

# VILLAGE VOICE

February 2022

Volume 18, Issue 2

## Minutes of the Village Special Board Mtg. February 1, 2022

The Village Special Board meeting was called to order in Village Hall by Chairman Phil Budde at 5:00pm. Trustees George Naxera, Andrew Gallus, Kirk Olson and Jim Malmberg were present. Administrator Brian Mooney, Village Deputy Clerk Jennie Klecker and Village Assistant Margaret Budde were present. Members of the public in attendance were Tim Klecker, Bob Pfaff, Ethan Kent, and Bart Olson.

**Item 1. Call to Order:** Chairman Budde examined the affidavit of posting and verified that advance public notice of the Village Special Board meeting conformed to statutory requirements

**Item 2. Public Input:** None

**Item 3. Discussion on Well Number 2 Site:** The purpose of the first February Special Board Meeting was to provide updates on the initial water sample data at the Darwin Drive test well. President Budde stated that the Village discovered the water tests for test well number 2 came back very high in Iron levels. Mr. Budde stated the news meant the Village would likely need to move on to a new test well site, as estimates for additional well house upgrades to reduce Iron would make this project site unaffordable for the Village.

Given this unforeseen setback, the Village will likely not pursue the DNR Safe Drinking Water Loan for the project, as the timelines for completion are based upon first identifying a successful well site. Mr. Budde stated the delay

might be helpful in the Village's pursuit of a USDA Rural Development loan to cover the well 2 project, with a possible combination loan and grant with the submitted DNR Safe Drinking Water program for Well Number 1, in order to maximize grant forgiveness for the Village.

### **Item 4. Question/Answer Session:**

Questions were raised by the Board on the associated costs of removing the Iron from the current site, costs of associated equipment at the site needed to do so, as well as what options might exist for a well number 1 improvement schedule or second well near well number 1. Upon discussion, as well 1 expansion isn't permissible per DNR regulations, Mr. Budde stated he and Administrator Mooney will talk with the second well site land owner.

### **Item 5. Board Approval Decisions:**

Village President Budde discussed with the Board their commitments and concerns related to continuing with the well site 2 project. The Board decided to continue to monitor the ongoing water tests from the current site, and make a determination as to the February 22<sup>nd</sup> Special Board Meeting need during the February 8<sup>th</sup> regular monthly Board Meeting.

**Adjourn:** At approximately 5:20pm Naxera/Gallus moved to adjourn. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried**

## Minutes of the Village Board Meeting February 8, 2022

The Village Board meeting was called to order in Village Hall by Village President Phil Budde at 5:00 p.m. Trustees Jim

Malmberg, George Naxera, Andrew Gallus and Kirk Olson were all in attendance. Village Administrator Brian Mooney, Deputy Clerk Jennie Klecker, Village Assistant Margaret Budde and Public Works Director Justin Schultz were also in attendance. Members of the public in attendance were Brad Zeman, Collin Bourgeois, Bart Olson and Vern and Marie Weisensel.

### **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:**

Merrimac Festival chairman and Parks Committee Member Brad Zeman gave the board a progress update on the early stages of organizing the 2022 festival. Mr. Zeman also introduced his neighbor, Collin Bourgeois, who has agreed to assist with the festival. Mr. Zeman was happy to report \$1,500 in corporate sponsorship funds have already been raised with additional donations in the works, 2 bands are booked and several vendors lined up. He's looking to start monthly meetings soon and will plan on giving the board periodic updates when needed.

### **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 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:**

**Website:** [merrimacwi.gov](http://merrimacwi.gov)

**Email:** [merrimac@merrimacwi.gov](mailto:merrimac@merrimacwi.gov) **Village Hall:** 608-493-2122  
**REGULAR OFFICE HOURS: Monday—Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

A.) Verizon Wireless Antenna Contract Since mutual agreement on the lease terms between the Village and Verizon could not be reached, the representative from Verizon recommend, and the board agreed, to cease further negotiations.

B.) Village Financial Audit Representatives from Wipfli were at Village Hall on Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, working with Village Staff to complete the 2021 Audit. The majority of work was completed on site with a final audit analysis expected in March.

C.) 2021 Budget Amendments Mr. Mooney reported that he and Robin Meier have prepared the 2021 Budget Amendments and provided them to the board for review.

D.) Core & Main Meter Purchase One crate of new meters (8) have been purchased to be used as needed throughout the year.

E.) Sauk County ARPA Funding Update Mr. Mooney and Mr. Budde attended the Sauk County Finance Board meeting on Thursday, February 3 to give a presentation to the board regarding the Village's two upcoming well projects and to request consideration for funding assistance from the County. The Village was informed that the County Board will be deciding soon on the criteria for allocating the County's surplus ARPA funds.

F.) Lu Foster Lane Property Concern Village Attorney Cross has sent a letter to the owners of the properties concerned, requesting they contact the Village to discuss the next steps towards a solution to the ongoing ordinance violations.

G.) LGIP Fund Transfer Request – Water Fund It was suggested that the Village move LGIP Water Reserve funds to the Bank of Prairie Du Sac to capitalize on a greater rate of return, but in light of interest rates recently changing, it was decided the return would now be minimal and not worth the effort.

H.) RD Pre-Application Update Village Staff recently spoke with Ryan Wood of Strand Engineering regarding the Rural Development (USDA) Pre-Application loan process. Mr. Wood explained that

part of the pre-application process would involve Strand completing an Environmental Review and a Preliminary Engineering Report. Mr. Wood indicated the pre-application process could take 3 to 4 months to complete and preliminary cost estimates are in the \$40,000 range for engineering fees. The Village may also need to hire an accountant and an attorney to help with the review process, which could bring the estimated total loan application cost (pre-application and final application) to \$125,000. Mr. Budde explained to the Board that if the well projects come in under budget, the USDA Loan allows for additional projects to be funded with the surplus loan and grant money. Public Works Director Justin Schultz presented to the Board several dead-end and open loop sewer lines throughout the Village that he would recommend using any surplus loan and grant money to upgrade.

I.) Peterson Sanitation Contract Proposal Peterson Sanitation has presented the Village a new 7-year contract proposal for 2023. The proposal would enroll the Village in their One-Pass Program, which uses an automated side load (ASL) truck to collect garbage and recycling. Each household would be provided (2) 95-gallon receptacles for garbage and recycling pick up. Several Board members raised questions and concerns regarding the language of the proposed contract. Trustee Olson stated that he and Trustee Gallus along Mr. Schultz would work together in the coming months to get clarification on the terms of the Peterson Sanitation proposal, as well as to solicit quotes from other local garbage collection entities.

#### **Item 6. Report of the Public Works Director:**

A.) Grove Street Winter Parking Signs

The winter parking signs have been ordered from the County sign shop. The final cost should be available next week.

B.) CTW well site update

For \$6,500, CTW is proposing running a second pump test at the current well site in an attempt to locate a more favorable position within the test well shaft that

yields less iron than the first test location. Gallus/Malmberg made a motion to allow CTW to run the re-pump and test. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes.

#### **Motion Carried**

C.) Sprecher Plumbing/Memorial Park

New fixtures for the Memorial Park bathroom have been ordered are expected to be installed by Sprecher Plumbing in April 2022.

#### **Item 7. Report of the Village Assistant:**

A.) WWTP Winter Performance and Spring Pilot Testing In an effort to prevent enforcement action by the DNR, Village Assistant Budde and Village President Budde drafted a letter outlining the Village's preliminary plans, and seeking approval for a full-scale Pilot Polishing Testing project using MicroC this spring at the WWTP. Due to our WWTP being particularly vulnerable in the winter months, the Village would like to negotiate a new permit with the DNR that establishes effluent limits that change seasonally. Gallus/Olson made a motion to submit the letter to the DNR. Assistant Budde informed the board that the anticipated cost for the Pilot Polishing Project would be \$4,100. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried**

B.) Well 2 Timing and Funding In order to gain additional points towards the Village's SWDL Application, Assistant Budde asked the board for two volunteers to complete a 4-hour online training course offered by the DNR. Trustees' Gallus and Malmberg agreed to complete the course. Assistant Budde also informed the board that part of the USDA Loan pre-application process is the requirement that the Village publish an ad in a local newspaper stating our intention of applying for the loan. It was noted that publishing the ad does not obligate the board to apply for the loan. Naxera/Gallus made a motion to publish the public notice. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried**

#### **Item 8. Planning/Zoning Updates:**

There is a Plan Commission meeting scheduled for March 2, 2022 at 5:00pm

to discuss the Wellhead Protection Plan and corresponding Ordinance.

**Item 9. Village Staff Progress Reports**

(Closed session)

**Item 10. Adjourn:**

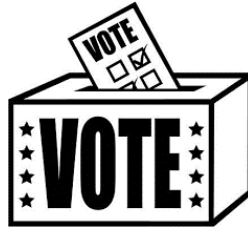
In light of the delay caused by poor Well No. 2 test results, the Board determined that the previously scheduled February 22<sup>nd</sup> Special Board meeting should be cancelled and re-scheduled for a later date. At 6:08 pm, President Budde stated the Board would adjourn to Closed Session to begin Item 9., Staff Progress Reports. Upon Completion of this Closed Session of Trustees, the Board meeting will officially adjourn. (7:00 pm)

Respectfully Submitted,

*Brian Mooney*

Brian Mooney,

Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer



**Spring Election**  
**April 5, 2022**

**Polling Place:**  
Merrimac Village Hall  
100 Cook Street  
7:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Registered candidates on the ballot for two Village Trustee Positions Include:

**Amy Buffardi**  
**George Naxera**  
**James Malmberg**

Future elections this year:  
Partisan Primary – Aug. 9, 2022  
General Election – Nov. 8, 2022

**2022 PET LICENSE**  
**NOTICE**



All dogs and cats more than five months old residing in the Village of Merrimac are required to be licensed no later than April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Dog and cat licenses can be purchased at Village Hall or by mail. Please provide a proof of rabies **vaccination certificate** along with the appropriate fee shown below:

\*Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if paying by mail.

	<b>DOGS</b>	<b>CATS</b>
Unaltered	\$12.00	\$8.00
Neutered or Spayed	\$7.00	\$4.00

**Calendar Reminders**

Next Board Meeting  
**March 8, 2022**  
5:00 PM @ Village Hall

Plan Commission Meeting  
**March 2, 2022**  
5:00 PM @ Village Hall

Next brush pick-up dates are  
**March 9, 2022**  
**March 23, 2022**  
*4 feet wide by 4 feet high up to 8 feet long with brush stacked parallel and near the roadway.*

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

**Senior Fitness Program**

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday  
9:30 – 10:00 AM  
Through April 29, 2022  
**\$10 for the whole season!**  
**Join anytime!**

**Village Hall, 100 Cook Street**

## ***Sign Up Today!***

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



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

## **Considering a Building Project?**

### **Don't Forget the Permit!**

Most construction projects in the Village require a building permit. If you are thinking of a renovation project, a new deck or pool, or an addition, *please contact our building inspector before you start!* If you begin a construction project without a permit, you may be charged a \$150.00 Red Tag Fee. Don't risk it, just call.



Contact our Building Inspector, David Bieno at 608-617-9869 or email [dbieno@generalengineering.net](mailto:dbieno@generalengineering.net)

## **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.**

## **Short-Term Rentals**

Thinking about renting your home independently or on a short-term rental platform such as Airbnb or VRBO this summer? You'll find everything you need to get started on the Village website. Look for "Short-Term Home Rental Permit" under the "Permits, Licenses & Forms" section to read the new ordinance and fill out a Conditional Use Application. Still have questions? Call Village Hall or email [merrimac@merrimacwi.gov](mailto:merrimac@merrimacwi.gov) and we'll be happy to walk you through it.

