



Office of the Town Clerk
2 School Street, Town Hall
Merrimac, MA 01860

Minutes Special Town Meeting
April 29, 2019 Article 6
May 13, 2019 Articles 1-5 & 7-8

April 29, 2019

Pursuant to the foregoing Warrant, the legal voters of the Town of Merrimac met at the Fredrick N. Sweetsir School in the Town of Merrimac April 29, 2019 and May 13, 2019. A quorum of 747 registered voters gathered at 7:48pm. At 7:48pm Moderator Bender called the meeting to order.

The first session of the Special Town Meeting was announced to be postponed at 7:50pm April 29, 2019 by Moderator Robert Bender upon hearing from Fire Chief Larry S. Fisher who declared the Sweetsir School Cafeteria was over capacity. At 7:58pm Moderator Robert Bender advised the assembled citizens of Merrimac that upon advice from Fire Chief Larry Fisher the meeting could continue if folding chairs were put away and the assembled citizens stood with overflow into the outdoor courtyard which was equipped with speakers in order to allow all citizens to participate in Town Meeting.

8:10pm April 29, 2019, the meeting was called to order by Moderator Bender. **The Moderator having inspected the Warrant for this meeting deemed it proper and correct**, and a motion from the floor was made to take Article 6 out of order and to hear that article first. Motion was duly seconded, **Moderator declared motion carried by majority.**

ARTICLE 6

Motion by Joel Breen and duly seconded to approve the appropriation and borrowing authorized by the Pentucket Regional School District of One Hundred Forty-Six Million, Three Hundred Thirty-Two Thousand, Three Hundred Twenty-Eight Dollars (\$146,332,328.00) for the purpose of the construction of a new Middle/High School to be located at 24 Main Street, West Newbury, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which school facility shall have an anticipated useful life as an educational facility for the instruction of school children of at least 50 years and for which the District may be eligible for a school construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended at the direction of the School Committee; that the Town acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need as determined by the MSBA, and any Project costs the District incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the District and its member municipalities; provided further that any grant that the District may receive from the MSBA shall not exceed the lesser of (1) 57 and 63 hundredths percent (57.63%) of eligible, approved Project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA; provided that the approval of the District's borrowing by this vote shall be subject to and contingent upon an affirmative vote of the Town to exempt its allocable share of the amounts required for the payment of interest and principal on said borrowing from the limitations on taxes imposed by M.G.L. 59, Section 21C (Proposition 2 1/2) and that the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the District and the MSBA. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by the vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by the vote in

accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

MODERATOR DECLARATION: Yes votes: 780, No votes: 10. Motion passed by hand vote.

9:00pm April 29,2019 Motion to recess the Special Town Meeting and to reconvene on May 13, 2019 and duly seconded. Motion carried.

May 13, 2019 7:30pm

Pursuant to the foregoing Warrant, the legal voters of the Town of Merrimac met at the Fredrick N. Sweetsir School in the Town of Merrimac May 13, 2019. The second session of the Special Town Meeting was convened at the Fredrick N. Sweetsir School at 7:30pm by Moderator John Santagate. A quorum being present of 233 registered voters at this special town meeting. Moderator Santagate welcomed the citizens of Merrimac to the meeting and led the citizens in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Moderator Santagate thanked Moderator Bender and Selectman Carol Traynor for their many years of service to the town. The moderator introduced Selectman Joel Breen, Ralph Spencer and newly elected selectman Holly Moran. The moderator also introduced town council and explained Town Meeting procedures.

The Moderator having inspected the Warrant for this meeting deemed it proper and correct.

A duly seconded motion to DISPENSE WITH THE READING OF THE WARRANT AT 7:34PM

Motion carried so declared the moderator.

ARTICLE 1

Motion by Joel Breen and duly seconded to appropriate from Free Cash, a sum of money in the amount of **\$706,297** for the following specific purposes outlined below:

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| a. Purchase Animal Control Vehicle | \$ 31,000 |
| b. Town Wide Road Repairs | \$270,000 |
| c. Purchase 4x4 Pickup w/plow - Highway | \$ 65,000 |
| d. Purchase Vac Truck Loader - Cemetery | \$ 20,000 |
| e. Fund Repairs to Library Exterior | \$ 10,000 |
| f. Purchase iPads for Selectmen | \$ 2,000 |
| g. Fund Bi-Annual Actuarial Study for OPEB | \$ 5,000 |
| h. Fund Repairs to Engines 31 & 34 | \$ 20,000 |
| i. Purchase Laptop for Planning Board Admin | \$ 1,500 |
| j. Fund Ambulance Stabilization | \$ 25,000 |
| k. Fund Capital Stabilization | \$ 95,000 |
| l. Fund OPEB Trust Fund | \$ 5,000 |
| m. Fund Projected FY2019 Police Salary Deficit | \$ 40,000 |
| n. Fund Handicap Assessable Work on Playground | \$ 25,000 |
| o. Fund Projected Snow and Ice Deficit | \$ 40,000 |
| p. Fund Remaining Balance to Stabilization | \$ 51,797 |

MODERATOR DECLARATION: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY HAND VOTE.

ARTICLE 2

Motion by Joel Breen and duly seconded to appropriate from Water Retained Earnings a sum of money in the amount of **\$ 80,000** for the following specific purposes outlined below:

- a. Water Meter Replacement **\$ 30,000**
- b. Upgrade Wells at Bear Hill/Sargent **\$ 50,000**

MODERATOR DECLARATION: MOTION PASSED BY HAND VOTE

ARTICLE 3

Motion by Ralph Spencer and duly seconded to appropriate from the Wastewater Development Fund a sum of money in the amount of **\$ 180,000** for the following specific purposes outlined below:

- a. Water Meter Replacement **\$ 30,000**
- b. Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan **\$150,000**

MODERATOR DECLARATION: MOTION PASSED BY HAND VOTE

ARTICLE 4

Motion by Ralph Spencer and duly seconded to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire for sewer purposes by eminent domain, all or any portion of or interest in that land on North Street known as Assessor's Parcel 37-2-2.D and described in that deed recorded with the Southern Essex District Registry of Deeds in Book 6594, Page 402, and as funding therefor and costs related thereto, to transfer from available funds, Wastewater Betterment Fund, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into all agreements, and take all action necessary, convenient or appropriate to carry out such acquisition, on such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen deems appropriate.

2/3's VOTE REQUIRED

MODERATOR DECLARATION: MOTION PASSED; YES-197, NO-4; BY HAND VOTE

ARTICLE 5

Motion by Ralph Spencer and duly seconded to appropriate from Wastewater Retained Earnings a sum of money in the amount of **\$500,000** for I & I repairs throughout town.

MODERATOR DECLARATION: MOTION PASSED BY HAND VOTE

ARTICLE 7

Motion by Holly Moran and duly seconded to transfer \$20,000 from Article 1 (i) of the 4/24/17 STM, Library HVAC Repairs, to fund the repairs to the library exterior.

MODERATOR DECLARATION: MOTION PASSED BY HAND VOTE

ARTICLE 8

Motion by Holly Moran and duly seconded to appropriate **\$1,145,000**, to pay costs of exterior repairs to Merrimac Town Hall, including the repair, reconstruction and/or replacement of the roof, windows, doors and storefronts, and the repointing and repair of masonry and brickwork, and including the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto; that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; that any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with M.G.L. c. 44, §20, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount; and further, that the votes under Articles 15, 16 and 17 of the April 30, 2018 town meeting which appropriated funds and authorized bonds for the town hall exterior repair projects, are hereby rescinded.

2/3's VOTE REQUIRED

MODERATOR DECLARATION: MOTION PASSED; YES-208, NO-7, BY HAND VOTE

A duly seconded motion to adjourn was made at 7:59 PM. Motion carried so declared the Moderator.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gwendolyn Lay Sabbagh, Town Clerk Town of Merrimac

