

the wastewater treatment plant. Ron reminded the Board and those watching the meeting proceedings that our burn site is secured to reduce the likelihood of random dumping of waste items like construction debris, box springs, mattresses, or other trash items. Per DNR regulations, our licensed burn site can only receive natural wood waste/matter, like sticks, branches, and brush (for burning) and leaves and grass clippings (for composting). Village residents may contact the Village to coordinate access for brush drop-offs at the secured site when needed; however, beginning in May we will return to twice-a-month brush pickup dates throughout the summer and fall months. Ron also reminded the Board, this spring we have begun replacing the high-pressure sodium (HPS) street light bulbs (as they fail) with new LED bulbs in our 64 decorative street light poles that line Main and River Streets throughout the Village. As we replace more and more of the HPS bulbs over the coming months and years, we will experience long-term savings on electric usage costs, labor and equipment costs.

Sewer Operations:

Ron reported our Landia mixer (#3) being rebuilt at the Cary, NC facility should be completed by late April. Our goal is to have the mixer re-installed and operational again at our wastewater treatment plant by mid-May.

Water Operations:

In late March, Village staff thoroughly flushed all 10 "dead-end" water mains to remove sediment deposits that collected in the distribution system

since our last scheduled flushing session. Residents are encouraged to call the Village and report when/if they notice water clarity concerns.

With no further matters brought before the Board, Rasmussen/Bahe moved to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried** and the meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald D. Senger
Administrator

**2017 Merrimac
Community Festival**

Saturday, August 5, 2017

Volunteer helpers are encouraged to contact Ron at (608) 493-2122. Many of our local community organizations will be needing volunteers to help out during the festival day. Key participating organizations will include the Immanuel Lutheran Church, the United Methodist Church, Merrimac Fire & Rescue and the Merrimac Snowbusters Snowmobile Club. Serving 2-3 hours as a volunteer is an excellent way to meet and make new friends, get involved to raise money for a good cause (our Village Parks) and to give back to our lovely little community.

Merrimac Community Festival tee shirts are now on sale for \$10 at the Village Hall. To view some prior-year Festival photos online, please visit: villageofmerrimac.org/Events.htm.

CALENDAR REMINDERS

Village Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 9, 2017, 6:00pm

Brush Pick-Up Dates

Brush Pick-Up returns to twice a month beginning in May

May 10th and 24th

Please place your yard waste at curbside in CLEAR plastic bags (or in neat 4' x 4' x 6' piles) with easy access for pick up by our tractor **without driving on grass/lawns.**

Property Maintenance

We suggest that all Village residents stand back and assess the overall condition of your property. If you see things in a state of disrepair, others will also see this. Please take appropriate actions to spruce up your property so our Village looks great to everyone this spring!

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. Now nearly 40% of our customers are using this simple payment method. Please call the Village office if you have questions, or need help with the form.

VILLAGE VOICE

APRIL 11, 2017

Volume 13, Issue 4

Minutes of the Village Board Meeting of April 11, 2017

President Hahn called the Village Board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Board members present upon roll call included Nick Hahn, Jeff Rasmussen, George Naxera, Jim Malmberg and Garry Bahe. Village Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer Ron Senger and newly-elected Board member Phil Budde 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: None

With residents Jacob and Liz Hesse present at the meeting, Agenda Item No. 7, "Consider the Plan Commission's recommendation to approve a front-setback variance for a new deck at 110 Second St." was moved up to Agenda Item No. 3. Jim Malmberg summarized the Plan Commission's discussion and findings, reminding all present that a board may grant a zoning variance request only in limited circumstances and only when the applicant provides evidence they have met all the legal criteria for a requested variance. The three criteria an applicant must satisfy include: unnecessary hardship; a unique property condition; and no harm to the public interest.

Unnecessary hardship was met due to a unique property condition; this home was originally built in the 1960s with only 20 feet of front setback. The landing and stairs originally built to serve the raised, front entry door subsequently reduced that front setback to only 16 feet. Thus the home did not meet and could not meet the current required 25-foot front setback that was later established by the village code (adopted in June 2006). This unique property condition creates hardship for the owner in that the front setback can never be met, and a variance will always be required whenever a landing or deck is built to serve the front entry door. Malmberg completed the summary by stating the Commission could find no real harm to the public interest. Thus, with all three criteria met, Malmberg/Naxera moved to approve the recommendation by the Plan Commission. **Motion carried.**

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

Bahe/Malmberg moved to approve the monthly financial reports including the balance sheet and budget comparison for March, 2017. Upon roll call vote, **motion carried.**

Naxera/Bahe moved to approve the draft Minutes of the March 14, 2017 Village Board meeting. **Motion carried.**

Bahe/Hahn moved to approve Jeff Rasmussen as a member of the Plan Commission to replace Phil Budde, who was elected at the spring election and will move over to the Village Board effective April 18, 2017. **Motion carried.**

Considering recommendations of the Plan Commission, Rasmussen/Naxera moved to approve a proposed certified survey map combining two lots into one parcel at 614 Lakeview Drive, in preparation for construction of a new home on the newly-enlarged, parcel within the Colsac Cove subdivision. **Motion carried.**

Malmberg/Bahe moved to approve Operator's licenses for Richard Hawley and Tara Jewell for employment with CG's Pub & Grub. **Motion carried.**

Administrator's Report:

Ron provided Board members copies of the Sauk Prairie School Board meeting Minutes for 3/2/17 and 3/13/17, along with the Village Inspection Report for 4/6/17. Key items included a celebration of the Charter School 10-year anniversary with a reunion set for Sunday, May 21, from 1-4 pm at the Merrimac Community Charter School. If you wish to come, please bring school pictures, memorabilia, and a snack or dessert to pass. The school will provide cake, coffee and punch. Ron mentioned the new "Restricted Area" signs were placed at the entrance and inner gate to the Village's licensed burn site near

Website: villageofmerrimac.org **Email:** Merrimac@merr.com
Village Hall: 608-493-2122 **Fax:** 608-493-9908
REGULAR OFFICE HOURS: Monday—Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.