of Merrimac General & Parks Fund Budget Hearing 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, Deputy Clerk Amy Pieplow-Stevens, 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. Consider public comment on proposed General and Parks Fund 2023 Budget Amendment and 2024 Budget: Cheryl Anderson asked what the Merrimac Festival revenue was for 2023. Trustee Budde explained that the actual Festival proceeds are not part of the 2024 budget and that information is available at the Village Office.

Item 3. Consider approval of proposed General and Parks Fund 2023 Budget Amendment: Budde/Malmberg motioned to approve General and Parks Fund 2023 Budget Amendment. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.**

Item 4. Consider approval of proposed General and Parks Fund 2024 Budget: Budde/Taylor motioned to approve General and Parks Fund 2024 Budget. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes, **Motion Carried.**

Item 5. Adjourn: At 5:35PM, Taylor/Naxera motioned to adjourn. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Draft Minutes of the Village Board Meeting November 14, 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 5:35PM. Village Trustees Margaret Budde, Jim Malmberg, George Naxera, and Nate Taylor were present. Also in attendance were Administrator Jennie Klecker, Deputy Clerk Amy Pieplow-Stevens, 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. Test Well No. 2 Discussion with Strand Engineer Steve Kluesner - Virtual:

Trustee Budde explained two options that the Village has regarding the Well No. 2 Test Well. Option #1 would follow the same process as the 2021 test well by having Strand Associates oversee the entire project. This would include evaluating potential well sites, engineering plans, and conducting the bidding process. Option #2 is a "no bid" process in which the Village would decide to have CTW construct the test well, with some assistance by Strand. Because both Strand and CTW would be providing professional services, competitive bidding isn't required. Strand engineer, Steve Kluesner provided further information about the services they could provide for this project and answered board member questions.

Item 3. Public Input: Cheryl Anderson asked about the Special Meeting planned for November 15 and wondered why the Village Board was taking up the matter first, given that the subject involves a condominium plat concept map presentation. President Gallus explained

that the purpose of the Special Village Board meeting is to decide if the Village will allow a portion of Palisade Street to be vacated to accommodate the proposed development, which is a Village Board decision. Mary Schultz spoke to the Board to request that the Village stop pushing excess snow into the empty lot next to her property at the end of the cul-de-sac on Lakeview Avenue. It causes damage to her front yard and prevents parking. President Gallus explained that the Village is aware of the snow removal issue on Lakeview and that Public Works is looking for a reasonable solution, however, cul-de-sacs pose a unique challenge when it comes to plowing. Mrs. Schultz also raised concern over a blind spot caused by parking on the curve near the top of Lakeview Ave. She asked the Board to consider painting the curb yellow and posting no parking signs to avoid a future accident. The Board will review her request.

Item 4. Review Consent Agenda:

Administrator Klecker called attention to a typo in the October meeting minutes. The date of the special meeting should read "October 25" with a starting time of 5:00PM. Budde/Naxera motioned to approve items 4.a., 4.b., 4.c., 4.d. of the Consent Agenda as posted. All Ayes.

Motion Carried.

Item 5. 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 6. Appointment of Fire Commission Member:

Malmberg/Budde motioned to appoint, as the Village's second voting member of the Merrimac Fire Commission: Tom Gallus for the months of June-November and Phil Budde for the months

Website: merrimacwi.gov

Email: merrimac@merrimacwi.gov **Village Hall:** 608-493-2122
REGULAR OFFICE HOURS: Monday—Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

of December-May. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 7. Tractor Auction Results: Administrator Klecker informed the board that the old Village Tractor sold for \$43,500 at Wisconsin Surplus Auction. The new tractor has been delivered and a partial payment made of \$66,200, with the remaining \$35,000 to be paid after receiving auction proceeds.

Item 8. Strand task Order 23-02 for Test Well No. 2: After further discussion, the Board agreed not to sign Strand Task Order 23-02 and instead Naxera/Taylor motioned to approve pursuing the "No Bid" option with CTW and Strand Associates for Test Well No. 2. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 9. Resolution 2023-11-03 for the Establishment and Maintenance of Training Accounts: In order to accept donated gifts of stock, the Village needs to open a brokerage account with Park Avenue Investments. As part of the application process, The Village must pass a resolution granting President Gallus and Administrator Klecker the right to manage the account. Budde/Gallus motioned to approve Resolution 2023-11-03 for the Establishment and Maintenance of Trading Accounts. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 10. Resolution 2023-11-04 for the Policy Regarding Disposition of Donated Stocks: Budde/Gallus motioned to approve Resolution 2023-11-04 for the Policy Regarding Disposition of Donated Stock. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 11. 2024-2029 WWTP Permit Update: Trustee Budde reported that the DNR has indicated that they will likely approve the 2024-2029 WWTP Permit without any major plant improvements required and will continue to give us a NT limit of 15.3 mg/L, based on our ongoing efforts to improve the quality of our effluent.

Item 12. Report of the Director of Public Works: In DPW Shultz absence, Administrator Klecker gave the Report of the Director of Public Works. 12.a. WWTP Primary Tank Influent Valve; Budde/Malmberg motioned to authorize replacement of the east train influent valve at the WWTP, for approximately \$9,000. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried.** 12.b. Crown Court Flushing Hydrant; S&L will be out next week to install the flushing hydrant on Crown Court

and replace the influent valve. 12.c. Village Hall Generator Update; The new generator has arrived and the concrete pad has been installed at Village Hall. The generator should be up and running as soon as the electrician installs it and the gas line is plumbed.

Item 13. Report of the Administrator: 13.a. Gallus/Naxera motioned to adopt Resolution 2023-11-01 Regarding the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT). All Ayes. **Motion Carried.** 13.b. Budde/Taylor motioned to adopt Resolution 2023-11-02 for Exceeding the State Imposed Levy for Post-2005 General Obligation Debt Service. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.** 13.c. Budde/Naxera motioned to adopt Resolution 2023-11-05 For Exceeding the State Imposed Levy for Merrimac Fire & Rescue Cost Increase. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 14. Adjourn: At 6:43pm, Gallus/Taylor motioned to adjourn. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Draft Minutes of the Special Village Board Meeting November 15, 2023

Item 1. Call to Order: The Village of Merrimac Special 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, Deputy Clerk Amy Pieplow-Stevens, Bart and Char Olson, Scott Hewitt of Grothman Associates, Lawrence Bechler of Murphy Desmond Lawyers, 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: Due to the large number of residents wishing to speak, President Gallus postponed Public Input until after Mr. Olson gave his presentation.

Item 3. Bart Olson Presentation of Condominium Plat Concept Map and Proposed Resolution Discontinuing a Portion of the Palisade Street ROW and the Public Lake Access to Lake Wisconsin: Mr. Hewitt presented the Olson's 10 unit Condominium Plat Concept Map and

explained that the desired design layout would require the Village to vacate a portion of Palisade Street, including the public access to Lake Wisconsin. Numerous residents spoke to the importance and value to the community of the Palisade Street Boat Landing. Many hoped that some type of compromise in the form of relocating the public access could be reached between the Village and Mr. Olson. Collectively, the Trustees felt that the Village shouldn't give up the public access without receiving some type of compensation or fair trade. No motion to vacate was made.

Item 4. Adjourn: At 6:57, Naxera/Malmberg motioned to adjourn. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.** Respectfully Submitted,

Jennie Klecker

Jennie Klecker
Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer

Next Village Board Meeting
December 12, 2023
5:30 PM @ Village Hall

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

Senior Fitness Program
Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays,
9:30 – 10:00am
Merrimac Village Hall
Join us anytime! Only \$10

Brush Pick-up Date
December 13th
4 feet wide by 4 feet high, up to 8 feet long with brush stacked parallel to and near the road.


Recycling Pickup Dates:
December 11 & 26 *Tuesday*

Scrap metal recycling has ended for the season 2022. It will resume in April 2023

Holiday Office Hours



Village Hall will be closed
**December 22 – 25 &
December 29 – January 1**
Happy Holidays!

Fall/Winter Street Parking

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.



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.**



2024 Election Workers Needed!

Join the Village of Merrimac election team! We're looking for help with elections all throughout next year:

Spring Primary: February 20, 2024

Spring Election: April 2, 2024

Partisan Primary: August 13, 2024

General (Presidential): November 5, 2023

Call Village Hall to learn more information about this fun and rewarding work.



Happy "Eco-Friendly" Holidays!

Follow these helpful hints to celebrate the holiday season a little greener this year!

1. Switch to LED holiday lights: Switching to LED lights can save you around \$50 on your holiday season energy bills because they use 90% less energy. And don't forget to use a timer!

2. Consider a real tree: Why? Real Christmas trees are more environmentally friendly than fake ones, which are made from plastic that will take hundreds of years to break down. After the holidays, recycle your tree by placing it at the curb for pick up, or leave it outside to provide shelter for the birds.

3. Thrifting over buying new: Thrift stores, vintage boutiques, and consignment shops make great places to purchase gifts. Get a group of friends together for a used gift swap! Who knows? - You might just end up with something that was on your list.

4. Recycle Gift Wrap: Did you know every year 2.3 million pounds of wrapping paper ends up in landfills? Be sure to use recyclable paper or try using newspaper, paper bags, or a reusable item such as a tote bag.

Ahem...speaking of totes, why not support a wonderful cause and stop by Village Hall to purchase a \$3 "Green Merrimac" tote bag!

Happy Holidays!

Celebrate WINTER

COMMUNITY FRIENDS* FAMILY*
FUN GAMES*

Community Potluck

Merrimac Community School

Friday, January 19

6:30pm to 8:30pm

Bring a dish to pass and your favorite board game!
(no alcohol is allowed)

**Sponsored by the
Merrimac Snowbusters**

Bring a little cash!

50/50 cash raffle: with proceeds going to Merrimac Home & School Club and more!

Questions? Contact Claire Walmer *

Call/Text: (608)576-2223

Santa Claus is Coming to Town ...On a Fire Truck!



On **Sunday, December 10th**, Santa will once again be judging decorated houses within the Merrimac Fire District as he waves to the kids from the fire truck. So get those Christmas lights & decorations dusted off and ready to light up. Prizes awarded for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place for best decorated houses. You can sign up for the house decorating contest, or a visit from Santa by emailing your name, address, and phone number to: **moey6078@yahoo.com**

Check out the Merrimac Fire & Rescue Facebook page for details: <https://www.facebook.com/Merrimacwifireandrescue>



WE WANT YOU!

TO RUN FOR TRUSTEE

Interested Village residents wishing to run for public office for the Village of Merrimac should plan to attend the Village Caucus, to be held sometime between Jan 2 and Jan 21, 2024 (Date to be determined at the December 12th Village Board meeting). The Caucus process is used to secure nominations of candidates for Trustee's posts that will expire in April 2024. Immediately following the Caucus, Declaration of Candidacy forms and Campaign Registration Statements must be submitted to the Sauk County Clerk for candidates to appear on the official ballot at the April 2nd, 2024 Spring Election. Please contact Village Administrator, Jennie Klecker if you have any questions.