

VILLAGE VOICE

January 2021

Volume 17, Issue 1

Minutes of the Village Board January 12, 2021

The Village Board meeting was called to order in the Village Hall Large Meeting Room by Village President Phil Budde at 5:01 p.m. Board members Jim Malmberg, Garry Bahe, George Naxera, and Amy Buffardi were present. Village Administrator Brian Mooney was present. Members of the public in attendance were Bob Pfaff and Cheryl Anderson.

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:

President Budde inquired as to whether there was any public input. Mrs. Anderson informed the Board that she had updates to share on the 2021 Village Festival plan. Mrs. Anderson encouraged the Board to support the 2021 Village of Merrimac Festival on August 7, 2021. Mrs. Anderson spoke to the importance of early planning in order for the festival to succeed, as there are many Volunteers, Vendors and Community Partners involved with making the event a success. An initial planning meeting is set to occur this week. The Festival Plan Committee will proceed with the understanding that the event may be cancelled due to future Health Advisory recommendations.

Trustee Bahe informed the Board he wanted to thank all the volunteers who were involved with the festive Village planter holiday decorations. Mr. Bahe also thanked Village Public Works team members Justin Schultz and Derek Peetz for keeping the Village in great shape throughout the year. Lastly, Mr. Bahe

thanked new Village Staff members Jennie Klecker, Brian Mooney, along with interim Village Administrator Margaret Budde, for all their ongoing efforts to maintain successful Village operations.

Trustee Malmberg closed this session with an inquiry on snow removal near the curb at the Village Post Office, as well as a potential sidewalk repair. Administrator Mooney stated he would look into this inquiry and provide a future update.

Item 3. Consent Agenda:

Bahe/Buffardi moved to approve items 3a.,3c.,and 3d. of the Consent Agenda as posted. Subsection b. will be provided during a future Board Meeting. **Motion Carried**

Item 4. Approval of Village Bills:

Naxera/Malmberg moved to approve payment of outstanding monthly bills as listed on the Agenda. Upon roll call vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried**

Item 5. Report of the Administrator:

Mr. Mooney informed the Board that Engineering Selecting Committee Chairperson Bob Pfaff would have the floor to provide an update on the Engineering Statement of Qualification review. Mr. Pfaff informed the Board he had prepared a one page handout regarding the Committee's recommendation of Strand Associates, Inc. to be selected as the engineering firm to address identified priority Sewer/Wastewater improvement needs within the Village. Mr. Pfaff stated the Committee member's rankings were unanimous. Naxera/Bahe moved to approve firm ranking and authorize scope and fee negotiation by a three-member team consisting of Bob Pfaff, Margaret Budde, and Phil Budde. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried**

Mr. Mooney thanked Mr. Pfaff for his contributions and continued on to item b. of his report. Mr. Mooney stated the Village Caucus held on Saturday January 9th was well attended. Mr. Mooney stated a total of four residents were nominated for two open Village Trustee vacancies, and Village President Budde is running unopposed for re-election. The Spring election will take place on April 6, 2021 at Merrimac Village Hall.

Mr. Mooney's subsequent item for discussion was Resolution 2021-01-01 regarding Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) and Individual Coverage Health Reimbursement Arrangement (ICHRA) payments. Since the Village Administrator will have to make monthly payments at specified dates, these Employee Benefits must be treated as pre-paid expenses, without prior monthly Board approval. Naxera/Buffardi moved to approve Resolution 2021-01-01 allowing WRS/ICHRA payments to be handled as pre-paid expenses. Upon Roll Call Vote/All Ayes. **Motion Carried**

Mr. Mooney next alerted the Board that the Village received notification it would be reimbursed up to \$500.00 on qualifying Safety Items for Village Employees. Mr. Mooney informed the Board that the Public Works team had begun compiling a list of purchase needs. Mr. Budde stated there was an extension cord upgrade need identified at the Village Waste Water Treatment Plant. Naxera/Bahe moved to approve the Village Administrator on procurement of the needed Public Works Department safety equipment and seek grant reimbursement. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried**

Mr. Mooney's report also included the potential of adding a Bank of Prairie du Sac remote deposit equipment for Village Office use. Mr. Mooney disclosed the total annual fee associated with adding this

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

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option, along with the time savings and mileage reimbursement cost reductions for bank deposits. Mr. Mooney asked the Board to consider allowing the Village to begin a new contract addition of remote deposit. Malmberg/Bufardi moved to approve the Bank of Prairie du Sac remote deposit option. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried**

Mr. Mooney closed his report by stating that the State of Wisconsin has successfully reimbursed the Village for all COVID-Routes to Recovery Grant purchases.

Item 6. Water/Sewer/Maintenance: Mr. Budde covered the two items for discussion within the In-House Wastewater Analysis discussion.

Mr. Budde began by requesting approval of a \$500.00 Wastewater Test and supply kit to assist in proactively identifying issues at the Village Wastewater Treatment Plant. Malmberg/Naxera moved to approve the \$500.00 test kit as requested. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried**

Secondly, Mr. Budde's introduced Resolution 2021-02-01 for Reimbursement of in-house Wastewater Testing Expenses. Final WI DNR loan financing will be sought for this and future project needs. The Village is responsible for making expenditures as needed from its current funds until those proceeds become available. Naxera/Bufardi moved to approve Resolution for reimbursement of in-house wastewater testing expenses. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried**

Item 7. Adjourn: At 5:30pm Bahe/Bufardi moved that the meeting adjourn. **Motion Carried.**

Calendar Reminders

Board of Trustees

**Next Board Meeting
February 9, 2021 VILLAGE
HALL**

Fall/Winter Street Parking Regulations.

Vehicles cannot be left between 2am and 8am 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. Please clear sidewalks within 24 hours following the end of a snowfall event. If walks are not cleared within 48 hours, the Village will clear these walks and bill the property owner for this service.

2021 Merrimac Community Festival

The 2021 Community Festival Planning Committee is meeting the 2nd Thursday of each Month, February 11, 2021 6:30 pm Village Hall. Volunteers needed! Please see attached letter and sign-up sheet.

**Brush Pick-Up
Wednesday February 10,
2021**

The Village encourages all residents to sign up for Auto-Pay with e-Billing for monthly utilities. **See Village Website:** villageofmerrimac.org> utilities and billing> Direct Debit form & Email Bill Sign-Up.

Spring Primary Election
VOTE TUESDAY February
16, 2021 Polling Place:
Village Hall
100 Cook Street
Hours: 7:00am-8:00 pm

Spring Election
April 6, 2021
Polling Place: Village Hall
Registered candidates on
ballot for two Village
Trustee Positions Include:
Amy Buffardi
Andrew Gallus
Bob Pfaff
Kirk Olson
Please see the four
candidate introductory
statements attached.