

# 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 10, 2026**

The Village of Merrimac Caucus was called to order at 9:00AM in Village Hall by Village President Andrew Gallus. Village Trustees Collin Bourgeois, 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. After examining the affidavit of posting and confirming that advance public notice of the meeting conformed to statutory requirements, President Gallus stated the following: "The purpose of this caucus is to secure nominations of candidates for the position of two Village Trustees whose terms will expire on the third Tuesday of April, 2026." Next, President Gallus called for the nomination of two Caucus Tellers. Klecker/Taylor motioned to nominate Amy Buck and Gallus/Taylor motioned to nominate Phil Budde as Caucus Tellers. President Gallus called for nominations by acclamation for candidates for the position of Village Trustee. Taylor/Gallus motioned to nominate David Wiegmann. Senger/Taylor motioned to nominate Scott Thompson. M. Budde/P. Budde motioned to nominate Susan Caldwell. Bourgeois/Budde motioned to nominate Nicole Hartmann. Upon hearing no further nominations, President Gallus declared Village Trustee nominations closed. Gallus/Budde motioned to close all nominations. At 9:04AM, Gallus/Taylor motioned to adjourn the caucus. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.**

**Draft minutes of the Village Board Meeting January 13, 2026**

**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 Collin Bourgeois, Margaret Budde, Stan Senger, and Nate Taylor 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:** None

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

**Item 4. Approval of Village Bills:** Bourgeois/Gallus 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: 2025 Review & 2026 Proposed Expenditures:** Sauk Prairie Chamber of Commerce Director, Tywana German gave a report to the Board regarding how our Village room tax revenues were spent, and outlined proposed 2026 expenditures. Merrimac tee-shirts were a huge hit last year, so the budget has been increased for 2026. The Merrimac area brochure was also successful and a new design for 2026 will be printed in February. New for 2026, the Chamber is investing in Placer AI geofencing to track visitor data. That information will be shared with local businesses to help them create more effective advertising. There will also be a new texting service that people can sign up for to receive messages about upcoming events and activities. The Merrimac area will be featured on Wisconsin Great Outdoors on FOX 47 television. Additional funds have been set aside for signage and wayfinding throughout the Village.

**Item 6. Operator's Permit Application – Roxanne Ostrowski for Mac's Pub & Grub:** Gallus/Taylor motioned to approve the Operator's Permit for Roxanne Ostrowski

for Mac's Pub & Grub. All Ayes. **Motioned Carried.**

**Item 7. WWTP Performance & Acetate Purchase:** Trustee Budde shared data she's collected that tracks the effectiveness of the Polishing program at the WWTP. This winter they will be experimenting with a new chemical, Acetate, to help control effluent performance during the cold weather months. Budde/Gallus motioned to authorize the purchase of up to 2 totes of Acetate for a total of \$4400 in early 2026. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

**Item 8. Employee Board Meeting & Festival Compensation:** Budde/Taylor motioned that employees be compensated at straight time for attendance of Merrimac Festival meetings or the festival when working on behalf of the Village. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.** Budde/Bourgeois motioned that employee compensation for attendance of Board Meetings be a minimum of 2 hours at straight time. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

**Item 9. Discussion on creation of Policy Handbook for Village Staff:** The Board discussed the possibility of hiring a third-party consultant to assist with creating a Policy Handbook. Upon further discussion, the Board decided to research the topic further to determine next steps. Trustee Taylor will take on the task and report back to the Board.

**Item 10. Report of the Director of Public Works:** DPW Schultz reported that new Operator Ben Ganser is on track with training and will begin preparing for the water exams soon. Wellhouse update: The plug for the generator at the wellhouse has still not been installed by the contractor, who is waiting on a part. Public Works staff have experienced difficulty keeping some roads clear due to too many residents not following alternate side parking rules on Village streets this winter. Residents who continue to not follow the ordinance will be ticketed.

**Item 11. Report of the Administrator:** 11.a. New Election Equipment; Administrator Klecker and Deputy Clerk Stieve recently received training on the new election equipment purchased by Sauk County. The new equipment is faster and includes enhanced security technology. 11.b. WISDOT Meeting RE: Colsac Lodge Boulevard Design; On December 22, Administrator Klecker and President Gallus attended a virtual meeting with Kirk and Bart Olson, the Colsac Lodge, and a team from WISDOT to continue discussion on the proposed hotel boulevard. WISDOT will not approve the location of the boulevard as planned. WISDOT is recommending that access to the hotel be provided by turning Baraboo Street into a 4-way intersection and extending it across Hwy 78 through Olson's property. This would require Colsac to purchase additional property and demolish the existing commercial building. 11.c. SDWLP Disbursement Request No. 7 (FINAL); Due to the Wellhouse project not being fully completed, the Board advised Administrator Klecker not to complete the final disbursement request.

**Item 12. Adjourn:** At 7:07PM, Taylor/Bourgeois motioned to adjourn. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jennie Klecker

*Jennie Klecker*  
Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer

Next Village Board Meeting  
**February 10, 2026**  
5:30 PM @ Village Hall

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

Recycling Pickup Dates:  
  
**February 2 & 16**

Winter Brush Pick-up Dates  
**February 18, March 18, April 8**

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.**

**ALL ABOARD  
4K Registration**  
**Monday, February 16**  
**Open House 4:00 - 6:00pm**  
  
Presentations @ 4:30 & 5:30  
**Location: Community Center  
730 Monroe Street, Sauk City**  
No RSVP necessary!  
Learn about the District's 4K program and enroll your child for the 2026-2027 school year.

**FULL THROTTLE FOR A CAUSE**  
*Annual Merrimac  
Snowbusters Fundraiser*  
Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>  
11:00am – 7:00pm  
Merrimac Conservation Club  
E13536 Hwy 78  
FREE ADMISSION - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
**\* Live Auction:** Bid on amazing items from local businesses.  
**\* Raffle Prizes:** Win BIG! Including a 2025 Polaris Sportsman 450, Pitboss Smoker, STIHL Chainsaw & more!  
**\* Community Fun:** Enjoy food, live music, & fellowship while supporting your community.  
**\*Questions?** dalecaygill@gmail.com  
*Come help the Merrimac  
Snowbusters make a difference!*

MERRIMAC COMMUNITY  
OUTREACH PROGRAM  
**INFORMATIONAL  
MEETING - 6:30pm**  
Monday, February 9, 2026  
Merrimac Fire Station  
120 School Street  
If you are interested in helping with this program or would just like to know more about our vision, please attend!

  
Green Merrimac welcomes the community to join them for a Winter Film Festival  
**February 20**  
6:30 – 8:30PM @ Village Hall  
This two-part series will present a sampling of short films focusing on conservation efforts here in Wisconsin and beyond. These films were originally presented at the Conserve Sauk Film Festival held in November 2025.

Join us for a night of thought-provoking discussion, education, and inspiration as we explore environmental challenges and consider how we can be part of the solution.  
**The Films:**  
Caught by Mistake, Alexandra Daisy Ginsberg: Pollinator Pathmaker, The Birdwatchers, Weathering the Change: Climate Adaptation at Rush Creek, What We Learn From Banding Wisconsin's Birds, Mates for Life: Whooping Cranes, Midwest Freshwater: What Invertebrates Can Tell Us with Serge Koenig, Agroforestry for Water Quality: Stream Health Monitoring in Lowery Creek, Voices of the Coast: The Coon Creek Community Watershed Council, Precision Ag and Conservation: Turning Red Acres Green, and Caring for the Land.  
Each film runs about 5-15 minutes.  
Light refreshments provided.  
**Hope we see you there!**