

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 PUBLIC HEARING
Wednesday, April 29, 2015
Devil's Head Resort, Town of Merrimac

Present were Town Chair Steve Peetz, Supervisor Charlie Hall, and Supervisor John Gaedke Also present was Tim McCumber, Town Administrator & Clerk – Treasurer.

Chairman Peetz called a **PUBLIC HEARING** to order regarding a petition for the establishment of a town sanitary district in the Towns of Merrimac, Prairie du Sac, and Sumpter, Sauk County, Wisconsin, at Devils' Head Resort, S6330 Bluff Rd., Merrimac, Wisconsin. 92 people registered at the door, an estimated 140 people were in attendance. McCumber confirmed the meeting had been properly noticed and reminded the audience that per statute, only land owners in the proposed district could speak adding that an exception is being made for residents who live in the Eagle Point, Foster Shores and Oak Rd subdivisions. The reason was some preliminary work by the Army shows that these subdivisions are likely to be added the district later based on potential well locations. He also added if that occurred, there would be a public hearing at that time if the system moves forward. Mike Sitton from the US Army appeared and spoke about the purpose of the project and the procedure for moving forward. McCumber then reported they would rotate speakers who want to speak in favor, those who are opposed, and those who wish to speak as interest may appear asking folks to try to keep their comments to around 3 minutes or less. Those who appeared were Gene Franks representing Citizens for Practical Water solutions spoke in favor; Town of Prairie Chairman Ron Lins spoke in opposition concerned about the quality of water as it reached his property; Laura Olah, Executive Director of Citizens for Safe Water spoke as interest may appear expressing concern about contamination reaching Weigand's Bay and cleanup measures; Ori Eilertson appeared in favor; Dean Voecks spoke in opposition expressing he is not pleased with the process and felt the survey was slanted; Chris Hanson spoke as interest may appear expressing concerns about existing infrastructure, utility easements, and connection fees as it relates to Coves Court and Summer Oaks; Pat Sereg spoke in favor adding that after the town (actually Sauk County) tested private wells in town as surprised at the number of wells contaminated from farm runoff; Mike Gleason appeared stating heas concerned about chlorination and fluoride and spoke to the cleanup process adding the Army should supply us with water for the next 100 years; Joe Konewko appeared in opposition recommending that the Army drills individual wells deeper to solve the problem; John Kassner spoke in opposition stating that he sold lots at Coves Court with the cost of connecting to their well built into the cost; Roger Heidenreich appeared in favor; Frank Olah spoke as interest may appear stating that an independent feasibility study for the long-term maintenance costs should be conducted; David Johnson spoke in support of forming the district to determine the answers to many of the questions folks have asked tonight; Ed Krumenauer who stated he lives in the Village of Prairie du Sac but owns land in the town of Sumpter thinks the communities should promote home development and questioned why the Army doesn't connect to the Village of Prairie du Sac and questioned what Merrimac gets to gain from this in form of salaries and other benefits; Jeff Moore said that the people who have good neighborhood well systems that are not affected should not have to be included; Mary Jane Koch all spoke as interest may appear and spoke to the cleanup process and seeking guarantees her property would not be devalued as a result as she is concerned about being added to the DNR GIS registry. Chairman Peetz offered a last call for speakers Stuart Allen who lived in the Wyndings stated that he noted everyone questioned what if we do this but noted no one seemed concerned about what if we don't do this. A resident questioned when we would vote on the matter. Peetz asked McCumber to discuss the process. McCumber reported that the statutes

for forming the Sanitary District are in Chapter 60 of Wisconsin law requires that the Army present the petition to the town with the largest equalized value so it came to the town of Merrimac. The town board has 30 days to hold a public hearing to get public input and then 30 days to issue a determination. The town board will not be taking any action at its May 6th town board meeting and was looking to hold a meeting to make a determination on May 27th. Chairman Peetz informed the audience that date was not in stone. An audience member stated that we had heard from the Army but wanted to know what the town board thought. Peetz stated that the board has not made discussed it yet. McCumber added that until now, everything is based on the Army talking and because there has not been a petition, the town board has not discussed it and it has not been on a town agenda. McCumber added that the town will not be sending mailings in the future and that the purpose of the certified letters was to make certain everyone knew the process had officially started. Anyone who wants to follow along can register their email address on the sign-in sheets and the town will email minutes and agendas.

Motion to adjourn by Gaedke, second by Hall. Motion approved.

Summary of speakers/comments:

5 spoke in favor
3 spoke in opposition
9 spoke speaking for informational purposes only

Written meeting comments:

3 in favor
1 in opposition
3 for informational purposes only

Comments mailed in:

8 in favor
3 in opposition

Total input:

16 in favor
7 in opposition
9 for informational purposes

General concerns:

Chlorination and fluoride concerns; Replacement & maintenance cost; Cost to farmers; Financial burden in the future; Water stagnation; Why not simply replace individual wells; Define new/existing lots being added to system; No liability to the town or residents; Why not connect to the Village of Prairie rather than the town of Merrimac.