

# VILLAGE VOICE

FEBRUARY 13, 2018

Volume 14, Issue 2

## Minutes of the Village Board Meeting of Feb. 13, 2018

President Hahn called the Village Board meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Board members present upon roll call included Nick Hahn, George Naxera, Phil Budde and Jim Malmberg. Garry Bahe was excused absent. Ron Senger, Village Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer was also present.

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

### Public Input:

A Village resident was on the agenda to request the Board's approval for licensing a third dog at her residence on Front Street. Three concerned neighboring residents were also present to represent their position on the matter. Ron noted that on January 15, 2018, he had received a type-written letter signed by 12 neighboring residents, lodging a verified complaint against this Front Street family for several ordinance violations. On January 17, Ron had provided the resident and her family a written formal notice stating they must correct two identified violations of our local animal ordinance, including excessive barking (nuisance noise violation) and exceeding more than 2 allowed dogs at her residence. This letter also directed

the resident's family to seek formal approval by the Board at the February 13<sup>th</sup> meeting if the family wanted to keep more than the allowed limit of a second dog. Ron noted the original verified complaint lodged against the homeowner had identified at least five dogs witnessed on, or at the property. Also identified in the complaint were concerns about a driver from the property repeatedly witnessed as speeding in the vicinity of Memorial Park. Ron noted to the Board and all concerned residents he had already taken action by January 19<sup>th</sup> to reduce the speed limit on Front Street from 25 to 15 miles per hour, by posting new speed limit signs and a new stop sign at the intersection of Front and Grove Streets (for east-bound Front Street traffic). The residents from this neighborhood indicated the reduced speed limits on Front Street have already had a positive impact. This change should improve pedestrian safety and the safety of all the children using our park facilities.

Following a lengthy discussion by all present, Malmberg and Hahn restated the Board is obligated to enforce the Village ordinances and the resident must comply with the provisions of the animal ordinance. Hahn/Budde moved to allow the resident to keep two dogs only and a cat at her residence, declining her request to be allowed to keep a third dog. **Motion carried.** If further future complaints arise in the neighborhood, Ron suggested he would coordinate with both the

Sauk County Sheriff's Department and the Sauk County Animal Control Manager to jointly investigate potential violations of local or county animal ordinances.

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

Hahn/Malmberg moved to approve the monthly financial reports including the balance sheet and budget comparison by major fund accounts for January, 2018. Upon roll call vote, **motion carried.**

Naxera/Hahn moved to approve the draft Minutes of the January 9, 2018 Village Board meeting. **Motion carried.**

Hahn/Budde moved to approve the draft Minutes of the January 13, 2018 Village Caucus. **Motion carried.**

Budde/Malmberg moved to approve the proposed Resolution No. 2018-01 requesting emergency response for State Highway 78. **Motion carried.**

### Administrator's Report:

Ron provided Board members copies of the Minutes of the Sauk Prairie School Board meeting of 12/11/2017; Merrimac Area Fire Commission meeting of 12/4/2017; Sauk Prairie Ambulance Commission meeting for 11/21/2017 and

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the Village Inspection Report for 2/8/2018. Ron reminded the Board that a fire hydrant near 150 Grove Street had been tampered with and damaged sometime near the end of January. On February 1<sup>st</sup>, a resident had reported the hydrant was leaking and iced over; upon investigation it appeared someone had used a pipe wrench on the top operating nut, leaving the internal valve open enough that the leaking water had frozen and expanded inside the hydrant's barrel, cracking and splitting the hydrant open. Village staff placed the hydrant on the repair list and reported the disabled hydrant to the MFD/Fire Chief. Ron also reported the Wegner CPAs audit team completed their field work for the Village's 2017 Financial Audit during February 5-7th, 2018. On February 13th, the Village took delivery of the new (replacement) aluminum streetlight pole assembly to be installed near 436 N River Street in March.

Ron reminded the Board of the Spring Primary Election for Justice of the Supreme Court scheduled for February 20th, 2018.

**Sewer & Water Operations:**

No significant items to report

With no further matters brought before the Board, Hahn/Naxera moved to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried** and the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald D. Senger, Administrator

**2018 Merrimac  
Community Festival**  
**Saturday, August 4, 2018**

Volunteer helpers are encouraged to contact Ron at (608) 493-2122. Many of our local community organizations will be needing volunteers to help during the festival day. We anticipate most of the following organizations will again participate, including the Immanuel Lutheran and the United Methodist Churches, Merrimac Fire & Rescue, and Merrimac Snowbusters Snowmobile Club. Serving 2-3 hours as a volunteer is an excellent way to meet and make new friends, get involved and raise money for a good cause (our Village Parks) and to give back to our wonderful community. Please say yes to serving this year!

**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 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. Please contact the Village office for a list of local vendors if you need assistance.

**CALENDAR REMINDERS**

**Village Board Meeting**

Tuesday, March 13, 2018, 6 pm

**Spring Election**

Tuesday, April 3, 2018  
Village Hall, Polls Open  
From 7:00 am - 8:00 pm

Registered candidates on the ballot for two expiring Village trustee positions include:

Jim Malmberg  
George Naxera

**Brush Pick-Up Date**

**March 7, 2018**

Please place your yard waste at curbside in CLEAR plastic bags; sticks or branches must be in neat 4' x 4' x 8' piles (or smaller) and aligned linear to street with easy access for pick up by our tractor grapple bucket **without driving on grass or lawns.**

**NOTE:** Brush pick-up will be once per month until May, 2018. Dates for 2018 are posted on our website.

**Direct Payment of Utility Bills**

We encourage our customers to pay their monthly bills directly from a bank account by completing the ACH Direct Debit Form available on our Village website under the tab "Municipal Forms." This automated payment method provides one more way to simplify your life and save time and money. Now over 40% of our customers are using this simple payment method. Please call the Village office if you have questions, or need help with the form.

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