

# VILLAGE VOICE

December 2022

Volume 18, Issue 12

## Draft Minutes of the Village Board Meeting December 13, 2022

**Item 1. Call to Order:** The Village of Merrimac Board of Trustees Meeting was called to order in Village Hall by Village President Phil Budde at 5:00PM. Village Trustees Jim Malmberg, George Naxera, and Andrew Gallus were present, with Kirk Olson joining via telephone. Also in attendance were Administrator Jennie Klecker, Director of Public Works Justin Schultz, Village Assistant Margaret Budde and members of the public as listed on the sign-in sheet. President Budde examined the affidavit of posting and confirmed that advance public notice of the meeting conformed to statutory requirements.

**Item 2. Public Input:** George Naxera informed the Board that Denny Beaks has retired after serving 35 years on the Merrimac Fire Commission. Bart Olson asked whether the Village had plans to replace financial consultant Robin Meier, who is no longer working for the Village. Administrator Klecker stated she is in the process of looking for a new financial advisor for the Village.

**Item 3. Consent Agenda:** Gallus/Naxera motioned to approve items 3.a., 3.b., 3.c., 3.d. of the Consent Agenda as posted. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

**Item 4. Approval of Village Bills:** Gallus/Malmberg 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. Report of the Village Assistant:** 5.a Well No. 1 Presentation; Village Assistant Budde and Steve Kluesner of Strand Engineering (Via Zoom) gave a

presentation on the Well No. 1 Rehab Project. 5.a.i. Bid Based Update on Project Cost (Strand Bid Tabulation Letter) & Secured Loan/Grant Increase; Project Bids were opened on November 17, 2022 with Mid City Corporation being the apparent low bidder at \$406,450 and MZ Construction coming in at \$469,000. Since the bids came in much higher than anticipated, a letter was sent to the DNR asking them to expand the grant and loan funds the Village initially requested, to which the DNR said yes. The updated project cost is \$638,095, with 30% Principal Forgiveness (\$191,428.50) and 70% Low-interest Financing (\$446,666.50). Mr. Kluesner discussed design challenges that have been encountered as well as several cost saving efforts that are being explored. 5.a.ii. Rate Impacts; The projected debt service for the project will be \$30,000 per year, beginning in March of 2025, however, the Village will also be retiring \$7,800 in debt service in July of 2025, so the net new debt service will be \$22,200. This new debt may result in an 11% water rate increase, but not until the Village decides to apply for a Conventional Rate case with the PSC. 5.a.iii. Review of Project Need and Discussion of Alternatives; Assistant Budde explained the necessity of replacing the Wellhouse's outdated "Open Delta" electrical system, the 22 year old Soft Starter, and the DNR's requirement that the Village reconfigure our chemical feed and sample tap. 5.a.iv. Qualifications of Low Bidder; References of Prime and Electrical Subcontractors have been contacted and have provided very positive recommendations. 5.a.v. Future Cost and Funding Outlook; If the Village

decides to put the project off, the costs will only increase due to inflation and the amount of the DNR grant will decrease to 20% by next year. 5.a.vi. Water Quality Testing; The Village has voluntarily tested Well No. 1 for "Emerging Contaminant" PFAS and the results show no detects down to 1-2 parts per trillion detection, which is great news. 5.a.vii. Decision-Making Timeline/Special Meeting; A decision on whether to award the bid must be handed down within 60 days of the bid opening. Naxera/Malmberg motioned to award Well No. 1 project to Mid City Corporation, the apparent low bidder in the amount of \$406,450. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried.** 5.a.viii. Quarles & Brady Bond Council (If Bid is awarded); Naxera/Gallus motioned to approve Bond Counsel Quarles & Brady service contract in the amount of \$9,000. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes, **Motion Carried.** 5.a.ix. Reimbursement Resolution 2022-01-12; Naxera/Gallus motioned to approve Reimbursement Resolution 2022-01-12, declaring official intent to reimburse expenditures from proceeds of borrowing, not to exceed \$406,450. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.** Naxera/Gallus motioned to authorize Village President Budde and Staff to negotiate Change Order No. 1 with Mid City Corp. based on recommendations by Strand and LW Allen. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.** 5.b. Sewer and Water Budget for 2023; Gallus/Malmberg motioned to approve the 2023 Sewer and Water Budget. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.**

**Item 6. Plan Commission Recommendations:** 6.a. Luck Certified Survey Map – Combining Lots 151-0314-00000 & 151-0313-00000; Naxera/Olson

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

motioned to approve Tom Luck's Certified Survey Map. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.** 6.b. Grosse/Ripp Boathouse Conditional Use Permit; Gallus/Naxera motioned to approve the Grosse/Ripp Boathouse Conditional Use Permit. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.**

**Item 7. Selection of January Caucus**

**Date:** Naxera/Gallus motioned to select 9:00AM Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 as the Village Caucus date. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.**

**Item 8. Merrimac Snowbusters Club Snowmobile Trail Land Use Agreement:**

Gallus/Malmberg motioned to approve the Merrimac Snowbusters Club Snowmobile Trail Land Use Agreement. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.**

**Item 9. Report of the Administrator:**

9.a. Peterson Sanitation Contract; Administrator Klecker asked Peterson Sanitation to make several edits to the 2023 contract. The changes have been made and the updated contract has been provided to the Board for review before signing next month. 9.b. WI Surplus Auction – Dump Truck Proceeds; At auction with WI Surplus, the Village received \$893.25 for an old engine, and \$14,100 for the old Dump Truck.

**Item 10. Report of the Director of Public Works:**

10.a. Strobe Lights Purchase for New Dump Truck; Malmberg/Gallus motioned to approve the purchase of Safety Strobe Lights for the new Dump Truck in the amount of \$1,740. Upon Roll call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried.** 10.b. New Meters and Hand Reader Order; As budgeted, two cases of new meters and an additional hand reader have been ordered for 2023. 10.c. Backup Salt Spreader; The new salt spreader is expected to be on back order for about a month. Andrew Gallus has been assisting the Village with salting the streets and will continue to do so until the new spreader arrives.

**Item 11. Adjourn:** At 6:01pm Naxera/Gallus motioned to adjourn. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jennie Klecker  
Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer

Next Board Meeting  
**January 10, 2023**  
5:00 PM @ Village Hall

January Village Caucus  
**Saturday, January 14, 2023**  
9:00 AM @ Village Hall

Winter Brush Pick-up Dates  
**January 11, February 8, March 8**  
*4 feet wide by 4 feet high, up to 8 feet long with brush stacked parallel to and near the road*

**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*

**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.**

**Holiday Office Hours**  
Village Hall will be closed  
December 30 – January 2



**WE WANT YOU!**

**TO 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 14, 2023, 9:00AM at Village Hall.** The Caucus process is used to secure nominations of candidates for Trustees' and Village President posts that will expire in April 2023. The Caucus is open to the public and Village residents are encouraged to participate. 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 4th, 2023 Spring Election. Please contact Village Administrator, Jennie Klecker if you have any questions.

**Environmental Impact Group**

The Village of Merrimac Planning Commission has recognized the need to increase the use of renewable energy and environmentally sustainable practices within our community. We are forming a task force to identify topics and action items that can be implemented here. We are seeking interested individuals to participate in this project. Please contact Bob Pfaff if you are interested and/or have any questions. 608-963-3602 phone or text preferred.

**Wishing Merrimac  
A Safe and**

