

T H E T O W N O F
MERRIMAC

S6911 State Highway 113 - P.O. Box 115
Merrimac, WI 53561

MINUTES OF THE TOWN BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, February 5, 2014

Present were Steve Peetz, Chair, Supervisor Terry Frosch, Supervisor John Gaedke, and Tim McCumber, Town Administrator & Clerk – Treasurer, and Jaclyn Mich for Mike Slavney, the Town's Planner.

Chairman Peetz called the **TOWN BOARD MEETING** to order. McCumber confirmed the meeting had been properly noticed. The board considered approval of minutes of the town board meeting of January 2, 2013; Motion to approve as amended by Gaedke to approve, second by Frosch. Motion passed. The board reviewed the financial reports and approval of bills. Motion by Peetz to approve, second by Frosch. Motion passed. Under **PUBLIC COMMENT**, Roger Heidenreich and Gene Franks, both of Inspiration Dr. appeared with a follow up regarding the Citizens for Practical Water Solutions (CPWS). Heidenreich reported CPWS was formed last month to work toward developing interest in the Army's proposed water system after the USDA refused to sign the Army's petition. They mailed out a fact sheet with a card that people could sign if they wanted to petition the town board to form a water district. They already received 127 cards back. About 15 came from Prairie du Sac and the rest from the Merrimac and Sumpter list. Most direct mailings generate a 3-4% return and they have had a 30% response. They also received a letter from the Summer Oaks board representing 65 homes and a letter from the Foster Shore homeowners association supporting the petition. Franks reported that they feel that the high number of out of town residents might make it too expensive to get 51% of the owners. They believe they have a high number of people that would make this a low risk for the board to take the lead and submit the petition. They would like the board to discuss the water district at next month's meeting and want to be an ally that can assist the board. They also have a proposed resolution that they would like the board to consider and will take it to the other towns for review. Peetz asked if they have spoken to the Army and is concerned about how the town would be able to take the lead when it is the Army's financial responsibility. Mike Sitton from the US Army said that the bill would be paid by the Army. Peetz doesn't feel the entire process has been done to the fullest extent to make certain the Army's petition is submitted by the Army rather than having the town board create the district unilaterally. Craig Hamilton asked for some clarification about what Peetz said about the separation of the Army's role and the town's role. Mary Carol Solum said that the Village of Merrimac was looking to hook into the Badger sanitary treatment plant and Devil's Head Resort was working on replacing their system when the town formed a sanitary district in the late 1990's. Frank Olah spoke regarding the town of Merrimac survey and felt that the survey did not ask if people if they wanted to hook up to municipal water and that the survey asked them under what kind of conditions could they would help set the system up. He asked each of the town board members to fill the survey out themselves and see if they could still support the proposed water system. Olah mentioned that his parents live in Roxbury and when they had their well tested they found coliform bacteria. They had to treat it and had it cleaned. He said that if they had asked the Roxbury town board to fix the problem, they would have been laughed out of the room. He said that last summer several people had their wells tested and because they found coliform bacteria in their wells they are now on a door-to-door crusade to replace their wells. Olah feels a water utility does not solve the problem. Under **CORRESPONDENCE**, the town received notices regarding referendums on April 1, 2014 seeking \$35 million for Sauk Prairie Schools and \$9.85 million for Baraboo Schools; and a letter from Mary Carol Solum with minutes of the last IBOMC meeting; a notice of hearing in the matter of the town vs. Jerry Siedenburg on February 20, 2014; and a Claim for Excessive Assessment from Devil's Head Resort for the 2012 assessment for taxes payable in 2013. Under **REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**, McCumber reported on a meeting with Merrimac Fire Chief Chris Jensen, the USDA, DNR, and the US Army regarding fire & rescue procedures at the former Badger properties, and upcoming Public Hearings by the Planning & Zoning Commission for ordinance amendments for vacation rentals and a Conditional Use Permit for Ron Zeman. McCumber also reported a report of 2013 building permits and a town history of the number of permits issued and their values through 1994. There was no **OLD BUSINESS**. Under **NEW BUSINESS**, the board discussed a recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission to approve the 7th addendum to Lakeview Estates as a minor amendment to the Planned Area Development to reflect the location of installed and proposed piers for the purpose of Department of Natural Resources pier permitting approval. McCumber reported an issue was raised regarding the piers

being removed from the lake annually at the end October and had an email from the developer acknowledging that they will correct the problem going forward. Motion by Peetz to approve the addendum. Second by Gaedke. Motion passed. The board then considered a presentation from VandeWalle & Associates regarding the results of the proposed municipal water survey. Jaclyn Mich of VandeWalle & Associates reported how the survey was directed at only property owners with ID codes to that could only be used once. She reported that 37% of the respondents were 87% in favor of creating a sanitary district to investigate the financial feasibility of the proposal. She said the response rate is a very good indicator of how people feel about the project and said the responses also made it very clear that they liked the project when it is funded or subsidized by the US Army, but they absolutely do not favor the project if there is additional owner cost or it is not subsidized by the US Army. Peetz asked to have the results with the question survey responses answered and posted on the town's website. The board finally considered a contract with no changes over prior years from Wagner's Lawn Care to mow the cemeteries. McCumber reported there is no increase in the fees and he was really pleased to hear from Marcia Wagner that her kids have adopted the cemeteries and have even performed additional work at no charge to the town. Motion to accept the contract by Frosch, second by Gaedke. Motion passed.

Motion to adjourn by Frosch, second by Gaedke. Motion passed.