

The VILLAGE VOICE

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

September 2025 - Volume 51, Issue 05



Draft minutes of the Village Board Meeting September 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: Phil Budde complemented the Village Board, Plan Commission Members, and Village Administrator on all the hard work they put in towards serving the Village.

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

Item 4. Approval of Village Bills: Budde/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. Kelli Kirch – Sauk Prairie Ambulance Presentation: Paramedic Level Service: Kelli Kirch introduced Sauk Prairie Ambulance Committee Treasurer, David White, who gave a presentation to the Board regarding plans to increase their services to provide Paramedic Level Care. This change will allow the Sauk Prairie Ambulance to provide a higher level of care sooner and improve patient outcomes. The Village cost would increase from \$4,700 to \$13,000 per year, beginning in 2027.

Item 6. Approve hiring new Maintenance-Operator: The hiring committee unanimously selected Ben Ganser as the

new Maintenance-Operator, with a start date of September 29.

Item 7. Consideration of Operator's License Applications:

- Tammy Boyce for Mac's Pub & Grub
- Aljandro Rivas for Ferry X-ing
- Dionne Boedeker for Ferry X-ing
- Michelle Hacker for Ferry X-ing
- Bailey McGinn for Ferry X-ing
- Alexus Gilmore Zenezde for Ferry X-ing

Gallus/Budde motioned to approve all Operator's License Applications. All Ayes.

Motion Carried.

Item 8. Report of the Plan Commission:

8.a. Consideration of Hellmen Certified Survey Map; Plan Commission Chairperson Bourgeois reported that the Plan Commission voted at their 8/18/25 meeting to recommend the Village Board approve the Hellman Certified Survey map combining parcels 151-0117-00000 & 151-0124-00000. Gallus/Bourgeois motioned to approve the Hellman Certified Survey Map. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.** 8.b. Resolution 2025-08-01 Approving Tax Incremental District No.1 Boundary and Project Plan; Plan Commission Bourgeois informed the Board that following the Public Hearing on Creation of TID #1, the Plan Commission approved Resolution 2025-08-01 Approving Tax Incremental District No.1 Boundary and Project Plan.

Item 9. Colsac Lodge Developer's Agreement:

The Board discussed the proposed Developer's Agreement. Gallus/Budde motioned to approve sending the Developer's Agreement to Colsac Lodge owner, Rod Ripley, after changing the equalized value from "\$10,000,000" to "12,000,000" and correcting grammatical errors. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 10. Consideration of Resolution 2025-09-01 Creating Tax Incremental

District No. 1: Gallus/Taylor motioned to approve Resolution 2025-09-01 Creating

Tax Incremental District No. 1. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 11. Report of the Administrator: 11.a. Tower Alliance prepaid lease offer on behalf of TowerCo; Budde/Taylor motioned to decline the prepaid lease offer from Tower Alliance on behalf of TowerCo. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.** 11.b. WISDOT meeting regarding proposed boulevard; On September 4, Administrator Klecker and DPW Schultz had a meeting with Rod Ripley, Brad Crowley of 1848 Construction, and a team from WISDOT regarding the HWY 78 entrance for the proposed boulevard. WISDOT conducted a traffic impact analysis to measure traffic flow. Their main concern involves the shared turning lane for the boulevard, Ferry X-ing Bar, and the ferry traffic. They are still analyzing the data and should have a more complete review finished by 9/24. 11.c. WISDOT meeting regarding School Street; On September 8, Administrator Klecker had a meeting with Daniel Johnstone and Justin Gutoski of Strand Associates along with WISDOT Storm Water and Erosion Control Engineer, Peter Fillipi, regarding the storm sewer sizing requirements for the School Street repair project. Mr. Johnstone requested that WISDOT allow the Village to use the original storm sewer design, rather than other more conservative and costly options. Mr. Fillipi agreed that the more costly options didn't seem necessary. He will consult with colleagues and have a final answer by the end of the week. Administrator Klecker also spoke to Strand about amending the scope of the School Street Project to include applying for the LRIP grant. 11.d. 2026 Budget Discussion; Year end projections are complete. Administrator Klecker is working with Robin on the 2026 Budget and will have more to share with the Board once salary and other decisions are made.

Item 9. Convene in closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes Section §19.85(1)(c) to discuss staff matters: Gallus/Bourgeois motioned to convene in

closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes Section §19.85(1)(c) to discuss staff matters.

Item 11. Adjourn from Closed Session: At 8:12pm, Bourgeois/Taylor motioned to adjourn. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

**Draft minutes of the Village Board
Special Meeting September 23, 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 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. Approve new Maintenance-Operator Hire: Budde/Gallus motioned to hire Ben Ganser as Maintenance-Operator. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 4. Convene in closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes Section §19.85(1)(c) to consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, specifically to evaluate the performance of the Director of Public Works and to discuss starting salaries for the new Maintenance-Operator and Deputy Clerk: Gallus/Bourgeois motioned to Convene in closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes Section §19.85(1)(c) to consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, specifically to evaluate the performance of the Director of Public Works and to discuss starting salaries for the new Maintenance-Operator and Deputy Clerk. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 5. Reconvene in open session to consider action on Director of Public Works performance evaluation and set Maintenance-Operator and Deputy Clerk starting salaries: Gallus/Senger motioned to raise both the Maintenance-Operator and Deputy Clerk starting salaries to \$24.00

per hour, with neither position eligible for a raise at the end of the year.

Item 6. Adjourn: At 7:43PM Taylor/Bourgeois motioned to adjourn. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

**Draft minutes of the Board of
Appeals Meeting September 24, 2025**

Item 1. Call to Order: The Village of Merrimac Board of Appeals Hearing was called to order in Village Hall by Chairperson Ann Hoffman at 5:30pm. Board of Appeals Members Cheryl Anderson, Bart Olson, and Phil Strathman were present, as well as Administrator Klecker and members of the public, as listed on the sign-in sheet.

Item 2. Consider Behling Variance Request – 606 Lake Wisconsin Drive, Parcel 151-0034-00000: David and Rebecca Behling requested a variance to construct an addition that continues the existing width of their house. After having their property surveyed, it was discovered that their home extends into the side yard setbacks by 1.2” on the east side and 8.4” on the west side. The reason for the addition is to relocate the primary bedroom to the main level to alleviate mobility concerns. After reviewing the planned addition, Anderson/Olson motioned to grant the Behling’s request for variance. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 3. Adjourn: At 5:47PM, Olson/Hoffman motioned to adjourn. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

**Draft minutes of the Joint Review
Board Meeting September 25, 2025**

Item 1. Call to Order: The Joint Review Board Meeting was called to order in Village Hall by JRB Chairperson Jennie Klecker at 9:30am. JRB Members Amy Brehm (Sauk Prairie School District), Jessica Machovec (Sauk County), Sylvia Ramirez (Madison College), Stan Senger (Village of Merrimac), and Village TID Consultant Katrina Becker were present as well as members of the public as listed on the sign in sheet. JRB Chairperson Klecker examined the affidavit of posting and confirmed that advance public notice of the meeting conformed to statutory requirements.

Item 2. Roll Call and verification of quorum: Chairperson Klecker verified a quorum via roll call.

Item 3. Approval of JRB Meeting Minutes of August 13, 2025: Machovec/Senger motioned to approve the August 13, 2025 JRB meeting minutes. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.**

Item 4. Consideration of Resolution 2025-09-02 Approving the Creation of Tax Increment District No. 1: Senger/Machovec motioned to approve Resolution 2025-09-02 Approving the Creation of Tax Increment District No. 1. All Ayes **Motion Carried.**

Item 5. Future agenda items: The JRB must meet for the Annual Review of the TID no later than July of 2026

Item 6. Next Meeting Date: The JRB members decided to wait until a later date to set the 2026 Annual Review meeting.

Item 7. Adjourn: At 9:37am, Machovec/Senger motioned to adjourn. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennie Klecker

Jennie Klecker

Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer

Next Village Board Meeting
October 14, 2025
5:30 PM @ Village Hall

Plan Commission Meeting
October 8, 2025
*6:30PM @ Village Hall

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

Recycling Pickup Dates:

October 13 & 27

Brush Pick-up Dates
October 8 & 22

Scrap metal recycling dumpster is located in the Village Hall parking lot.
METAL ONLY! No TV's Please!

Fall Leaf Clean-up Policy

Placing leaves in plastic bags for pickup is unnecessary and strongly discouraged. Residents should either compost their leaves on their own property, or pile them near the curbside on the Village's designated brush pick-up days. **Burning leaves is prohibited within the Village.** Because we do not have a street sweeper or vacuum, we ask that you **do not rake or blow your leaves into the Village's gutters, or streets.** Heavy rains then wash this debris into our storm sewers, impeding proper drainage and flow. Thank you for your cooperation throughout the coming fall season!



Merrimac Fire & Rescue OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, October 5th, 2025
10:00AM – 2:00PM

Merrimac Fire Station
Come check out our

BRAND-NEW Pumper Tender
Fire Truck

& FUNDRAISER CALENDAR DROP!!

Plus: Demos, Kids activities and
photo booth, giveaways, &
DonutNV Food Truck

Senior Fitness Program

Starts September 29, 2025 &
runs through May 8, 2026

- Open to anyone 50 years of age or older.
- **ONLY \$10.00** per person for the entire program!
- Join anytime!



Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays

9:30 – 10:00am
Merrimac Village Hall

HALLOWEEN TRICK OR TREAT THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30TH 4:00 – 7:00PM



Fall Yard Cleanup:

Less Means More for Pollinators

1. SAVE THE STEMS

Many insects bundle up in the tiny cavities of flower stems and lay their eggs. Hold off cutting down stems until March and leave at least 12 inches.

2. LEAVE THE LEAVES

Letting the leaves settle where they drop is the best thing you can do for both insects and soil health. A thin layer of leaves provides food & insulation for insects trying to make it through the cold winter.

3. START A BRUSH PILE

Create the ultimate bug paradise by collecting sticks and woody material in a single space in your yard. Once in place – do not disturb. This pile of organic material is a treasure trove of resources for birds and insects.

4. AVOID USING PESTICIDES

Say no to fungicides, herbicides, insecticides and other chemical treatments. Letting your yard go as natural as possible keeps all creatures great and small happy & healthy.

DEPUTY CLERK POSITION

The Village of Merrimac is seeking a well-qualified individual to fill a full-time Deputy Clerk position.

Pay and Benefits:

Starting wage range is dependent on applicant's experience. The position reports to the Village Administrator. Benefits include paid time off (PTO), Wisconsin Retirement System, and a non-taxable Health Reimbursement Account contribution.

Requirements:

- * Excellent communication skills – both written and verbal
- * Strong computer-based skills, including web-based applications and Microsoft Office: Outlook, Word, and Excel
- * Basic accounting. Familiarity with accounting software a plus, including Workhorse
- * Organizational skills and attention to detail
- * Ability to work independently to prioritize, coordinate, and complete multiple, detailed projects

Responsibilities include:

- * Prepare monthly utility bills using Workhorse Accounting
- * Prepare monthly accounts payable and receivable using Workhorse Accounting
- * Process timecards and prepare biweekly payroll through Workhorse Payroll
- * Prepare receipts and deposits for property tax payments
- * Assist Administrator with elections, including registrations, absentee ballots, election-day setup, oversight, and documentation
- * Assist Administrator with preparation of monthly Village Board packets
- * Process annual pet licenses and liquor licenses
- * Answer phones and greet visitors
- * Filing and records retention
- * Manage Village website and social media page
- * Assist Administrator with special projects and other aspects of municipal operations

Please submit your resume with cover letter and references **by October 10, 2025**, to Village of Merrimac Administrator Jennie Klecker at merrimac@merrimacwi.gov. Resumes may be mailed to 100 Cook Street, Merrimac, WI 53561. Visit the Village of Merrimac website merrimacwi.gov to view a full position description.