

VILLAGE VOICE

AUGUST 2020

Volume 16, Issue 8

Minutes of the Village Board August 12, 2020

The Village Board meeting was called to order in the Village Hall Large Meeting Room by Village President Phil Budde at 5:00 p.m. Board members present were Garry Bahe, Jim Malmberg, George Naxera, and Amy Buffardi. Interim Administrator Margaret Budde was present, as well as incoming Village Administrator Brian Mooney. Members of the public present included the Kelly family (Linda, Jeremy, and Gage), and Kirk Olsen.

Item 1. Call to Order. President Budde examined the affidavit of posting and verified that advance public notice of the meeting conformed to statutory requirements.

Item 2. Public Input: Letters from residents in support of Linda Kelly were distributed to Board members. Mrs. Kelly expressed concerns over feeling threatened by a neighbor and that she is considering a restraining order. The Village encourages residents who witness traffic violations or experience harassment to record the details of the encounter and to contact the Sauk County Sheriff Dispatch and ask to file a witness statement. If there is an issue that's within the Village's scope of enforcement (pets, setbacks, buildings) residents should contact Village Hall.

The conversation continued on the matter of the number of dogs on the

property, referencing the Village ordinance stating an individual is allowed a maximum of two licensed dogs per household. All licensed animals are recorded with the Deputy Clerk within the Village if there is a question related to licensing."

Another resident voiced concerns over unlicensed dogs within the Village, as well as unregistered automobiles parked within the Village. The Board responded that the Village position "Was not to make a bad economic situation worse at the moment (COVID), and the vehicle owners in question were impacted financially at this time."

The same resident voiced concerns over the appearance and health code status of the Grove Street apartment building, including lack of upkeep, sidewalk hazards, and possible health code violations.

Item 3. Consent Agenda: Mrs. Budde corrected the the minutes of the July 7 meeting, Item 3 to reflect 9 days of paid holiday, rather than 11. Naxera/Bahe moved to accept amended minutes. **Motion Carried.** Naxera/Malmberg moved to approve Items 3b-3g, including July 14 meeting minutes, prior month Balance Sheets and Budget Comparison, Inspection Reports, Alliant spreadsheet, 555 River St Lateral Repair letter, and letter to Kelly family. **Motion Carried.**

Item 4. Approval of Village Bills:

Naxera/Bahe moved to approve payment of bills. Upon roll call vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried**

Item 5. Appointment of Village Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer:

Malmberg/Bahe moved to appoint Brian Mooney to Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer, with signatory authority for banking and agreements. Roll Call/All Ayes.

Motion Carried

Item 6. Appointment of Interim Administrator to Village Assistant

Bahe/Buffardi moved to appoint Margaret Budde to position of unpaid Village Assistant. Roll Call/All Ayes.

Motion Carried

Item 7. Deputy Clerk: Jennie Kleckers performance as Deputy Clerk has been excellent. Naxera/Buffardi moved to increase Deputy Clerk's hourly wage from \$16/hr to \$17/hr effective October 5th. Roll Call/All Ayes.

Motion Carried

Item 8. Cell Tower Agreement

Discussion tabled by Board.

Item 9. Merrimac Community School

COVID-related PPE: Naxera/Buffardi moved to authorize \$400 mask purchase for School, for reimbursement under the Roads-to-Recovery Grant Program. Buffardi/Bah moved to authorize expenditure of \$700 in other protective equipment for School for reimbursement under Roads-to-Recovery Grant program. Roll Call/All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 10. Unemployment Claim: The 2018-2020 Administrator has applied for unemployment benefits, despite resigning; Village is appealing claim.

Website: villageofmerrimac.org

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

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

Item 11. Employee Compensation

Pre- Planning: Interim Administrator discussed how proposed benefit increases would be paid for by the General, Sewer, and Water Fund. She next spoke on the desire to increase the work schedule of the part-time (30 hr/week) Deputy Clerk to a full time position. Bahe/Naxera moved to authorize Deputy Clerk to go to full time on or after August 24. Administrator and Deputy Clerk will decide date of schedule change. Roll Call, All Ayes **Motion Carried.** A Special Board meeting is planned for September 22 at 5 pm to discuss 2021 Budgeting.

Item 12. Sewer Rate Planning: A public presentation will be held on October 13 for a proposed sewer rate increase, with the rates going into effect October 25th.

Item 13. Report of Interim

Administrator: Village has successfully recovered \$8,470 in insurance claims.

Item 14. Water/Sewer Operations:

Naxera/Buffardi moved to authorize LW Allen to perform inspection of Lift Station 4 when they are on site for next pump installation. Roll Call/All Ayes **Motion Carried.** Malmberg/Naxera moved to authorize purchase of two Wastewater Combination Air Release Valves, not to exceed \$3,400. Roll Call/All Ayes. **Motion Carried.** Malmberg/Bahe moved to authorize hiring Ripp Sewer to install Air Release Valves, at \$425/hour. Roll Call/All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 15. Adjourn. At 6:30 pm Naxera/Bahe moved that the meeting be adjourned. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Mooney,

Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer

Board of Trustees

Regular Meeting,

September 8th

Special Meeting Sept 22nd

5:00 P.M. VILLAGE HALL

Brush Pick-Up

Weds. Sept 9th & Sept 23rd

4' wide by 4' high by up to 8' long, with brush stacked parallel to and near the roadway. Yard waste should be in clear plastic bags.



Election News!

Reminder

If you need to **register to vote** or would like to request an **absentee ballot** for the November election, please visit **myvote.wi.gov** or **<https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/VoteAbsentee>**

Introducing e-Billing

The Village encourages all residents to sign up for Auto-Pay with e-Billing for monthly utilities. Please see the Yellow insert page for more information!

Greetings from the Merrimac Festival Committee!

It goes without saying that this year has been a challenge for our world. The disruptions of every day life, the forced separation, and things that are just unable to be controlled.

I have chosen to focus closer to home; the things I can control in a smaller environment and a focus on our community.

We have always had the Merrimac Community Festival to look forward to. A coming together of friends, neighbors, and visitors to our community for a day of gathering. It has been a source of in-kind donations from so many nonprofit organizations, local companies, residents, and visitors who feel a sense of commitment to the event. The donations are used for the preservation and maintenance of our wonderful parks. Unfortunately we won't be receiving any revenue from the festival proceeds because of the decision to not have the festival for the health concerns of the Covid-19 virus.

We are asking if you help fill that void by donating what you can to the Park Fund. Any dollars are greatly appreciated.

Looking forward to next year's event, we are asking our local residents to volunteer for the event. We have lots of spots available. We can't have too many people assisting on the day of the event. Please contact us and let us know you'd love to join us!

Leis