

water demand, which in turn is causing a reduction in revenues to municipalities.

The Village still has not received official confirmation of receipt of the State grant for street improvement, although an article in the Sauk Prairie Star has reported that the grant was awarded.

The Village has responded to an open records request from a resident who is objecting to the proposed short-term rental guidelines proposed by Planning and Zoning.

The Board reviewed the Village's plowing equipment to determine if an additional plow blade is needed. Jeff now has the equivalent of a 10-foot blade on the tractor with the bucket in front and an 8-foot back blade. Hahn/Nawrocki moved to work with the equipment currently on hand. **Motion carried.**

Valve packing maintenance at the Wastewater Treatment Plant is scheduled for the week of December 19th.

We are still awaiting a report from Alliant Energy on the energy audit conducted this fall. We are also waiting for a report from Cathodic Protection Management on the results of their survey of the sewer system.

The damage claim by a resident on Main Street for damage from a sewer backup is still pending. Jeff Rasmussen and Shellie will follow up with our insurance company next week.

Shellie distributed a cost breakdown from Badger Meter of the remote-read meters they have available. The matter will be considered further at a future meeting.

Shellie decorated the Village planters for the holidays with materials donated by the following: Caledonia Tree Farm, Rosemarv Wendt, Benish Familv and

and Arlene). THANK YOU VERY MUCH TO EVERYONE!

Also a VERY **BIG** THANK YOU to everyone who made Santa's visit a success this year. The Fire Station was packed! Contributors include: MF&R, Consumers Co-Op, Merr.com, Ferry Crossing, Charlie's, Dr. & Patty Storm, Varsity Club, Reliable Maintenance, Piggy Wiggly, Pierce's, NAPA, Candy's Café.

Village residents have suggested that Merrimac should have a Veterans' Memorial. The village is seeking ideas & suggestions on how this should look.

Because property taxes are lower this year than they were last year, many residents' tax bills will be overpaid by escrow agents. Refunds due will be grouped and made as soon as possible after payments are received.

At 7:30 p.m. Hahn/Nawrocki moved to convene to closed session pursuant to Wis. State Statute 19.85(1)(c) to consider employment, promotion evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility (Employee Handbook, health insurance, vacation/holiday hours. **Motion carried.**

At 8:10 p.m. Hahn/Nawrocki moved to close the closed session. **Motion carried.**

At 8:10 p.m. Martin/Nawrocki moved to reconvene into open session. **Motion carried.**

Discussion of health insurance and paid time off was tabled. The Village will be closed from Noon on December 23rd through Monday, January 2nd. Village employees will be taking their vacations at this time. The drop slot will be available 24/7 for tax/utility payments during that time.

There being no other matters to come before the Board, Hahn/Rasmussen moved to adjourn. **Motion carried.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shellie Benish,
Administrator

VILLAGE REMINDERS

* **Regular Village Board meeting**
Tuesday, January 10th, 6 PM

BRUSH PICKUP
January 11, 2012

Please remember to place your leaves in clear plastic bags. *Christmas trees should be placed at the curb with the trunk pointing toward the street.*

***Alternate side parking in effect**
now through April 15
Even side - even days
Odd side - odd days

***SNOW SHOVELING**
Of sidewalks & around mailboxes is homeowner responsibility, Ord. #129-5



DOG AND CAT LICENSE RENEWALS ARE DUE

All dogs and cats in the Village of Merrimac are required to be licensed annually.



VILLAGE VOICE

DECEMBER 13, 2011

Draft Only!

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 12

Minutes From the Village Board Meeting

President Hahn called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building meeting room. Board members present upon roll call: Nick Hahn, Ed Nawrocki, Jim Malmberg, Jeff Rasmussen and Scott Martin. The affidavit of posting was examined and verified to conform to the proper statutory requirements.

Nawrocki/Martin moved to adopt the resolution for payment of water utility bills. (Copy of said resolution available upon request.) Upon roll call vote, **motion carried.**

Martin/Nawrocki moved to adopt the resolution for payment of the sewer utility bills. (Copy of said resolution available upon request.) Upon roll call vote, **motion carried.**

Rasmussen/Malmberg moved to adopt the resolution for payment of general village and park bills. (Copy of said resolution available upon request.) Upon roll call vote, **motion carried.**

Nawrocki/Malmberg moved to accept the minutes of the November 8, 2011 Board meeting. **Motion carried.**

Hahn/Martin moved to accept the Village Treasurer's Report for November. **Motion carried**

Public Input Session. None.

Ray Tierney and Greg Borrucki with SCS BT Squared, the Village's engin-

neering firm, were present to give an annual update. BT Squared has merged with SCS Engineers, a national firm, but will remain in their offices in Madison-Dells and continue to provide service to the Village as they have in the past. The Geographical Information System (GIS) mapping of village properties is almost complete and we will have updated maps on display at the Village office. They can provide planning work for the Safe Routes to School program the Village is planning to apply for in 2012.

Bill Clasen was present for continued discussion of issues regarding his property at 220 W. Main Street: (1) some confusion regarding a building permit for a deck (2) a final occupancy permit and (3) renewal of the classification of a temporary building. The question regarding the building permit has been resolved. The occupancy inspection has been paid for and will be done. Clasen has agreed to remove the temporary hoop building behind the house in the spring or when the property sells. The Board determined that no further action will be taken at this time.

The Board will consider tightening up the definitions relating to temporary and accessory buildings. Shellie was asked to draft an outline of an ordinance regarding these definitions to be considered at a future meeting.

Shellie presented proposals from the firms of Johnson Block and Wegner CPA's, both of which are seeking to be retained as the auditors for the Village. Johnson Block has been the auditor for the past several years. Following discussion, the Board was asked to approve the transfer of audit duties from Johnson Block to Wegner CPA's,

transition between audit firms can be accomplished without added expense. Malmberg/Martin moved to retain Wegner CPA's pending a positive result of Hahn's discussion with the firm. Upon roll call vote, with Rasmussen abstaining as Wegner is a client of his. **Motion carried.**

The terms of Village Trustees Ed Nawrocki and Jim Malmberg will expire in April 2012. Malmberg/ Nawrocki moved to approve the date and time for the Village Caucus to nominate residents to fill those vacancies for Saturday, January 7, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. **Motion carried.**

Jeff Voll presented his report on Village maintenance/operations items. He advised that he will need some assistance to research the best alternatives to power the backup motor for the Village well pump when the gasoline tank is removed. He will have a proposal by the January Board meeting.

Shellie provided information and a photo of the problem encountered with the John Deere tractor when a gear part in the right wheel hub failed. Mid-States has repaired the wheel & it is covered by warranty.

Administrator's Report.

Minutes of the Sauk Prairie School Board meetings of October 24 and November 14 were distributed to the Board, along with minutes of the Merrimac Fire Commission meeting of October 4th and Village Inspection Reports for the week of November 11 and for November 19-30.

Shellie reported on an article in American City and County Magazine, which reports a decline in drinking

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