

VILLAGE VOICE

MARCH 2019

DRAFT

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Minutes of the Village Board Meeting of March 5, 2019

The Village Board meeting was called to order by Village President Nick Hahn at 6:00 p.m. Board members present were Nick Hahn, George Naxera, Phil Budde, Garry Bahe (arrived 6:17 PM) and Jim Malmberg. Bob Geenen, 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:

David Baehr purchased the Blacksmith shop and home located at 170 E. Main and discussed a use for the potential short-term rental/second home zoned as B-1 Business District within the village. Currently operates another similar short-term rental in Sun Prairie. He noted 3300 sq. ft. home has parking for eight vehicles. A portion of the old blacksmith shop is in good shape and would be saved and repaired while the add-on leaning portion razed or potentially keep the roof as an area cover.

The board recommended a Plan Commission meeting to review the current ordinances (and review/update for compliance with statutory changes regarding short term rentals) for B-1 and R-2.

Shawn Bresnahan, Retirement Plan Advisor with Empower Retirement gave a presentation on the Wisconsin Deferred Compensation Program (a suite of benefits offered by the Wisconsin Department of Employee Trust Funds available to government entities within Wisconsin). The WDC is a 457(b) that differs from 401(k), 403(b) and IRAs. Employees can fund retirement either pre-tax or post-tax (similar to a Roth) and the current 3% match from the Village could also be deposited – immediately vested as the current SIMPLE IRA offered. Highlighted Benefits of WDC:

- *No employer costs
- *Higher Contribution limits
- *No 10% early withdrawal penalty
- *Simple & flexible administration
- *Companion to Wisconsin Retirement System – employees can use funds to purchase past service credits (upon village joining WRS)
- *Competitive fee programs – tiered flat fees – 23 investment options
- *Start, change, or stop deferrals at any time
- *Transfer existing balances between investment options daily
- *Extremely low Investment Expense Ratios (.01% to .88%)
- *WDC fiduciary responsibility and oversight of program including choosing Empower Retirement in a competitive bid program
- *Empower Retirement provides Retirement Plan Advisors and local service to employees

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

The Board reviewed the monthly financial reports (Balance Sheets and Budget Comparison by fund account) for the months of January and February 2019. Hahn accepted the financial reports.

Hahn/Malmberg moved to approve the Minutes of the February 12, 2019 Village Board meeting. **Motion carried.**

Naxera/Malmberg moved to approve the purchase of a radio detection locator with transmitter/receiver to locate underground water, sewer and electrical lines. Upon roll call vote, **motion carried.**

Malmberg/Budde moved to approve the buy-out of the leased Massey Ferguson tractor to be financed with the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands. Upon roll call vote, **motion carried.**

Malmberg/Bahe moved to approve the Resolution for Inclusion under the State of Wisconsin Deferred Compensation program. **Motion carried.**

Administrator's Report:

Bob provided to the Board members copies of the materials as listed on the agenda.

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.

Bob spoke about the USDA – Rural Development no longer requiring audited financial statements. This can reduce future audit costs with the village looking at reviews or generally agreed upon procedures for review of the financial records and preparation of the reports for the Public Service Commission and the Wisconsin Department of Revenue Schedule C. Audit cost for the past and current year are about fifteen thousand dollars. Nick noted a balance sheet audit may suffice. The savings could be quite significant and would be shared across the general, water, and sewer funds.

Water & Sewer Operations: Upon spring warm-up perform lift station maintenance by adding septic degreaser and enzymes bio-packs throughout system and Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Planning & Zoning Items: Ordinance review and public input with legal posting of pending changes or additions to Village Ordinances for:

- Abandon Wells,
- Small Cell Towers,
- & Short Term Rentals.

Malmberg/Bahe moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 PM. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Robert R. Geenen
Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer

Upcoming ADRC

Wednesdays 10 AM at Village Hall

- 04/10/19 Pam Fuchs, ADRC
- 06/10/19 Baraboo/Sauk County

Vote Tuesday April 2nd

The Village President and two Village Trustees' positions are expiring this April.

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.

Spring Election

Tuesday, April 2, 2019
Village Hall

**Polls Open
From 7:00 am - 8:00 pm**

Registered candidates on the ballot for Village President:

Philip Budde

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

Garry Bahe
Jeff Rasmussen

CALENDAR REMINDERS

Upcoming Meetings

Village Board:

Tuesday, April 9

*Immediately following
6 PM Plan Comm.*

Tuesday, May 14 6 PM

Plan Commission:

Tuesday, April 9 6 PM

Brush Pick-Up Date

Wed. April 10

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.**

Tree and lawn services must clean up and haul wood waste. We can accept these waste that are collected from Village of Merrimac Residents. Please call the office for details.

Property Maintenance

Please take appropriate actions to spruce up your property so our Village looks great to everyone who visits this summer! This includes vehicles that appear to be abandoned & constitutes a public nuisance. The administrator did request both the Village Trustees and Plan Commission members to note potential areas of concern to follow-up on.

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