

the Merrimac Area Fire Commission Meeting minutes for December 5, 2016. Ron noted that the two vacant parcels for sale next to the fire station had recently sold to Gary and Jane Epping of Waunakee. The MFD had also recently announced their planned 2017 fireworks date as Sunday, July 2nd (with a rain date of Monday, July 3rd if needed). Ron also reported he had ordered a new chemical scale from Martelle Water Treatment to replace the failing one in the Village's well house. The Wisconsin DNR requires a scale capable of measuring down to one-tenth of a pound for weighing daily Sodium Hypochlorite additive in our water distribution and storage system. The new scale will be delivered and installed on February 28th. Ron closed by reminding the Board that a representative from the Wisconsin Department of Administration is scheduled to come provide a site visit and training on the Village's Community Development Block Grant Revolving Loan Fund program March 7, 2017.

Sewer Operations:

Ron reported anoxic mixer #3 at the wastewater plant will be shipped to Landia soon to be rebuilt.

Water Operations: Nothing reported

Planning & Zoning: Nothing reported

With no further matters brought before the Board, Rasmussen/Naxera moved to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried** and the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald D. Senger
Administrator

Lake Wisconsin Alliance

The Lake Wisconsin Alliance hosted an educational meeting at the Village Hall on Tuesday, February 16, 2017. Mr. Virgil Kasper presented his program entitled "The Merrimac Railroad Bridge: Past, Present, and Future." In his nearly 2-hour presentation, Mr. Kasper provided a fascinating historical account of railroads and their impact on Sauk County. He also outlined the planned Merrimac railroad bridge repairs and improvements that will occur over the next two years. In 2016 the Wisconsin Department of Transportation had approved project plans for the 17 million (17M) dollar railroad bridge repair and reconstruction project to begin by mid-summer, 2017. Eighty percent of the project funding is from a State grant via the Federal Railroad Preservation Program; the remaining twenty percent of the 17M funding will be provided by the primary user of this rail line, the Wisconsin & Southern Railroad. For more interesting facts and information, please watch the 3-part, recorded video of Virgil Kasper's presentation posted on the Village's website at:

villageofmerrimac.org/History.htm

Direct Payment of Utility Bills

We encourage our water-sewer utility customers to pay their monthly bills directly from a bank account by completing the ACH Direct Debit Form available on our Village website under the tab "Municipal Forms." This automated payment method provides one more way to simplify your life and save time and money. Currently more than 36 % of our customers are using this simple payment method. Please call the Village office if you have questions, or need help with the form.

CALENDAR REMINDERS

Village Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 14, 2017, 6pm

Next Brush Pick-Up Date

March 8, 2017

NOTE: Brush pickup returned to once a month beginning in November.

Please place your yard waste at curbside in CLEAR plastic bags (or in neat 4' x 4' x 6' piles, readily accessible for pick up by our grapple bucket).

Spring Election

April 4, 2017

Registered candidates on the ballot for two expiring Village trustee positions will include Garry Bahe, Phil Budde, and Jeff Rasmussen. Nick Hahn is the sole registered candidate for the expiring Village President position.

Tip of the Month

Lyme disease is the most common disease spread by ticks in the whole Northern Hemisphere. A Village resident recently reported more than a half dozen residents became ill and were diagnosed with Lyme disease in 2016. It's likely there have been more local cases that were not reported. This disease is transmitted to humans by the bite of infected deer ticks. The most common sign of infection is an expanding area of redness at the site of a tick bite, usually up to a week after the bite has occurred. Prevention includes efforts to prevent tick bites such as by wearing long pants and using DEET. There is abundant information available about this disease on the internet. Learn more by searching "Lyme disease."

VILLAGE VOICE

FEBRUARY 22, 2017

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Minutes of the Village Board Meeting of February 22, 2017

President Hahn called the Village Board meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Board members present upon roll call included Nick Hahn, Jeff Rasmussen, George Naxera and Jim Malmberg. Garry Bahe was excused absent. Village Administrator/Clerk Ron Senger and Village Water and Wastewater Operator Justin Schultz were also present.

President Hahn examined the affidavit of posting and verified that advance public notice of the meeting conformed to statutory requirements.

Public Input:

Mr. Ed White, Executive Director of the newly-chartered and recently restructured Sauk County Development Corporation (SCDC) introduced himself to the Village Board and staff. Mr. White briefly summarized his professional experience and qualifications in building and financing community and economic development, managing projects in both the public and private sectors. He provided a review of the SCDC's new charter, mission and goals for promoting and retaining the diverse economic vitality of Sauk County and its individual communities. For more detailed information on how the SCDC can help existing businesses and new

startup businesses in Sauk County, please visit their website at:

scdc.com

Following review of the Village's outstanding bills and prepaid expenses, Rasmussen/Malmberg moved to approve payment of the bills as listed on the agenda. Upon roll call vote, **motion carried.**

Hahn/Naxera moved to approve the monthly financial reports including the balance sheet and budget comparison for January, 2017. **Motion carried.**

Rasmussen/Naxera moved to approve the draft Minutes of the January 10, 2017 Village Board meeting. **Motion carried.**

Malmberg/Naxera moved to approve the draft Minutes of the January 14, 2017 Village Caucus. **Motion carried.**

Rasmussen/Naxera moved to approve a \$500 Village payment in support of the Oak Hill Cemetery Association's 2017 operating budget. **Motion carried.**

Ron presented a comparison of five competing quotes gathered from four local implement dealerships for the budgeted purchase of a 2017 lawn tractor with four implements. Implements included a mid-mount mower deck, a 12-bushel bagger system, front-mount snow blower, and front-mount rotary broom. Review and comparison of equipment quotes included the following:

John Deere X758 model lawn tractor with JD implements (with quotes provided by Mid-State Equipment and Middleton Power Center); Massey Ferguson GC1715 model lawn tractor and MF implements (with quotes provided by Koenecke Equipment and McFarlane's); and a quote on the Kubota BX2370-1 lawn tractor and Kubota implements (also provided by McFarlane's).

With a thorough review of options and with recommendations based on quality factors, pricing and warranty information, Naxera/Malmberg moved to approve purchase of the Kubota equipment from McFarlane's. Following roll call vote, **motion carried.**

Next the Board reviewed the Joint Powers Agreement for the Sauk County 911 Emergency System. This signed agreement between the County and its municipalities is reviewed and renewed annually for providing daily emergency services including law enforcement, EMS, and firefighting to residents and visitors in the county, regardless of municipal jurisdictional boundaries. Following review, Rasmussen/Naxera moved to approve the Joint Powers Agreement as written. **Motion carried.**

Administrator's Report:

Ron distributed copies of the Minutes of the Sauk Prairie School Board Meetings of December 12, 2016 and January 9, 2017. Additionally, he provided copies of

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