

# The VILLAGE VOICE

"The Official Publication of the Village Board"  
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December 2025 - Volume 51, Issue 08

## Draft minutes of the Village Parks & Recreation Meeting December 4, 2025

**Item 1. Call to Order:** The Village of Merrimac Parks and Recreation Meeting was called to order in Village Hall by Chairperson Nate Taylor at 7:00pm. Committee members Amy Buck and Tim Klecker were present, with Jennifer Thompson and June Krbeczek absent. Also in attendance were Administrator Jennie Klecker, and members of the public, as listed on the sign-in sheet. Chairperson Taylor 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. Amy Buck: Grant Research Development:** Committee member Buck spoke with DNR Grant Specialist, Cheryl Housley, to gather information and learn more about grant opportunities available for the Village. Before applying for most grants, the Village must create a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan(CORP). Ms. Housely offered advice on how to create an effective plan, and suggested grants the Village should try for. She recommended applying for grants at least one year before any anticipated project start dates. There are numerous grants available for many different types of park and recreation projects and objectives. In 2026, the committee will focus on creating a CORP and planning grant eligible parks & recreation projects based on feedback from the community.

**Item 4. Update on Community Survey Development:** The Committee discussed creating a series of Facebook poll questions to engage with full-time and seasonal residents, as well as the surrounding community and tourists. They also plan to send out a survey with utility bills and have printed surveys available at Village Hall during election season. The goal is to get as much feedback from the public as possible

to help determine which future park projects to pursue. Committee member **Item 5. Winter Recreation Ideas; Possible Skating Rink at Ballpark:** The Committee discussed the possibility of installing a seasonal ice-skating rink at the Ballpark. Chairperson Taylor will look into options and pricing. Other winter recreation ideas include working with the school to develop a snowshoeing trail.

**Item 6. Sunrise Shore Park: Site Plan Design:** The group discussed ideas for a final design for the new Sunrise Shore Park. Now that the shore has been ripped, the main focus will be on improving the grade and creating a safe trail to access the park. The group will continue to communicate with neighboring landowners regarding future plans for the park area.

**Item 7. Village Administrator's Report:** Administrator Klecker informed the committee that the Sauk Prairie Chamber of Commerce will be reserving around \$5,000 from room tax revenue for Village sign needs. The committee would like to hold off on designing a sign for Sunrise Shore until the park is completed. They recommended the Village use the funds for another purpose, such as updating the Village Hall sign.

**Item 8. Adjourn:** At 8:32PM, Buck/Taylor motioned to adjourn. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

## Draft minutes of the Village Board Meeting December 9, 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 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:** Bart and Kirk Olson voiced concerns about a recent conversation they had with a WISDOT official regarding the proposed Colsac Lodge Boulevard. The official explained to them that WISDOT would prefer the boulevard to be built through their property south of Baraboo Street. They feel the existing boulevard plan is too close to Wisconsin Street (Hwy 113). Bart expressed that he is not interested in selling any additional property at this time. The WISDOT official also indicated that should the Olsons wish to sell their vacant lot(s) in the future, they would likely not be granted a driveway permit to access the land from HWY 78. Even though there is an existing driveway for the vacant lot, a new driveway permit application would be required because of the change in land use. This same rule applies to the existing driveway for the old Merrimac Communications building. This conversation between the Olsons and the WISDOT official came after a December 4<sup>th</sup> meeting attended by the Colsac Lodge Team, Administrator Klecker, Trustee and Plan Commission Chair Bourgeois, and numerous WISDOT employees. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss potential issues and possible solutions regarding the proposed Colsac Lodge Boulevard. WISDOT is asking that all other alternatives be exhausted and confirmation from the Village that the boulevard fits into our Comprehensive Plan for that land quadrant before they consider allowing the boulevard. A second meeting is planned for December 22. Since this topic was already listed on the agenda (item 12.b.) it was moved to public input. Phil Budde suggested the Board consider providing retiring public works employee

Derek Peetz a larger year-end bonus to show the Village's appreciation and gratitude for his years of service. Ted Walmer spoke on behalf of the Snowbuster's Snowmobile Club to ask the Board's permission to temporarily use a portion of Cemetery Street as part of the trail. The Board granted the request.

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

**Item 4. Approval of Village Bills:** Taylor/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. Public Comment on Sauk County Hazard Mitigation Plan: 2025-2029:** None.

**Item 6. Resolution 2025-12-01 – A Resolution Adopting the Sauk County Hazard Mitigation Plan: 2025-2029:** Sauk County's Hazard Mitigation Plan for 2025-2029 is a multi-jurisdictional strategy to reduce disaster impacts, covering natural (floods, severe weather) and man-made hazards. It identifies vulnerable populations, and outlines critical facilities and mitigation actions. The plan was adopted by the Sauk County Board in May 2025. By developing this plan, Sauk County towns, villages, and cities can become eligible for FEMA's Hazard Mitigation grant programs. To be eligible for federal mitigation funds should we experience some type of disaster, Sauk County is requesting all municipalities adopt the resolution by the end of the year. Senger/Taylor motioned to adopt Resolution 2025-12-01. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

**Item 7. Select date to hold January Village Caucus:** The Village will hold a caucus to determine candidates for Village Trustee to appear on the April 7, 2026 Spring Election ballot. Gallus/Budde motioned to hold the caucus on Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am at Village Hall. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

**Item 8. Senior Fitness Mat Purchase:** The Senior Fitness class is well attended and growing, with about 20-25 active participants this year. There are not enough floor mats to accommodate everyone. Administrator Klecker requested permission to purchase six new mats for approximately \$1,200. Gallus/Bourgeois motioned to approve the purchase of six 6-foot floor mats for the Senior Fitness Program. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

**Item 9. Employee Compensation & Bonuses:** Budde/Gallus motioned to

provide retiring Operator, Derek Peetz a year-end bonus of \$2,300 from the 2025 Budget to acknowledge his years of outstanding and faithful service to the Village. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.** Budde/Gallus motioned to provide New Year's bonuses from the 2026 Budget in the amount of \$1,000 each for the Administrator and Director of Public Works, and \$250 each for the new Deputy Clerk and Operator. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.** Budde/Gallus motioned that the Director of Public Works receive an hourly wage of \$31.94 (6% raise), and the Administrator receive an hourly wage of \$32.44 (6% raise and \$0.50 credential for completing the UWGB Treasurers Institute). All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

**Item 10. Developer's Agreement Update:** In light of the uncertainty with WISDOT's approval of the proposed boulevard, Budde/Taylor motioned to table discussion on the Developer's Agreement until there are more answers. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.** The Board will use this extra time to review Village noise ordinances and continue work on the Plan Commission Checklist.

**Item 11. Report of the Director of Public Works:** Wellhouse Updates; Wellhouse should be 100% complete by the end of the year. Snowplowing for the Town of Merrimac on Idlewild and Albrite roads are going great so far. Trustee Taylor asked for an update on the Palisade Street water runoff issue and whether DPW Schultz had received an estimate on installing asphalt curb or looked into fixing the issue ourselves yet. DPW Schultz reported that he investigated the runoff issue but feels any work the Village could do to mitigate the water runoff would not be effective, nor a long-term solution.

**Item 12. Report of the Administrator:** 12.a. LRIP Committee Meeting; On November 17, Administrator Klecker served on the MSLIT Selection Committee to review LRIP applications and help rank the projects in order of importance. The Village applied for two grants – the MSIS, which is a 90% grant with a maximum award of \$400K and the MSID, which is a 50% match. The main criteria for ranking the projects are safety, reconstruction, high traffic volume, and comprehensive planning. After Administrator Klecker explained the urgent need to repair School Street to improve

pedestrian safety around the school and highlighted the substantial deterioration along the road edges, the committee decided to rank the Merrimac project No. 1 overall. The applications and rankings are now passed on to the state committee for a final award decision, which will be announced in March 2026. 12.b. Meeting with WISDOT Regarding Colsac Lodge Boulevard; Topic addressed during Public Input. 12.c. Consider Adoption of 2026 Sewer & Water Budget; Administrator Klecker presented highlights from the 2026 Sewer & Water Budget. Budde/Senger motioned to adopt the 2026 Sewer & Water Fund Budget. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

**Item 13. Adjourn:** At 7:03PM, Taylor/Budde motioned to adjourn. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jennie Klecker

*Jennie Klecker*

Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer

Next Village Board Meeting  
**January 13, 2026**  
5:30 PM @ Village Hall

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

Recycling Pickup Dates:  
  
**January 5 & 19**

**Winter Brush Pick-up Dates**  
**January 14 – Christmas Trees Welcome!**  
**February 18 & March 18**

\*\*\*Scrap metal recycling has ended  
for the season\*\*\*  
It will resume in April 2026.

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.**



2026 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



Green Merrimac welcomes the community to join them for a **Winter Film Festival**  
**January 23 & 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!***

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**NOTICE OF VILLAGE CAUCUS**

Village residents wishing to run for public office for the Village of Merrimac should plan to attend the Village Caucus, to be held on

**Saturday, January 10, 2026**  
**at 9:00am at Village Hall.**

The Caucus process is used to secure nominations of candidates for Village Trustees' posts that will expire in April 2026. Immediately following the Caucus, Declaration of Candidacy forms and Campaign Registration Statements must be submitted to the Sauk County Clerk for candidates to appear on the official ballot at the April 7th, 2026 Spring Election. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact the Village Office.

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**Village Hall will be closed**  
**December 31 thru Jan 2**



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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.