

The VILLAGE VOICE

"The Official Publication of the Village Board"
FREE to Every Family in Merrimac



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Draft Minutes of the Village of Merrimac Caucus January 11, 2025

The Village of Merrimac Caucus was called to order at 9:00AM in Village Hall by Village President Andrew Gallus. Village Trustees Margaret Budde, Stan Senger, and Nate Taylor were present. Also in attendance were Administrator Klecker and members of the public as listed on the sign-in sheet. Since President Gallus is also a candidate, Budde/Gallus motioned to nominate Administrator Klecker to serve as caucus chairperson. After examining the affidavit of posting and confirming that advance public notice of the meeting conformed to statutory requirements, Caucus Chairperson Klecker stated the following: "The purpose of this caucus is to secure nominations of candidates for the position of two Village Trustees and one Village President whose terms will expire on the third Tuesday of April, 2025." After announcing the method of breaking a tie, should there be a vote, will be to hold a second vote, Chairperson Klecker called for the nomination of two Caucus Tellers. Gallus/Taylor motioned to nominate Phil Budde and Amy Buck as Caucus Tellers. Chairperson Klecker called for nominations by acclamation for candidates for the position of Village Trustee. Budde/Gallus motioned to nominate Collin Bourgeois. Budde/Gallus motioned to nominate Nate Taylor. Upon hearing no further nominations, Chairperson Klecker declared Village Trustee nominations closed. Chairperson Klecker then called for nominations for candidates for the position of Village President. Budde/Taylor motioned to nominate Andrew Gallus. Upon hearing no further nominations, Chairperson Klecker declared Village President nominations closed. Senger/Gallus motioned to close all nominations. At 9:04 AM Taylor/Gallus

motioned to adjourn the caucus. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.**

Draft minutes of the Plan Commission Meeting January 13, 2025

Item 1. Call to Order: The Village of Merrimac Plan Commission Meeting was called to order in Village Hall by Administrator Klecker at 5:30pm. Commission Members Collin Bourgeois, Bob Garrison, Ann Hoffman, and Bob Pfaff were present. Also in attendance were members of the public as listed on the sign-in sheet. Administrator Klecker examined the affidavit of posting and confirmed that advance public notice of the meeting conformed to statutory requirements. Administrator Klecker informed the Commission that Chairperson Malmberg has submitted a letter of resignation from both the Plan Commission and the Village Board, effective January 13, 2025. She asked the Commission Members to appoint an interim Chairperson to serve until a new Chairperson is appointed. Hoffman/Pfaff motioned to nominate Collin Bourgeois as interim Chairperson. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 2. Public Input: Due to the large number of residents in attendance wishing to address agenda item 3, Chairperson Bourgeois postponed public input until after the presentation.

Item 3. Colsac Lodge Hotel, Bar/Restaurant, and Banquet Hall: Proposed Project Presentation by Rod Ripley and 1848 Construction, Inc: Brad Crowley from 1848 Construction began the presentation by providing the Commission Members a copy of the site plan and giving a brief overview of the proposed Colsac Lodge project, located on parcels 151-0200-10000, 151-0200-20000, 151-0200-300000, and 151-0200-40000. The four-

story, 52,700 total SF building will include a restaurant/bar with indoor seating for 195 and a banquet hall with seating for 200 on the 1st level, with 43 hotel suits throughout the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th floors. Two boat docks are planned to accommodate hotel guests as well as boat traffic coming off of the lake. Mr. Crowley emphasized that the project is still in the schematic design phase and that there are some key details to be worked out, including exploring options for providing guest access that avoids Ferry traffic. Also, the roof of the building is designed with a steep slope to achieve a "lodge" aesthetic, however, that would put the building height at 62 feet, which would exceed the Village ordinance limit of 45 feet. Residents in attendance asked questions and made comments on a variety of topics such as economic and environmental impacts, local job creation, tax revenue, live music, parking, and increased boat traffic. The Village will make every effort to keep the community informed about the project and continue to offer opportunities for public comment. Residents are encouraged to visit the Village website and read the Village Voice for information on future meeting dates.

Item 4. Comprehensive Plan Update: Review Draft Plan Document: The group reviewed the latest draft of the Plan Document and continued to work on final details for the action plan and goals section.

Item 5. Adjourn: At 7:30pm, Hoffman/Garrison motioned to adjourn. All Ayes. **Motioned Carried.**

Draft minutes of the Village Board Meeting January 14, 2025

Item 1. Call to Order: The Village of Merrimac Board of Trustees Meeting was called to order in Village Hall by Village

President Andrew Gallus at 5:30pm. Village Trustees Margaret Budde, Nate Taylor, and Stan Senger were present. Also in attendance were DPW Justin Schultz, Administrator Jennie Klecker, and members of the public, as listed on the sign-in sheet. President Gallus examined the affidavit of posting and confirmed that advance public notice of the meeting conformed to statutory requirements.

Item 2. Public Input: Cheryl Anderson spoke on behalf of Green Merrimac to invite all Board members and Village residents to attend *Friday Night Eco-Flicks* on January 17th at 6:30pm at Village Hall.

Item 3. Review Consent Agenda: Gallus/Senger motioned to approve the consent agenda. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 4. Approval of Village Bills: Gallus/Budde motioned to approve payment of outstanding monthly bills as listed on items 4.i.-4.iv. of the Agenda. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 5. Sauk Prairie Chamber of Commerce Director, Tywana German: 2024 Review & 2025 Proposed Expenditures: Tywana German gave an end of year report on the 2024 expenditures made by the Sauk Prairie Chamber of Commerce to promote tourism in the Merrimac area. Using Municipal Room Tax revenue, the Chamber made t-shirts, hosted the *Fishing University* television show, sponsored a kayak fishing tournament, and launched social media, radio, and video ad campaigns. With 2025 revenues, she plans similar digital media ads and continued "place-making" and beautification efforts throughout the Village. She encouraged the Board to share with her any additional ideas they may have to promote tourism in Merrimac.

Item 6. Consider Liquor License Applications: Brittney Nichols for Ferry X-ing and Megan Kirschstein for Mac's Pub & Grub: Senger/Taylor motioned to approve Operators License for Brittney Nichols for Ferry X-ing Bar & Grill. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.** Senger/Taylor motioned to approve Operators License for Megan Kirschstein for Mac's Pub & Grub. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 7. Schedule Board of Review: Gallus/Budde motioned to schedule Board of Review on May 6, 2025 at 1:00pm. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.**

Item 8. Report of the Plan Commission: Administrator Klecker provided an overview to the Board on the January 13th, 2025 Plan Commission meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to hear an introductory project presentation for Colsac Lodge. The proposed project, located on 4 lots west of the ferry on Palisade Street, includes a four-story hotel with 43 guest rooms, a restaurant/bar, and a large banquet hall. The Board discussed the economic benefits as well as potential challenges, such as the 62 foot height being higher than 45 foot allowance and parking conflicts near the Palisade Street Boat Launch. Since this was only an introductory proposal, the Plan Commission was not asked to make any recommendations at this time.

Item 9. Report of the Director of Public Works: 9.a. Wellhouse Update; DPW Schultz informed the Board that the power has been switched over to 3-phase and the Wellhouse project is near completion. There is an issue with the backup power generator that he is working with Strand and the contractor to resolve. 9.b. Village Hall Generator Warranty; The Board discussed purchasing an extended warranty for the new generator at Village Hall, but ultimately decided against it.

Item 10. Report of the Administrator: 10.a. Digital Sign Quotes; Administrator Klecker received two quotes for a digital sign insert to be mounted into a new Village Hall/Public Works building sign. The quotes ranged from about 24K - 30K with installation. This does not include the cost of the actual sign. The Board decided a digital sign was too costly at this time. 10.b. Updated Banner Concepts; The Board reviewed the updated banner concepts and offered suggested edits. 10.c. Malmberg Resignation from Village Board and Plan Commission; Administrator Klecker informed the Board that Trustee Jim Malmberg has submitted a letter of resignation from both the Plan Commission and the Village Board, effective January 13, 2025. 10.d. Review Process and Consider timeframe for Appointment of Interim Board Member and Plan Commission Chairperson; In accordance with WI State Statute §17.24(1), vacancies in any elective village office may be filled by appointment by a majority of the members of the Village Board for the remainder of the unexpired

term. The Board decided to post notice of the vacancy in the Village Voice and on the website asking interested residents to submit a letter of interest by March 3rd. The Board will review the candidates and make a decision at the March 11th meeting. The chosen appointee will be sworn in at the April 8th meeting and serve as Trustee until the term expires on April 21, 2026.

Item 11. Adjourn: At 7:00pm, Taylor/Senger motioned to adjourn. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennie Klecker

Jennie Klecker

Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer

Next Village Board Meeting
February 11, 2025
5:30 PM @ Village Hall

Next Green Merrimac Meeting
February 4, 2025
9:30am @ Village Hall
All interested village residents are welcome!

AA Meetings
Wednesday Evenings 7:00pm
@ Merrimac Village Hall - Questions?
Contact Chuck @ 608-795-0050

Recycling Pickup Dates:

February 3 & 17

Winter Brush Pick-up Dates
**February 12, March 12,
& April 9**

Senior Fitness Program
Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays,
9:30 – 10:00am
Merrimac Village Hall
Join us anytime! Only \$10

BAR BUDDIES is looking for
volunteer drivers. Please call
(608) 370-4151 for more info

Spring Primary Election Tuesday, February 18



Polls Open
7:00am – 8:00pm

Merrimac Village Hall
100 Cook Street

Questions? Call 608-493-2122

Village Board Vacancy

Are you interested in serving the community by being a member of the Merrimac Village Board? Due to a recent vacancy, the Village is currently accepting letters of interest from Village residents to fill the remaining unexpired term of Village Trustee. The term of the appointment will expire April 21, 2026. Any interested Village resident, who is a minimum of 18 years old, a legal citizen of the United States, and is an eligible voter is hereby welcome to submit a letter of interest to be considered for the appointment. Please submit your application to Village Hall (100 Cook Street) no later than **March 3, 2025**.

2025 Dog & Cat License Reminder

Village Ordinances require all dogs & cats over the age of 5 months be licensed no later than April 1st of each year. Dog and cat licenses may be purchased at Village Hall or by mail. If mailing, please include a stamped, self-addressed, envelope. Please provide a proof of rabies **vaccination certificate** along with the appropriate fee shown below:

	DOGS	CATS
Neutered or Spayed	\$7.00	\$4.00
Unaltered	\$12.00	\$8.00

Fall/Winter Street Parking

Between 2AM through 8AM vehicles cannot be left on the even numbered side of the street on the even numbered calendar days, and on the odd numbered side of the street on the odd numbered calendar days.



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.**



Friday Night Eco-Flicks

Friday, February 21

6:30pm at Village Hall

Green Merrimac kindly invites you to attend the movie *Racing Extinction*. Oscar®-winning director Louie Psihoyos (THE COVE) assembles a team of artists and activists on an undercover operation to expose the hidden world of endangered species and the race to protect them against mass extinction. Spanning the globe to infiltrate the world's most dangerous black markets and using high tech tactics to document the link between carbon emissions and species extinction, *Racing Extinction* reveals stunning, never-before seen images that truly change the way we see the world. Run Time: 1 Hour, 30 mins

Light refreshments will be provided.

Upcoming Environmental Events

*March 21 Speaker: DIY Compost Bin

Everyone is Welcome

ALL ABOARD 4K Registration

Monday, February 17
Open House 4:00 - 6:00pm



Presentations at 4:30 & 5:30PM
No RSVP necessary.

Location: Community Center
(730 Monroe Street, Sauk City)

Learn about the District's 4K program and enroll your child for the 2025-2026 school year.

4th Annual
Moon Valley Fisheree
Saturday, February 15, 2025
7:00AM – 3:00PM



Sponsored by
Merrimac Snow Busters

Day of Registration: Starts @ 6:30AM at H's Place - Moon Valley Boat Landing.

Entry Fee: \$20 per person – 100% of entry fees will fund prizes.

50/50, Other Raffles & Live Auction to Benefit: Kyle Ertmer Skilled Trade Scholarship, Hope House of South Central WI, Merrimac Bar Buddies, Merrimac Fire & Rescue.

Questions? Call (608) 570-0525.

Event ends with Snowbusters Polaris ATV Raffle Pull!!!

NEW FESTIVAL DATE!!! THE MERRIMAC COMMUNITY FESTIVAL WILL BE HELD JUNE 14TH THIS YEAR