

# VILLAGE VOICE

November 2021

Volume 17, Issue 11

## Minutes of the Village Budget Hearing November 9, 2021

The Village Budget Hearing was called to order in Village Hall by President Phil Budde at 5:00 pm. Board members Jim Malmberg, Andrew Gallus, George Naxera, and Kirk Olson were present. Administrator Brian Mooney and Village Assistant Margaret Budde were present. Members of the public in attendance were Cheryl Anderson and Bart Olson.

### Item 1. Call to Order:

President Budde examined the Budget Hearing affidavit of posting and verified that advance public notice of the meeting conformed to statutory requirements

### Item 2. Public Input:

Mrs. Anderson inquired whether the Parks Budget showed any reserve money from prior year donations. President Budde stated those funds had been used towards the swing set at Voll Park. Mrs. Anderson next mentioned that Administrator Mooney previously stated he would like to add Village of Merrimac signs when you enter the Village limits. Mrs. Anderson stated she thought that would be a nice addition to the Village, and asked if those were budgeted items this year. Mr. Mooney stated the Village signs were not currently added to the 2022 Budget, but he was hopeful they could be funded in the future using room tax revenues.

Mrs. Anderson's final comment was on the observation the Parks Budget was funded with a much higher use of tax revenues in 2022 than the prior year. Mr. Mooney stated the loss of revenues from the Village Community Festival the last two years resulted in those expected revenues to be excluded from the 2022 budget.

### Item 3. Review of Proposed 2022 General Fund and Parks Budget:

Mr. Mooney stated one of the primary goals with this budget was to begin appropriately allocating charges to the various Village funds, instead of solely the Village General Fund, in order to begin receiving appropriate State General Transportation Aid matches. Mr. Mooney mentioned the budget would not only add a few new accounts within the General Fund but also allow for consolidation of many similar duplicative accounts for better oversight and management. Both the General Fund and Parks budgets were balanced as presented.

Item 4. Adjourn: At 5:12 pm Naxera/Olson moved that the Budget Hearing adjourn. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried**

## Minutes of the Village Board Meeting November 9, 2021

The Village Board meeting was called to order in Village Hall by Village President Phil Budde at 5:13 p.m.

### Item 1. Call to Order:

President Budde 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. Consent Agenda:

Olson/Malmberg 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:

Gallus/Naxera moved to approve payment of outstanding monthly bills as listed on items 4i.-4iv. of the Agenda.

Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried**

### Item 5. Plan Commission Meeting Approvals:

Village President Budde turned the floor over to Trustee Malmberg to discuss the two Plan Commission topics that recently received recommendations for approval.

A.) Verizon Tower Antenna As it was determined collocation of antenna equipment for both US Cellular and Verizon could not both fit atop the Water Tower, Verizon proposed building their own antenna tower on the Village parcel. President Budde stated he had concerns with the location of this tower being next to the potential new Village well site and stated the terms of the Verizon contract still needed to be agreed to. Mr. Budde recommended tabling approval of the tower antenna pending Trustees Olson and Gallus holding a conference call with Administrator Mooney and Verizon to work out contractual details.

B.) Wiegmann Accessory Building Chairman Malmberg presented the background information on the second Plan Commission topic. Upon discussion and agreements on the proposed structure size, Village President Budde recommended the Board waive half of the newly enacted site grade plan requirement of this accessory structure and instead require the owner to connect the roof drain leaders from the accessory building to the home downspout leader, and direct all water discharge to near the Lake shore and away from the next-door lot. The final site grade plan inspection would confirm compliance of the leader connection. Olson/Malmberg moved to approve item 2. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried**

Upon completion of Agenda Item 5, President Budde motioned to move the report of the Village Assistant up from Item 8 on the evening's agenda. With no issues raised, Mrs. Budde had the floor.

**Item 8. Report of the Village Assistant:**

A.) DRAFT Water and Sewer Budgets Mr. Budde stated both proposed Utility budgets were balanced, and the numbers reflected in the 2022 proposed budget for both took into account the newly- implemented rate increases.

B.) Well Project Funding Updates The Board was notified that the Village should still qualify for grant funding as part of the Clean Water Fund, but it will likely stand a better chance at a higher grant funding amount filing an application in 2022 instead of 2023.

C., D.) Village Resolutions Resolutions were presented to the Board related to reimbursement of Village funds currently used to cover Well project costs, as well as clarifying property ownership terms for correct billing of Village utility charges. Naxera/Gallus moved to approve Resolutions 2021-01-11 Declaring official intent to reimburse expenditures from proceeds of borrowing, and Resolution 2021-02-11 Declaring official intent to reimburse expenditures from proceeds of borrowing. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried**

Gallus/Malmberg moved to approve Resolution 2021-03-11 Regarding Utility Billings. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried**

E.) Proposed Mailing regarding Water Rate Increase The Board offered a few suggestions and recommendations regarding the two provided Village items; a letter and the attached FAQ's. Trustee Malmberg suggested a one page thumbnail highlights sheet be included on the Frequently Asked Questions document. Trustee Gallus stated concern over the length of the document and suggested a FAQ glossary. Decision made to add a one-page cover sheet to the FAQ document.

F.) RSF Valves at WWTP President Budde mentioned that Mrs. Budde recently noticed something unusual while she was working at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mrs. Budde discovered the recirculating sand filter (RSF) valves aren't closing completely and, as a result, are allowing for a piping freezing problem. Mr. Budde stated Crane Engineering is coming out to inspect the issue, and everyone is hopeful this is simply a plug valve adjustment limit switch issue.

**Item 6 Report of the Village Administrator:**

A.) Delinquent Personal Property Taxes There are still a couple Village businesses that have not paid their personal property tax balances. The Village will pursue the next steps in the collection process, whether that be small claims court or with the Wisconsin Department of Revenue.

B.) Test Well Site Visit Village staff recently met onsite of the Village test well location with CTW Corporation to discuss the next planned steps in the test well drilling project. CTW is still investigating a few costs related to deducts, and will be keeping Village staff apprised of cost options and equipment delivery schedules related to this project.

C.) Update on Lake Wisconsin Drive Well Parcel Village staff contacted Sauk County Register of Deeds and confirmed a Village well parcel has been owned by the Village since the 1950s. Mr. Mooney also showed the Trustees a Village map from the archives which confirmed this fact. Upon discussion, the Board reviewed various options with the well-site parcel and asked Administrator Mooney to contact the adjacent land-owner to discuss options. This 50 ft. by 50 ft. parcel no longer would meet WI DNR's well site size requirements.

D.) LRIP Proposal Submission Administrator Mooney notified the Board that he had submitted his proposal application for Local Road Improvement Funding with the hopes to secure State funds to address School Street improvements within 2022.

E.) Sauk County ARPA Funding Mr. Mooney informed the Board that he and President Budde had a successful meeting with the Sauk County Board earlier this month. The Village presented facts related to our current Well Project, and provided, and spoke to, a list of upcoming financial investment needs within the Village. The Village has been asked to investigate additional avenues for funding sources, but has been asked by the County Board to return with updates in the near future so the topic can be revisited.

F.) Consideration of Court Action Against Property Owner Trustee Olson was given the floor to provide an update on his recent discussions with different local legal offices related to nuisance abatement matters. Mr. Olson stated a local attorney would be interested in representing the Village in this matter, and a determined course of action could be agreed upon if the nuisance matter continued to go unaddressed.

**Item 7. Report of the Public Works Director:**

Mr. Mooney provided two updates on behalf of Public Works Director Justin Schultz.

A.) Conservation Club Lift Station Village Public Works staff recently discovered pump failures at the Village owned and maintained Conservation Club Lift Station (LS). It was determined both LS pumps were in need of replacement, and the LS needed to be pump drained as a result of their failure.

Two new like-sized pumps would need to be ordered to replace the pumps at this lift station, and the Village would need to contract to get the new pumps installed. Naxera/Gallus moved to authorize Village Staff to order new replacement pumps and schedule necessary installation services. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

B.) Fire Hydrant Replacement The fire hydrant on Lake and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street has been replaced and is now fully operational.

**Item 9. Future Planning/Zoning Issues:**

Mr. Mooney covered the final agenda topic, one planning/zoning update related to a recent parsonage sale within the Village. Mr. Mooney stated he has spoken with the new owner of this parsonage property, as well as a representative from the Church Board of Directors for the second Village parsonage regarding their current zoning. As of today, parsonages were deemed B1 zoned properties within the Village.

**Item 10. Adjourn:**

At 6:40 pm, Naxera/Gallus moved that the meeting adjourn. All Ayes, **Motion Carried**

Respectfully Submitted,

*Brian Mooney*

Brian Mooney,

Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer

**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!



**Get Involved Locally!**

**RUN FOR OFFICE**

Interested Village residents wishing to run for public office for the Village of Merrimac should plan to attend the Village Caucus on Saturday January 8<sup>th</sup> 2022 at 9am at Village Hall. The Caucus process is used to secure nominations of candidates for Trustee posts that will expire in April 2021. 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 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Spring Election. Please contact Brian Mooney if you have questions.

**Calendar Reminders**

Next Board Meeting  
**December 14, 2021**  
5:00 PM @ Village Hall

**AA Meetings**  
Wednesday Evenings  
7:00 @  
Merrimac Village Hall  
Questions? Contact Mike  
@ 608-643-9521

**Fall/Winter Street  
Parking Regulations  
Begin November 14, 2021**



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.

*Holiday Office Hours*



Village Hall will be closed

**December 24<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> &  
December 31<sup>st</sup> - January 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Happy Holidays!