

VILLAGE VOICE

FEBRUARY 2019

DRAFT

Volume 15, Issue 2

Minutes of the Village Board Meeting of February 12, 2019

The Village Board meeting was called to order by Village President Pro Tem Phil Budde at 6:00 p.m. Board members present were George Naxera, Phil Budde, Garry Bahe and Jim Malmberg. President Nick Hahn was excused absent. Bob Geenen, Village Administrator-Clerk-Treasurer was also present.

President Pro Tem Budde examined the affidavit of posting and verified that advance public notice of the meeting conformed to statutory requirements.

Public Input: Trustee noted the Post Office needs shoveling on days of continual snow fall. Bob will ask operators to keep the immediate sidewalk area to the building entrance clear when plowing the area.

Following review of the Village's outstanding bills, Malmberg/Bahe moved to approve the prepaid expenses and payment of the bills as listed on the Agenda. Upon roll call vote, **motion carried.**

Bob noted the Audit went smooth with the auditors completing field work in three days. The audit completion is delayed with the federal government shutdown as the Village had not received the 1098 Mortgage Interest statement

for the Rural Development USDA bond. Bob noted no issues were found during the audit. Financial reports for January were not available until year end audit adjustments are received and the year closed in the Workhorse Accounting Program. No action needed.

Bahe/Malmberg moved to approve the Minutes of the January 8, 2019 Village Board meeting. **Motion carried.**

Malmberg/Naxera moved to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2019 Village Caucus. **Motion carried.**

Discussion on ending the contract with USIC Locating Services. The vendor locates and marks the buried electrical lines of Village owned street lights for Diggers Hotline requests. Bob noted the maintenance operators could use an upgraded water/sewer locator which would also provide electric line finds and depth. Currently Justin uses a witching technique to acquire depth. The new model would have a multi-frequency power transmitter to locate conductive piping/electrical lines for expanded usability throughout village. The savings would pay for the device within several years. Naxera/Bahe moved to end the vendor relationship giving the administrator flexibility of the notice date to ensure equipment availability and staff are trained for proper use. **Motion Carried.**

Update and discussion on the last few contract negotiation items of the US Cellular Water Tower Rental Agreement of August 18, 2021 for five years with five optional renewals of five years each. The trustees noted for Bob to follow the recommendations of Village Attorney and to close out the remaining small items in the contract language. Budde/Bahe moved for the administrator to approve the contract as the final items are agreed upon. **Motion carried.**

The State of Wisconsin offered the choices of the State to contract and provide for Commercial Electrical Inspections or municipalities would need to register, pay a fee, and review local ordinances to ensure inclusion of statutory requirements to use our selected vendor General Engineering. Budde/Malmberg moved for the option of the State of Wisconsin take over electrical inspections of commercial properties within Village limits. **Motion carried.**

Administrator's Report:

Bob provided to the Board members copies of the materials as listed on the Agenda. Short discussion on the renewal and optional 1 year extension of Tim's Trucking for garbage & recycling pickup for the Village.

Water & Sewer Operations: None.

Website: villageofmerrimac.org **Email:** Merrimac@merr.com

Village Hall: 608-493-2122 **Fax:** 608-493-9908

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

Planning & Zoning Items: Ordinance review consideration for Village – Small Cell Towers - model language by League of Wisconsin Municipalities as advised by our attorneys Stafford Rosenbaum; Abandon Well; & Short Term Rentals.

Naxera/Malmberg moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 PM. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Robert R. Geenen
Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer

Direct Payment of Utility Bills

This automated payment method provides one more way to simplify your life and save time and money.

Now nearing 50% of our customers are using this simple payment method.

Please call the Village office if you have questions to request the form.

Keeping you informed

Water / Sewer utilities will be requesting/verifying phone and email information in 2019. This will allow us to communicate urgent or ongoing work in your neighborhood of the Village.

**CALENDAR
REMINDERS**

**Village Board
Meetings**

Tuesday, March 5

Tuesday, April 9

**Vote Tuesday
April 2nd**

**Brush Pick-Up Date
Wed. March 13**

For the winter months, brush pick-up is done once a month through April 2019. *Covered brush piles with ice and snow will resume as ice/snow melt away.*

Senior Fitness Program

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday

9:30 – 10:00 AM

Through April 20, 2019

Village Hall, 100 Cook St.

Instructor: Deb Raschka

\$10 for the whole season!

**MERRIMAC FOOD
PANTRY CLOSED FEB. 1**

Food Pantry's new location is:

821 Industry Road, Sauk City.

(Located one block behind McFarlanes Implement.)

Phone: 608-571-7737.

**Spring Election
April 2, 2019**

Registered candidates on the ballot for two expiring Village trustee positions will include Garry Bahe and Jeff Rasmussen. Philip Budde is the sole registered candidate for the expiring Village President position.

Alternate-Side Parking

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 that cooperate but we do use Sauk County Sheriff's Office for ticketing and calling towing for the few others!

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. When shoveling or blowing the snow please clear sidewalks towards your home as the right-of way (area between road and sidewalks) are narrow and have become full.

**FEBRUARY UTILITY BILLS
ARE ESTIMATED**

Due to below-zero temperatures and the accumulation of snow, water meters were not read by Village staff in February. As we did in January, water and sewer utility bills for the month of February have been estimated based on the average monthly usage for each residence or business for the last 12 months. Meters will be read again at the end of March and adjusted actual consumption will appear on the March bills.