

# The VILLAGE VOICE

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



October 2025 - Volume 51, Issue 06

## Draft minutes of the Parks & Rec Meeting October 2, 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, Tim Klecker, Jennifer Thompson, and June Krbecsek were present. 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: Memorial Park Pier Renovation:** Taylor spoke to the Weisensel family about using the memorial donations toward pier renovations at Memorial Park and they were very enthusiastic about this idea. Taylor assessed the condition of the pier and noted the wood needs sealing, some boards replaced, and loose screws put back down. The rubber bumpers could use replacement. The spacing on the railings should be reduced for safety. The wooden bench on the pier could be replaced with a more durable thermoplastic coated steel style. Taylor will work on getting a materials list and pricing.

**Item 4: Community Survey Development:** The group discussed developing a survey to determine the community's recreational wants and needs. Getting responses from the community can be difficult so providing multiple ways to deliver and return the survey will be important. Survey ideas include using Survey Monkey, a QR Code, flyer, mail-in form, or Facebook polls. Thompson will investigate how to set up surveys. Taylor inquired about setting up a dedicated email account for the Parks and Recreation committee.

**Item 5: Pavillion Fundraising Ideas:** Fundraising activities for building a second Pavillion at Memorial Park will be organized

by the Parks & Rec Committee. Klecker suggested that the committee work with the Plan Commission on their Comprehensive Plan update to include short-term and long-term Parks goals using the results from the survey. He also recommended creating a financial plan to present to the Village Board when requesting funding. Taylor mentioned that the committee can explore fundraising events such as a brat stand, t-shirt ideas, setting up a stand at the fireworks event (not competing with the fire department). Buck will contact the WI DNR grant coordinator to see what types of projects would qualify for a grant. Buck suggested continuing to work with the Sauk Prairie Chamber on advertising fundraising efforts.

**Item 6: Sunrise Shore Park:**

6.a. Riprap Quote; Taylor received a quote for \$10,100 from Fred Oxberger to install about 75ft of riprap along the shoreline and a rock retaining wall to hold existing grade on the south side. Next to this would be a 10-12ft sand beach area on the south end. This can be completed yet this year. Payments can be split between 2025 and 2026. Taylor suggested holding off on the planned survey work until next year and moving forward with the shoreline repair instead since ice damage is causing shoreline loss each winter. Klecker suggested that our committee ask the Board for the full \$10,100 to pay for the project in full this year. Bob Garrison requested the kayak/canoe launch be placed further from his yard. Taylor stated that it would be on the other side of the boulder wall that would be holding the hill grade there. 6.b. Survey Quote; no survey quote yet and will be put on hold until spring. 6.c. Walkway grade improvement, Taylor stated that the Village has some fill that can be used to taper the hill and the low spot where water pools. Klecker suggested using railroad ties to create landings and steps to go down the hill. Taylor will contact the property owner to the east to discuss ideas to resolve water

runoff and drainage issues between his property and Sunrise Shore Park. The committee will plan another work weekend to take out a few remaining dead trees and remove the brush pile.

**Item 7: Village Administrator's Report:** The 2026 Budget will include the \$10,000 budget request for Parks & Recreation. Final Festival revenues are pending results of online ticket sales; however, these funds are held back to pay for next year's start-up costs. Overall, it looks like the Village had a very successful festival this year.

**Item 8: Adjourn:** At 8:07pm Krbecsek/Klecker motioned to adjourn, All Ayes, Motion carried.

## Draft minutes of the Plan Commission Meeting October 8, 2025

**Item 1. Call to Order:** The Village of Merrimac Plan Commission meeting was called to order in Village Hall by Chairperson, Collin Bourgeois at 5:30pm. Commission Members Bob Garrison, Nicole Hartmann, Ann Hoffman, and Bob Pfaff were present. Also in attendance were Administrator Klecker and members of the public, as listed on the sign-in sheet. Chairperson Bourgeois examined the affidavit of posting and confirmed that advance public notice of the meeting conformed to statutory requirements.

**Item 2. Public Input:** Kirk Olson suggested that the Village form a committee to address aging buildings in the downtown area. Chairperson Bourgeois stated that the Village is hopeful that TIF revenues may be available in the form of matching grants, to assist local businesses with improvements.

**Item 3. Review Chapter 185 Zoning, Article V, Nonconforming Uses, Structures, and Lots. Provide clarification on future use options for legal nonconforming structure/substandard lot on parcel 151-0008-00000 (230 E. Main Street):** Potential buyers of the property at 230 E. Main Street asked for clarification on Village ordinances regarding removing the legal

nonconforming structure and rebuilding on a substandard lot. The Plan Commission advised that the old structure could be removed, and a new one be built as long as they follow the parameters outlined in §185-39 Substandard Lots. They would also need to apply for a conditional use permit for a street yard variance to use the average setback of both adjacent property's principal buildings to determine the minimum street yard setback.

**Item 4. Conditional Use Permit Application for accessory building on parcel 151-0187-10000 (306 W. Main Street):** After reviewing the Ferry X-ing's CUP application, Bourgeois/Pfaff motioned to recommend the Village Board approve the CUP, on the condition that they provide a site plan with setbacks to scale.

**Item 5. Comprehensive Plan Update - Share progress on new drafts:** The Commission members shared the progress they have made towards completing their assigned sections of the Comprehensive Plan Update

**Item 6. Adjourn:** At 7:40pm, Hoffman/Garrison motioned to adjourn. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

**Draft minutes of the Village Board Meeting October 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 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:** With Budget season approaching, Ron Senger encouraged the Board to find creative ways to appropriately compensate Village staff, in light of the Village losing 2 employees in a short time period.

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

**Item 4. Approval of Village Bills:** Budde/Senger 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. Consideration of Operator's License Application for Jason McKinney for Ferry X-ing Bar & Grill:** Gallus/Taylor motioned to approve Operator's License for Jason McKinney for Ferry X-ing Bar & Grill. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

**Item 6. Report of the Plan Commission:** Chairperson Bourgeois gave the report of the Plan Commission. At their 10/8/2025, meeting, the Commission voted to recommend the Board approve a Conditional Use Permit for the Ferry X-ing Bar & Grill to install an accessory building, on the condition that they provide a site plan with setbacks to scale. 6.a. Budde/Gallus motioned to approve the Ferry X-ing's CUP. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

**Item 7. Report of Parks & Recreation:** Chairperson Taylor gave the report of the Parks & Recreation Committee. The group decided that installing riprap along the shoreline of Sunrise Shores Park should take precedence over other projects, due to the damage that winter ice can cause. 7.a. Consideration of riprap quote for Sunrise Shore Park. Taylor/Gallus motioned to approve Fred Oxberger's \$10,100 riprap quote. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.** Chairperson Taylor proposed that the Board consider appropriating \$10K in the 2026 Budget for Parks & Recreation. President Gallus thanked the Parks & Rec volunteers for all of their hard work at Sunrise Shore Park this year.

**Item 8. Report of the Director of Public Works:** DPW Schultz reported that the Village siren has been fixed. Emergency Communication Systems offers an Annual Inspection and Preventative Maintenance Service Agreement for \$475 per year. Budde/Senger motioned to approve the service agreement. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.** Mayberry electric has quoted \$3,500 to install electrical outlets at the splitter box and upgrade outlets on the building at the WWTP. DPW Schultz asked who would be responsible for taking out the pier at the Palisade Street Boat Launch. Parks & Rec will volunteer to take out the pier this year and will revisit the topic next year.

**Item 9. Report of the Administrator:** 9.a. Methodist Church Sidewalk on School Street; The Methodist Church is working on their annual budget and wondered if they should still plan on paying for the new sidewalk in front of the church on School Street, given that the project may be covered by the TIF. Taylor/Garrison

motioned to table the topic until more information is available. 9.b. Deputy Clerk Hiring Update; The Village received 10 applications for the Deputy Clerk position and plan to interview 6 candidates, with a goal of filling the position by the end of October. Gallus/Senger motioned to allow the hiring committee to make a final decision to hire the candidate prior to the November 11 Village Board meeting. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.** 9.c. Strand Amendment No. 2 to task order No. 23-01; Due to upcoming engineering needs, the amendment would increase Strand's on-call service agreement by \$20,000. Budde/Gallus motioned to approve amendment No. 2 to Strand task order No. 23-01. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.** 9.d. Colsac Lodge; After reviewing the Developer's Agreement, Colsac Lodge is proposing a split of the taxes generated from the development for the life of the TID. The Village would retain a certain percentage to cover the School Street Project, Administrative Costs, and any other capital projects. The remainder of the taxes would go to the developer as a "development incentive," and the developer would be required to construct the boulevard and stormwater management. After much discussion, the Board decided to have Becker Professional Services evaluate the offer to determine if the incentive is reasonable. The Board would also like to have a special meeting between the developer's team and the Village, along with our attorney and TIF consultant. 9.e. Town of Merrimac Snowplowing contract review; The snowplowing contract was not available so the topic will be moved to next meeting.

**Item 10. 2026 Budget Discussion:** 10.a. Status of 2026 General & Parks Budget; Administrator Klecker reviewed the proposed 2026 Budget Overview with the Board. 10.b. Remaining 2025 Projects that may occur in late 2025 or early 2026; Chipsealing at Memorial Park, Ball Park, and Village Hall parking lot will happen in 2026 rather than 2025. 10.c. Discuss 2026 Projects and One-Time Purchases; As part of an energy efficiency initiative, Bob Pfaff of Green Merrimac conducted an extensive energy audit of the Municipal Building that offered several suggestions for improvement. The shop doors are drafty and due to be resealed. Thermal imaging around the windows in Village Hall, which are original from 1976, found substantial cold air leaks. The HVAC system is also aging. The audit found the hot water heater to be inefficient, taking a full 3 minutes to

get hot water to the bathroom faucets. The Board decided that shop door seals and window replacement should be prioritized first. They will also look into a hot water on demand system for the bathrooms. Other Village proposed projects and one-time purchases include a portable generator, chainsaw, weed eater, leaf vacuum, and in-depth pest control remediation. 10.d. 2022 LRIP Grant Substitution; In consultation with DPW Schultz, Administrator Klecker recommended the Village apply the 2022 LRIP grant to Church Street. The \$15K grant, originally awarded for minor repairs to School Street, must be used by 2026.

**Item 11. Convene in closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes Section §19.85(1)(c) to discuss concerns of the Director of Public Works:** Bourgeois/Gallis motioned to convene in closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes Section §19.85(1)(c) to discuss concerns of the Director of Public Works. Ally Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

**Item 12. Adjourn from Closed Session:**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jennie Klecker



Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer

**2026 General & Parks Budget Hearing**

With Regular Village Board Meeting  
Immediately Following

**November 11, 2025**

5:30 PM @ Village Hall

**AA Meetings**

Wednesday Evenings 7:00pm

@ Merrimac Village Hall - Questions?  
Contact Chuck @ 608-795-0050

Recycling Pickup Dates:



**November 10 & 24**

**Brush Pick-up Dates**

**November 5 & 19**

\*\*\*Scrap metal recycling is ending for the season in mid-November.\*\*\*

It will resume in April 2026.

**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 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!



Fall/Winter Street Parking  
Regulations Begin  
November 15, 2025



**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.

**Memorial & Ball Park bathrooms are closed for the season.**

*Village Hall will be closed  
November 27 & 28*



**Senior Fitness Program**

Going on now  
through May 8, 2026

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

**Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays**

9:30 – 10:00am  
Merrimac Village Hall



**BEAT the HEATING Bill**

1. **Seal air leaks around windows, doors and outlets.** Use rope caulk to seal around windows. Install a door sweep at the bottom of the door. Reducing these drafts can cut your energy bill by 5% or more.
2. **Use a smart or programmable thermostat.** Programming your thermostat to lower the temperature by 10-15% for 8 hrs, while you're away, can reduce your bill by 10%.
3. **Conduct an energy audit.** You can conduct your own free home energy assessment online at Alliant Energy's website. <https://www.alliantenergy.com/ways-to-save/home-energy-assessment>. Home energy audits can also be conducted by a professional. Focus on Energy has a list of reputable "Trade Allys" on their website. <https://focusonenergy.com/services/energy-assessments>

Use Focus on Energy's FREE Energy-Saving Packs, available to all Alliant Energy customers.

<https://focusonenergymarketplace.com/default/free-energy-saving-packs>

Additional weatherization Items can be ordered from their website at discounted prices.

Rebates and Incentives are still available too. Checkout Focus On Energy's website. <https://focusonenergy.com/rebates>