

VILLAGE VOICE

December 2021

Volume 17, Issue 12

Minutes of the Village Parks Committee December 7, 2021

The Village Parks Committee Meeting was called to order in Village Hall by Chairman Andrew Gallus at 5:00 pm. Parks Committee members George Naxera, Phil Strathman and Bob Garrison were present. Administrator Brian Mooney and Village Deputy Clerk Jennie Klecker were present. Members of the public in attendance were Cheryl Anderson and Brad and Carrie Zeman.

Item 1. Call to Order:

Chairman Gallus examined the affidavit of posting and verified that advance public notice of the meeting conformed to statutory requirements

Item 2. Introduction of Approved Park Committee Chairman and Members:

Mr. Gallus introduced himself as a new Village Board member and the new Chairman of the Parks Committee. The fellow Committee members and members of the public each took a moment to introduce themselves.

Item 3. Public Input: Chairman Gallus inquired whether there was any public input to share. Mrs. Anderson stated she was a past member of the Parks Committee and stressed the needed involvement of the Committee in order to bring back the Village Festival. Mrs. Anderson stated the Village also needs numerous volunteers to fill out the many Festival leadership roles, namely a main Chairperson for leading the meetings. Mr. Zeman stated he was aware of the needs Mrs. Anderson covered, and as a

new full-time resident of the Village, he would love to help serve in this leadership capacity to coordinate the Village Festival in 2022.

Item 4. Administrator's Overview of Parks Needs/Financials: Mr. Mooney stated he had hoped the Parks Committee Meeting could both elaborate on the current financial situation within the Village Parks budget, as well as show how the Village Festival revenues have been utilized to assist in contributing to this department budget. Mr. Mooney shared the 2021 and 2022 budget differences for the Village Parks as a result of expected received, and lost revenues, from the Village Festival.

Item 5. Discuss Village Parks Needs: Mr. Strathman inquired about the financial commitments within the Village Parks Budget in 2022. Mr. Mooney explained some of the new costs associated with the Budget involved Village Public Works wages and recent increases in utility charges.

Item 6. Discuss nominating and approving Park Committee Members to Festival Leadership Roles: Mr. Gallus stated there was a vacancy on the Parks Committee due to the recent passing of Mr. Schultz. Naxera/Garrison moved to appoint Brad Zeman to fill this post. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried**

Item 7. Consider any other matters related to the Agenda: Naxera/Garrison moved to recommend Brad Zeman to the position of Chairperson/Lead for the 2022 Village Community Festival. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried** Mr. Zeman stated he will work in

coordination with the Village Staff in order to reach out to past Festival organizers and begin planning the first meetings and local business sponsorship ideas.

Item 8. Adjourn: At approximately 6:00 pm Gallus/Garrison moved that the meeting adjourn.

Minutes of the Village Board Meeting December 14, 2021

The Village Board meeting was called to order in Village Hall by Village President Phil Budde at 5:00 p.m. Village Trustees Jim Malmberg, George Naxera, Andrew Gallus and Kirk Olson were all in attendance. Village Administrator Brian Mooney, Village Assistant Margaret Budde and Village Public Works Director Justin Schultz were also in attendance. Members of the public in attendance were Bart Olson, Cheryl Anderson, Town of Merrimac Administrator Tim McCumber and newly appointed Town Administrator Jeremy Bowers.

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: Bart Olson stated he had one comment to make regarding the Verizon Antenna Tower contract. Mr. Olson stated he felt it was unfair that Verizon's proposed rent is less than what the Village currently charges US Cellular for their antenna space. Mr. Mooney stated the differences in rent, as he has learned, is due to the added cost and

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Email: Merrimac@merr.com **Village Hall:** 608-493-2122

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

liability Verizon is taking on by building their own tower structure instead of using the Village's water tower.

Town of Merrimac Administrator Tim McCumber next spoke and thanked the Board and Village staff for their ongoing good relations during his tenure with the Town. Mr. McCumber stated he will begin his new role as Village Administrator with Lake Delton in January, but will stay on in consultant role with the Town to help Mr. Bowers transition.

Mr. Budde stated they will welcome Wisconsin State Assembly Rep. Considine, who was on the agenda, when he arrives and revisit Public Input.

Item 3. Consent Agenda:

Naxera/Gallus moved to approve items 3a., 3b., 3c., 3d. of the Consent Agenda as posted. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes.

Motion Carried

Item 2. Public Input (revisited): Rep. Considine thanked the Village Board for allowing him to visit. Mr. Considine said he and his staff had been researching additional revenue options for the Village to assist with funding the Village's well project. Mr. Considine said he met with the Governor's Office and inquired about additional American Rescue Program funding, and learned the new Infrastructure Bill may also be able to assist the Village in loan forgiveness.

Item 4. Approval of Village Bills:

Gallus/Malmberg 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 Report of the Village Administrator:

A.) Approval of 2022 Village Budgets Mr. Budde stated each Budget was appropriately balanced for the 2022 fiscal year. Olson/Naxera moved to approve the 2022 Village budgets. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried**

B.) Operators Permit Approval Village Deputy Clerk Klecker recently received an Operator's Permit request from

Village resident Rebecca Rajchel and her review had been completed. Naxera/Gallus moved to approve the Operator's Permit. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes, **Motion Carried.**

C.) Verizon Wireless Tower Antenna The Village has sent the preliminary lease contract for the Verizon tower antenna to our Attorney to begin the formal review process. Mr. Mooney stated the Attorney confirmed the Village Board can approve the Conditional Use Permit for the tower antenna minus the lease contract having met final agreement terms. Malmberg/Gallus moved to approve the Verizon Antenna Tower Conditional Use permit. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried**

D.) Parks Insurance Claim Reimbursement The Board was informed that the Village's Insurance claim for Memorial Park was approved. The Board authorized Village Staff to begin the process of looking into replacement needs and securing the contractor necessary for their installation.

E.) Delinquent Personal Property Taxes Mr. Mooney provided a brief update on the status of outstanding personal property taxes within the Village. The Village will be working with the Wisconsin Department of Revenue for recovery of these funds moving forward.

F.) January 8, 2022 Caucus The Village Caucus has been scheduled at 9am on January 8th in Village Hall. The January Caucus will serve as the opportunity for residents of the Village to submit nominations to run for the position of Village Trustee. The Trustee positions currently filled by Jim Malmberg and George Naxera are up for election in April 2022.

G.) Sauk County ARPA Funding/Loan options Village Well Project Administrator Mooney stated he has been working to explore all recommended avenues for funding provided at the recently attended Sauk County Finance Committee meeting. Mr. Mooney has now received updates from all of the State government

Representatives and has referred all available Village loan options to Mrs. Budde for review. Mr. Mooney provided handouts to the Board members and stated the loan terms from USDA were just received prior to the start of the meeting, and their loan offers approximately 45% project loan forgiveness and a 1.75 percent interest rate for a 40 year term. Mrs. Budde stated the USDA loan is much larger application, and more costly to file, than a Wisconsin DNR loan.

H.) McSherry Property Update The Village was recently contacted by Ms. McSherry to determine interest in her property behind Village Hall. Upon Board discussion, it was determined there was no current Village need for this property.

I.) Election Inspector Nominations The Board was informed that the Village's two Election Inspectors (Gale Bahe and Debby Karr) require nominations to fulfill their new 2022-23 terms. Naxera/Olson moved to recommend approving the Village President's nomination of the two election inspectors for the new two-year term. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried**

J.) Village Bank Account Resolution 2021-03-12/Minimum Deposit Approval The Board was briefed regarding the Village Financial Auditor's recommendation to have the Village establish a separate bank account to collect and distinguish all property tax payments from other Village revenues. Mr. Mooney stated the resolution would allow the Village to establish this account per Auditor recommendation and Bank requirements for opening. Naxera/Gallus moved to approve Village Administrator to use Bank of Prairie du Sac General Fund money to open \$2,500 minimum balance requirements within newly established Property Tax payment and corresponding future Sinking fund and Equipment replacement fund accounts. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

K.) LGIP Bank Transfer The Board was notified that upon review of the monthly finances, it was determined to move

\$3,000 from the Village LGIP Parks Fund to the Bank of Prairie du Sac Parks Checking account to cover the expected year-end Parks Department budgetary shortfall. Malmberg/Naxera moved to approve the Administrator to transfer \$3,000 from the Village LGIPS Parks Fund to the Village Bank of Prairie du Sac Parks Checking account. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried**

L.) Future Board Meetings The floor was turned over to Trustee Olson to discuss the idea of having more than one monthly Village Board Meeting. Mr. Olson stated given the Water/Sewer topics and complexities of information, perhaps the Board should consider adding an additional monthly Meeting to cover the topic of Village Utilities. Upon discussion, the Board decided to continue the practice of one monthly meeting, with the option for additional as needed.

M.)Employee Holiday Bonuses President Budde had the floor and stated it was the customary tradition of the Village to give the employees a Christmas Bonus. Naxera/Gallus moved to approve \$50.00 Holiday bonuses for each Village employee. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried**

Item 7. Report of the Public Works Director:

A.) Conservation Club Lift Station Update Mr. Schultz informed the Board that the Public Works crew learned that the Conservation Club lift station pumps had failed, and required two new replacement pumps. Both pumps have been ordered and now installed in the lift station, and the final electrical wiring should be completed within the week.

B.) Heater WWTP The Board was notified that the wall unit heater in the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Control room recently failed. A replacement heater has been purchased and installed.

C. CTW well site update Mr. Schultz stated CTW was currently on-site at the primary test well site, and will be drilling a test well to determine if the site can be utilized as the future well for the Village.

CTW will be reviewing soil samples and taking water tests as part of the drilling process, and we hope to know more in the coming month in terms of the well's viability for future use.

Item 8. Report of the Village Assistant:

A.) Line of Credit Resolutions 2021-01-12 and 2021-02-12 Mrs. Budde stated there were a few identified edits from the recently created well project Bank Loan documents. Mr. Budde explained that, although the Trustees approved two bank Lines of Credit for needed interim financing at the October meeting, there was some language in the Bank's written agreements that the Village requested that the Bank of Prairie du Sac modify. Proposed Resolutions 2021-01-12 and 2021-02-12 reflect standard Loan Resolution language, with edits and amendments proposed by the Village and deemed acceptable by the Bank of Prairie du Sac. Naxera/Malmberg moved to authorize Resolutions 2021-01-12 and 2021-02-12, Authorizing Borrowing of \$156,000 and \$890,000. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried**

B.) WWTP Valves Mrs. Budde stated she had reached out to Crane Engineering and has received a quote for the repair of two malfunctioning WWTP recirculating sand filter valves. Naxera/Olson moved to approve the repair expenditures on the two WWTP valves. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried**

Item 9. Planning/Zoning Updates:

A.) Comprehensive Plan/SWOT Trustee Malmberg stated he intends to revisit the Village Comprehensive Plan with the Plan Commission in Spring of 2022.

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

Calendar Reminders

Next Board Meeting
January 11, 2022
5:00 PM @ Village Hall

AA Meetings

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

2022 Brush Pick-up Calendar has been updated on the Residents section of the Village of Merrimac website www.merrimacwi.gov/
Next brush pick-up date is January 12th, 2022

Sign Up Today!

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



Visit the Village website at merrimacwi.gov and click on the blue **Utilities** icon for sign-up links. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to call the Village Office.

Senior Fitness Program

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday

9:30 – 10:00 AM

Through April 22, 2022

\$10 for the whole season!

Join anytime!



Village Hall, 100 Cook Street

Looking for a good book to curl up with this winter?

Stop by and check out our growing library at Village Hall.

Special thanks to Merrimac residents Cheryl Anderson and Lisa Tank for graciously volunteering their time to organize and alphabetize the entire collection!



Fall/Winter Street Parking Regulations



To aid the Village's staff in winter snow removal from our streets, the Village's alternate-side parking policy is now effect for the season.

On odd-numbered days, residents must park on the odd-numbered side of the street. On even-numbered days, residents shall park on the even-numbered side of the street. We thank you all for your cooperation throughout the winter season!

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 31st – January 3rd

Village Hall will resume normal business hours on Tuesday, January 4th, 2022.



WE WANT YOU!

Interested Village residents wishing to run for public office for the Village of Merrimac should plan to attend the Village Caucus on **Saturday January 8th 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 5th, 2022 Spring Election. Please contact Brian Mooney if you have questions.

Get Involved Locally!

