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## MINUTES OF THE TOWN BOARD MEETING Wednesday, October 6, 2021

Present were Chairman Charlie Hall, Supervisor Tim Healy and Supervisor John Gaedke. Also in attendance was Tim McCumber, Town Administrator & Clerk – Treasurer and Jeremy Bowers, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer.

Chairman Hall called to order a Public Hearing regarding ordinance #2021-42 to amend the towns Parking Ordinance #2020-06 to prohibit parking on Halweg Road from State Highway 113 west to the railroad bridge excluding town meetings and Election days. McCumber reported that the parking ordinance would need to be amended due to visitors parking along the road to bypass the entrance to the campground to avoid fees. Craig Hamilton spoke up in favor of the ordinance. Tim Healy made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded John Gaedke. Motion passed.

Chairman Hall called to order another Public Hearing regarding proposed ordinance #2021-08 adopting election wards in the town of Merrimac in accordance with Wisconsin Statutes requiring such wards in Towns with populations exceeding 1000 residents. McCumber reported that wards become mandatory when a town exceeds 1000 people and that the main purpose of these wards is simply to allow for another polling location for ease of voting for the public. No one appeared. Hall made a motion to close public hearing, seconded by Healy. Motion passed.

Chairman Hall 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 for September 1, 2021. Motion by Gaedke to approve the minutes, seconded by Hall. Motion passed. The board reviewed the financial reports and approval of bills. Motion by Gaedke to approve, second by Hall. Motion passed. Under **PUBLIC COMMENT**, McCumber reported that the Rec department was here to make a presentation regarding outdoor recreation planning of Culver Park in Prairie du Sac. Craig Hamilton said he was in support of the park and said it was a nice presentation. Under **CORRESPONDENCE**, the board received a resignation letter from Frank Olah from the zoning commission effective December 31, 2021. Under **REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**, McCumber reported the Dept. of Administration approved the town's population estimate of 1,023 town residents and is not set at 1,247 town residents based on the US Census; Fall Brush Collection October 23, 2021 from 9am to noon, there will be a public event for the Great Sauk County trail next week regarding the bridge over the Wisconsin River. McCumber also reported that legal counsel advised we not talk to any other parties involved in the Walleye Lane issue now that the matter has been turned over to them. Dick Grant reported in his capacity as the park commissioner that the Walleye Lane fishing platform will need to be stained and he will be talking to the DNR about a fishing platform at Grant Park. McCumber reported that Sauk Corn will likely not meet the 5% green space requirement and is willing to pay the park fee requirement in the zoning ordinance to help with these costs. Under **OLD BUSINESS**, McCumber reported that the board did not sign the correct copy of Ordinance #2021-40 relating to Emergency and Service Vehicle Access. He spoke with legal counsel and the board only needs to sign the correct version and repost it. Under **NEW BUSINESS**, the board considered a recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission to approve proposed Certified Survey Map (CSM) combining tax parcels 026-0789-00000 and tax parcel 026-0788-00000 into one (1) parcel; application by Spencer & Gail Hoyt, 1298 N 63rd St., Wauwatosa, WI 53213. Motion to approve by Gaedke, seconded by Hall. Motion passed. The board then considered proposed Ordinance #2021-42 amending the Parking Ordinance #2020-06 to prohibit parking on Halweg Road from State Highway 113 west to the railroad bridge excluding town meetings and Election Days. McCumber reported that parking along this stretch has become a problem as people trespass into the campground. It has also become an issued with Hwy. 78 being closed and people driving through at a high rate of speed. Motion to approve by Hall, second by Healy. Motion passed. The board next considered Resolution #2021-08 adopting election wards in the town of Merrimac. McCumber reported that Deputy Clerk Jeremy Bowers found a provision in statute that requires us



to assign voting wards when the population exceeds 1,000 residents. All residents will still vote at the Merrimac Town Hall. Motion to approve by Gaedke, seconded by Healy. Motion passed. The board then considered the 2022 Merrimac Joint Fire Department budget. McCumber reported that the proposed fire budget has a 4% growth with the Town of Merrimac being responsible for all of the increase due to the shift in equalization. McCumber says that he does believe we can make it this year's budget. Hall added that one of the main reasons for the proposed increase being the fire department's upcoming need to purchase a new vehicle in the near future. Hall moved to approve the fire budget, Healy seconded. Motion passed. The board then considered Resolution for Inclusion Under the WI Public Employers' Group Health Insurance Program; Inclusion Under Group Life Insurance, Inclusion Under the Income Continuation Insurance Plan; Inclusion Under the Wisconsin Retirement System; and Inclusion Under the State of Wisconsin Deferred Compensation Program. McCumber reported that as the town restructures the office, we will need to offer benefits. He added that he has not had a need for benefits but we will need to offer them to attract any future employees. For the health insurance, the 1<sup>st</sup> year is in an "at-risk" pool and the health care resolution says the town will pay 88% of the higher rate for 2022 and then only 50% of the premium for 2023 and going forward. Should the town enroll in the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) the town is required by under the State's 218 agreement managing Social Security to drop its 457 (b) program. Town supervisors would not be eligible to participate and would begin paying into Social Security rather than the 457(b) program. Once the board makes this decision it is irrevocable. Hall made a motion to approve all of the resolutions presented. Seconded by Gaedke. Motion passed. The board then considered a resolution to Discontinue the FICA alternative plan (457b) with Nationwide effective January 1, 2022. Hall moved to approve, seconded by Healy. Motion passed. Discussion and action regarding the 2022 proposed budget and setting a Special Town Meeting on Thursday, November 4, 2021 to establish the 2021 tax levy payable in 2022. McCumber stated that the budget as is currently is close to being finalized but there will need to be special election to approve the budget. The board then considered the 2022 proposed budget and setting a Special Town Meeting on Thursday, November 4, 2021 to establish the 2021 tax levy payable in 2022. McCumber reported on the proposed 2022 budget. Motion by Healy to hold a budget hearing and special town meeting on November 4, 2022, seconded by Gaedke. Motion passed. The board then considered Resolution #2021-09 proposing to exceed levy limits for consideration at a Special Town Meeting to be conducted on Thursday, November 4, 2021. McCumber reported that the proposed budget exceeds the allowable levy limit increase and thus the town would need to vote approve this resolution to put forward the request at the Special Town Meeting. Hall moved to approve, seconded by Gaedke. Motion passed.

Motion to adjourn by Gaedke, seconded by Hall. Motion passed.