

VILLAGE VOICE

December 2020

Volume 16, Issue 12

Minutes of the Village Board December 8, 2020

The Village Board meeting was called to order in the Village Hall Large Meeting Room by Village President Phil Budde at 5:01 p.m. Board members present were Jim Malmberg, Garry Bahe, George Naxera, and Amy Buffardi and Village Administrator Brian Mooney. Members of the public in attendance were Bob Pfaff, Cheryl Anderson, and Bart and Kirk Olson.

Item 1. Call to Order: President Budde examined the affidavit of posting and verified that advance public notice of the meeting conformed to statutory requirements.

Item 2. Public Input: President Budde inquired whether there was any public input. Bart Olson inquired about the status of contact information for the Trustees posted on the Village website. Clarification was provided on how the website contact page currently functions. Upon confirmation there was no other public input, President Budde recommended moving **Agenda Item 6** up as it pertained to Mr. Olson.

Item 6. Olson Property Complaint:

Mr. Olson shared photos of the parcel of property that shares lot lines with the Village Lift Station #1 located along Highway 78. Mr. Olson stated the nature of the complaint pertained to water being pumped onto this parcel of land. Mr. Olson contends the water is running from the Village Lift Station, and the Village should be responsible for stopping the water from crossing his land. Village President Budde responded, stating the water Mr. Olson is referencing is not in any way connected to the Lift Station. Mr. Budde stated, upon discussion with the Village Public Works Director, that this water runoff in question is a naturally occurring artesian spring that runs underground and surfaces at the lift station. Given the involved nature of the discussion, Village Trustees Malmberg/Bahe moved to close this discussion until the Village had an

opportunity to speak to an Engineer and Attorney. Upon Roll call Vote-All Ayes (Village President Budde abstained). **Motion Carried**

Item 3. Consent Agenda: Malmberg/Bahe moved to approve items 3a.,b.,c.,d. of the Consent Agenda as posted. Prior Month Balance Sheets and Budget Comparison to be provided in coming weeks. **Motion Carried**

Item 4. Approval of Village Bills: Naxera/Malmberg moved to approve payment of outstanding monthly bills as listed on the Agenda. Upon roll call vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried**

Item 5.: Report of the Administrator:

Mr. Mooney informed the Board that the Village will begin the process of identifying an Engineering firm to assist in formulating a comprehensive Sewer and Water Utility plan for anticipated future projects. Request to approve sending the "Request for Statements of Qualifications" to identified area engineering firms was made by Bahe/Buffardi and approved upon Roll Call vote. **Motion Carried**

Mr. Mooney stated an Engineer Selection Committee formation would be necessary in order to put together the panel to review and rank the firms' responses. President Budde nominated the Panel consisting of five individuals: Village Administrator Mr. Mooney, Village Director of Public Works Justin Schultz, Trustee Jim Malmberg, Merrimac Resident Bob Pfaff, and Village Accounting consultant Robin Meier. Bahe/Buffardi moved to approve the Committee as nominated. Upon roll call vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried**

Mr. Mooney next informed the Board that the Village Resolution Prohibiting Firearms within the Village Municipal Buildings had been provided for review and approval. Bahe/Naxera moved to approve the Resolution as written. Upon roll call vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried**

Mr. Mooney informed the Board the next Village Caucus is scheduled for January 9th at 9am in Village Hall. This year there are two trustee positions open for reelection, along with the Village President position.

Mr. Mooney next spoke to the matter of the Village Annual employee bonuses. Mr. Budde stated it was tradition for the Village to award each Village employee a \$50 dollar annual bonus around the Holidays. This year Mr. Mooney and Mr. Budde recommended also providing a holiday bonus of \$50 dollars to Robin Meier for her accounting and training consulting assistance provided throughout the year. Naxera/Bahe moved to approve the Annual Bonuses as stated. Upon Roll call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried**

The final update provided by Mr. Mooney pertained to the recently completed Cell Tower Lease for the Village. The Village's attorney informs that their review is successfully completed. Mr. Budde stated the Village will sign the document this week. Mr. Budde informed the Board the Deputy Clerk will work with the Cellular Company about repayment of Attorney fees in association with the agreement.

Item8.:Water/Sewer/Maintenance:

Mr. Mooney informed the Board that a Village resident's recent home lateral repair has resulted in a significant reduction in the respective lift station pump's run time over the last few weeks. Mr. Mooney also informed the Board that a transducer had failed on Lift Station 1 requiring an unplanned emergency repair call to LW Allen. Mr. Mooney stated that the transducer on Lift Station 3 was replaced as well, and Air Release Valve replacement is currently underway at Lift Stations one and two. The Village Public Works crew recently completed installation of replacement valve brackets within both lift station one and two.

Item 9. Adjourn: At 5:45 pm Naxera/Malmberg moved that the meeting adjourn. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,
BrianMooney Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer

Website: villageofmerrimac.org

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

Calendar Reminders

Board of Trustees

Next Board Meeting
January 12, 2021 5pm
VILLAGE HALL

Fall/Winter Street Parking Regulations in effect.

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.**

Get Involved Locally!

Interested Village residents wishing to run for public office for the Village of Merrimac should plan to attend the **Village Caucus on Saturday, January 9th, 2021 at 9:00 A.M. at Village Hall.**

The Caucus process is used to secure nominations of candidates for two 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 6th, 2021 Spring Election. Please contact Brian Mooney if you have questions.

Brush Pick-Up

Wednesday, January 13th

Note: Brush Pick-up will only be 1x per month from January until March 2021

Sign Up Today!

The Village encourages all residents to sign up for Auto-Pay with e-Billing for monthly utilities.

See Village Website:
villageofmerrimac.org
utilities and billing>
Direct Debit form & Email Bill Sign-Up.



Holiday Office Hours

Village Hall will be closed on January 1st for the New Year Holiday. Village Hall will resume normal business hours on Monday, January 4th, 2021.

Memorial Park and Baseball Field

Please note the bathrooms at both parks are closed for the winter season. Staff will re-open bathrooms by May 1, 2021 for the summer season.

Metal scrap Drop-off at Village Hall has ended for the Winter Months. Stay tuned to the Spring Village Voice for updates.