

Report of the

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

of the Town of

**MERRIMAC, MASSACHUSETTS**

**A Summary of the recommendations  
To be presented at the  
Annual Town Meeting  
To be held on:**

**Monday April 26, 2021  
7:30 P.M.**

**At the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School  
115 Amesbury Line Rd.  
Haverhill, MA 01830**

## Town of Merrimac Finance Committee Report FY 2022

To the Voters and Taxpayers of Merrimac:

The Merrimac Finance Committee presents the FY2022 budget for your review and approval.

The Town's Finance Committee is made up of seven concerned citizens and taxpayers like yourselves. We devote a substantial number of hours to reviewing the town's finances and operations in order to recommend a fiscally responsible budget that meets the town's needs and priorities.

This year, the Committee held seven public hearings with our town departments and regional school systems in an effort to review and understand each budget and expenditure request. During the process, the Committee also reviewed anticipated revenue including state aid, local receipts, and other available funds. The town is experiencing a period of solid growth. With the cooperation of all town departments, we were able to recommend a balanced budget within the tax levy limits of 2 ½%.

The Town of Merrimac's primary revenue and growth comes from residential property taxes (82%). Over the past three years, the average tax for a single family property matches the state average for the same period closely. According to the department of revenue, the incomes of residents grew at a rate equal to the average residential tax increases thereby maintaining the town's ability to attract new growth.

The Public Education expense for Merrimac is reflected in the annual assessments we receive from the Pentucket Regional School System, The Whittier Vocational Technical High School and the Essex Agricultural and Technical High School. Our assessment this year is \$11,647,785 which represents an increase of \$1.05M or 9.9%. Public Education will now comprise 61.4% of our total operating budget.

The Finance Committee is very appreciative to the various department heads, Board of Selectmen, Public Education Superintendents, and all who participated in our hearings for their cooperation in formulating the final budget recommendation. The Finance Committee would like to recognize the efforts put forward by the town's department heads who were awarded grants.

We are pleased to report the town bond rating has improved to AA+. This is the same level as last year and with the town's large capital projects underway the new rating saves the town in excess of \$1,600,000 over the life of the bond.

The town is fortunate this year to have \$405,152 of certified Free Cash. Free Cash is a revenue source that results from the calculation of the remaining, unrestricted funds

from its operations of the previous fiscal year. Free Cash is typically allocated to one-time expenditures, since the amount from year to year is not a predictable source of revenue to support routine operating expenses.

This year, the Finance Committee is recommending Free Cash expenditures for capital requests from the highway department, library, landfill, and additional funding for state-mandated funding of OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits).

Currently the town's stabilization funds are at approximately 7.44% of the FY2022 Omnibus budget, which is about the same as the previous year, about in the middle of the recommended range of 5 -15% of the municipal operating budget. At least 10% in stabilization is recommended to achieve the highest bond rating, which results in lower interest rates when the town needs to borrow money for capital projects.

Respectfully submitted by the Town of Merrimac Finance Committee.

James Archibald, Chairperson  
Mike Marden  
Marcia Zosack  
David Luoma  
Robert L. Gustison II  
Genevieve Donahue  
Chris Manni

**Town of Merrimac**  
**April 26, 2021 - Annual Town Meeting**  
**Articles for Consideration**

| Town Vote | Art. # | Recommendations |                   |                  | Description  |
|-----------|--------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|--|
|           |        | Selectmen       | Finance Committee | Capital Planning |  |
|           | 1      | -               | -                 | -                | To appropriate \$ 405,152 from Free Cash for <b>FY2021</b> for the following specific purposes:                                    |
|           |        | Yes 2 - 0       | Yes 6 - 0         | Yes 5 - 0        | a. \$ 96,741 To appropriate funds for the non-federal share for replacement of the Bear Hill Road Culvert.                         |
|           |        | Yes 2 - 0       | Yes 6 - 0         | Yes 5 - 0        | b. \$ 80,000 To appropriate funds to purchase a new F450 Dump Truck with a plow and sander for the Highway Department.             |
|           |        | Yes 2 - 0       | Yes 6 - 0         | Yes 5 - 0        | c. \$ 28,000 To appropriate funds to replace the (2) HVAC Roof Compressor Units at the Library.                                    |
|           |        | Yes 2 - 0       | Yes 6 - 0         | N/A              | d. \$ 150,000 To appropriate funds for additional closure work at the Battis Road Landfill.  |
|           |        | Yes 2 - 0       | Yes 4 - 0         | N/A              | e. \$ 42,300 To appropriate funds required for the retirement costs of employees.  |
|           |        | Yes 2 - 0       | Yes 4 - 0         | N/A              | f. \$ 8,111 To appropriate funds to the OPEB Trust Fund.   |
|           | 2      | -               | -                 | -                | To appropriate \$ 160,000 from Water Retained Earnings for <b>FY2021</b> for the following specific Capital purposes:              |
|           |        | Yes 2 - 0       | Yes 6 - 0         | Yes 5 - 0        | a. \$ 10,000 To appropriate funds to purchase of new water meters throughout town.   |
|           |        | Yes 2 - 0       | Yes 6 - 0         | Yes 5 - 0        | b. \$ 40,000 To appropriate funds for the repairs to the gravel pack wells.  |
|           |        | Yes 2 - 0       | Yes 6 - 0         | Yes 5 - 0        | c. \$ 100,000 To appropriate funds for the replacement/upgrade of existing infrastructure to meet current DEP requirements.        |
|           |        | Yes 2 - 0       | Yes 6 - 0         | Yes 5 - 0        | d. \$ 10,000 To appropriate funds for the exploration of solar development.  |
|           | 3      | -               | -                 | -                | To appropriate \$115,000 from the Wastewater Retained Earnings <b>FY2021</b> for the following specific Capital purposes:          |
|           |        | Yes 2 - 0       | Yes 6 - 0         | Yes 5 - 0        | a. \$ 50,000 To appropriate funds for equipment replacement and upgrades at the Wastewater Facility.                               |
|           |        | Yes 2 - 0       | Yes 6 - 0         | Yes 5 - 0        | b. \$ 50,000 To appropriate funds for Engineering of Capital Improvement to Main Building, as approved by DEP and EPA.             |
|           |        | Yes 2 - 0       | Yes 6 - 0         | Yes 5 - 0        | c. \$ 15,000 To appropriate funds to purchase of new water meters throughout town.   |
|           | 4      | Yes 2 - 0       | *                 | N/A              | To amend and authorize, pursuant to MGL Chapter 44, Section 53 E 1/2, the Town's Revolving Funds for <b>FY2021</b> .               |
|           | 5      | Yes 2 - 0       | *                 | N/A              | To amend and authorize, pursuant to MGL Chapter 44, Section 53 E 1/2, the Town's Revolving Funds for <b>FY2022</b> .               |
|           | 6      | Yes 2 - 0       | Yes 6 - 0         | N/A              | To accept the Town's <b>FY2022</b> Omnibus Budget, per the attached breakdown.   |
|           | 7      | Yes 2 - 0       | Yes 6 - 0         | N/A              | To accept the Wastewater Department's <b>FY2022</b> Operating Budget.  |
|           | 8      | Yes 2 - 0       | Yes 6 - 0         | N/A              | To accept the Water Department's <b>FY2022</b> Operating Budget.   |
|           | 9      | Yes 2 - 0       | Yes 6 - 0         | N/A              | To accept the Cable Television's <b>FY2022</b> Operating Budget.   |
|           | 10     | Yes 2 - 0       | Yes 6 - 0         | N/A              | To accept a sum of money from the Electric Light Department to be used by the Assessors to reduce the Tax Levy for <b>FY2022</b> . |
|           | 11     | Yes 2 - 0       | Yes 6 - 0         | N/A              | To appropriate \$3,600 from "Sale of Cemetery Lots" for the "care, improvement and embellishment" of said cemeteries.              |
|           | 12     | Yes 2 - 0       | Yes 6 - 0         | N/A              | To raise and appropriate \$185,000 to be used to make necessary repairs to Town roadways.  |

Town of Merrimac  
 April 26, 2021 - Annual Town Meeting  
 Articles for Consideration

| Town Vote | Art. # | Recommendations |                   |                  | Description   |
|-----------|--------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|---|
|           |        | Selectmen       | Finance Committee | Capital Planning |   |
|           | 13     | Yes 2 - 0       | Yes 6 - 0         | N/A              | To accept the State Grant of Chapter 90 Highway Funds.  |
|           | 14     | Yes 2 - 0       | Yes 6 - 0         | N/A              | To raise & appropriate <b>\$310,000</b> for Solid Waste, Recycling and Disposal.  |
|           | 15     | Yes 2 - 0       | Yes 6 - 0         | Yes 5 - 0        | To appropriate <b>\$1,200,000</b> , to purchase a Fire Quint Vehicle and authorize the borrowing. <b>2/3 Vote Required</b>  |
|           | 16     | Yes 2 - 0       | Yes 6 - 0         | Yes 5 - 0        | To change the name and purpose of the Ambulance Stabilization Fund to the Fire and Ambulance Apparatus Fund; and transfer <b>\$100,000</b> from the Capital Stabilization Fund to the Fire and Ambulance Apparatus fund. <b>2/3 Vote Required</b> |
|           | 17     | Yes 2 - 0       | N/A               | N/A              | To amend the General By-Laws to allow Town Meeting to be held outside of geographical limits of the Town.   |
|           | 18     | Yes 2 - 0       | N/A               | N/A              | To accept, as a Town way, the layout of the road known as "Farrington Field Road".  |
|           | 19     | Yes 2 - 0       | N/A               | N/A              | To amend the Merrimac Zoning By-Law Section 4.10.6.7, regarding garage and carports.  |
|           | 20     | Yes 2 - 0       | N/A               | N/A              | To request special legislation to convert the Board of Health from elected to appointed by the Board of Selectmen.  |

\* Vote was not available at time of printing.

**TOWN OF MERRIMAC BUDGET SUMMARY**

**REVENUE ESTIMATES**

|                              | Adopted              | Departmental Requested Budget | Finance Committee Recommended Budget |
|------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|                              | FY2021               | FY2022                        | FY2022                               |
| <b>PROPERTY TAXES</b>        |                      |                               |                                      |
| Tax Base                     | \$ 13,237,643        | \$ 13,792,584                 | \$ 13,792,584                        |
| 2 1/2 % Increase             | \$ 330,941           | \$ 344,815                    | \$ 344,815                           |
| Est New Growth               | \$ 224,000           | \$ 100,000                    | \$ 150,000                           |
| General Override             | \$ -                 | \$ -                          | \$ -                                 |
| Unused Levy Capacity         | \$ (19,561)          | \$ -                          | \$ (10,031)                          |
| <b>PROPERTY TAXES</b>        | <b>\$ 13,773,023</b> | <b>\$ 14,237,399</b>          | <b>\$ 14,277,368</b>                 |
| <b>STATE PROVIDED FUNDS</b>  |                      |                               |                                      |
| Cherry Sheet/State Aid       | \$ 1,045,082         | \$ 1,105,531                  | \$ 1,105,531                         |
| MSBA                         | \$ -                 | \$ -                          | \$ -                                 |
| <b>SUBTOTAL: STATE FUNDS</b> | <b>\$ 1,045,082</b>  | <b>\$ 1,105,531</b>           | <b>\$ 1,105,531</b>                  |
| <b>DEBT EXCLUSIONS</b>       |                      |                               |                                      |
| New Library Construction     | \$ 121,125           | \$ 118,100                    | \$ 118,100                           |
| Town Hall Renovations        | \$ 144,488           | \$ 135,850                    | \$ 135,850                           |
| Police Station               | \$ 354,778           | \$ 357,278                    | \$ 357,278                           |
| PRSD Middle/High School      | \$ 864,020           | \$ 864,020                    | \$ 1,643,145                         |
| <b>SUBTOTAL</b>              | <b>\$ 1,484,411</b>  | <b>\$ 1,475,248</b>           | <b>\$ 2,254,373</b>                  |

**EXPENDITURE ESTIMATES**

|                          | Adopted              | Departmental Requested Budget | Finance Committee Recommended Budget |
|--------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|                          | FY2021               | FY2022                        | FY2022                               |
| <b>ARTICLE 1 OMNIBUS</b> |                      |                               |                                      |
| General Government       | \$ 1,029,557         | \$ 1,077,112                  | \$ 1,065,859                         |
| Public Safety            | \$ 2,237,661         | \$ 2,395,728                  | \$ 2,337,015                         |
| Health & Sanitation      | \$ 131,279           | \$ 149,811                    | \$ 136,411                           |
| Highway                  | \$ 626,684           | \$ 694,920                    | \$ 648,817                           |
| Public Assistance        | \$ 440,761           | \$ 439,919                    | \$ 439,919                           |
| Education                | \$ 10,597,823        | \$ 10,882,788                 | \$ 11,647,785                        |
| Library                  | \$ 313,640           | \$ 321,876                    | \$ 321,876                           |
| Cemetery                 | \$ 63,058            | \$ 64,162                     | \$ 64,162                            |
| Parks & Rec              | \$ 12,300            | \$ 12,300                     | \$ 12,300                            |
| Town Gardens             | \$ 600               | \$ 600                        | \$ 600                               |
| Long Term Principal      | \$ 456,896           | \$ 531,937                    | \$ 531,937                           |
| Long Term Interest       | \$ 292,886           | \$ 290,398                    | \$ 290,398                           |
| Lease Expense            | \$ 154,445           | \$ 156,024                    | \$ 156,024                           |
| Gen Govt Unclassified    | \$ 1,233,836         | \$ 1,366,316                  | \$ 1,314,316                         |
| <b>SUBTOTAL</b>          | <b>\$ 17,591,426</b> | <b>\$ 18,383,891</b>          | <b>\$ 18,967,419</b>                 |

**PROJECTED LOCAL RECEIPTS**

|                      |                     |                     |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Motor Vehicle Excise | \$ 1,000,000        | \$ 1,000,000        | \$ 1,050,000        |
| Other Excise         | \$ -                | \$ -                | \$ -                |
| Penalties & Interest | \$ 26,000           | \$ 27,000           | \$ 27,000           |
| In Lieu of Tax       | \$ 1,300            | \$ 1,300            | \$ 1,300            |
| Trash                | \$ 130,000          | \$ 130,000          | \$ 130,000          |
| Ambulance            | \$ 290,000          | \$ 300,000          | \$ 320,000          |
| Fees                 | \$ 50,000           | \$ 50,000           | \$ 50,000           |
| Rentals              | \$ 123,000          | \$ 125,000          | \$ 125,000          |
| Cemetery             | \$ 18,000           | \$ 18,000           | \$ 18,000           |
| Licenses & Permits   | \$ 70,000           | \$ 70,000           | \$ 70,000           |
| Fines & Forfeitures  | \$ 21,000           | \$ 21,000           | \$ 31,000           |
| Investment Income    | \$ 40,000           | \$ 25,000           | \$ 25,000           |
| Misc Recurring       | \$ 39,000           | \$ 40,000           | \$ 40,000           |
| Misc Non Recurring   | \$ 123,000          | \$ 120,000          | \$ 120,000          |
| <b>SUBTOTAL</b>      | <b>\$ 1,931,300</b> | <b>\$ 1,927,300</b> | <b>\$ 2,007,300</b> |

**OTHER REVENUE**

|                              |                     |                     |                     |
|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Free Cash Approp             | \$ 438,192          | \$ 405,152          | \$ 405,152          |
| Water Retained Earnings      | \$ 265,000          | \$ 160,000          | \$ 160,000          |
| Other Revenue                | \$ 481,493          | \$ 118,600          | \$ 118,600          |
| Wastewater Retained Earnings | \$ -                | \$ 115,000          | \$ 115,000          |
| Wastewater Development Fund  | \$ 230,000          | \$ -                | \$ -                |
| Wastewater I & I             | \$ 37,000           | \$ -                | \$ -                |
| Bonded Capital               | \$ 522,000          | \$ 1,200,000        | \$ 1,200,000        |
| Water Enterprise             | \$ 1,117,107        | \$ 1,117,972        | \$ 1,117,972        |
| Wastewater Enterprise        | \$ 1,102,027        | \$ 1,099,280        | \$ 1,099,280        |
| Cable Revenue                | \$ 143,226          | \$ 144,049          | \$ 144,049          |
| <b>SUBTOTAL</b>              | <b>\$ 4,336,045</b> | <b>\$ 4,360,053</b> | <b>\$ 4,360,053</b> |

**TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUE**

|                                |                      |                      |                      |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUE</b> | <b>\$ 22,569,861</b> | <b>\$ 23,105,530</b> | <b>\$ 24,004,624</b> |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

**CHARGES/ABATEMENTS/OTHER AMOUNTS TO BE RAISED**

|                    |                   |                   |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| State & County     | \$ 106,566        | \$ 112,232        | \$ 112,232        |
| Tax Abatements     | \$ 77,662         | \$ 75,000         | \$ 75,000         |
| Library Offset     | \$ 12,662         | \$ 9,920          | \$ 9,920          |
| Overlay Deficit    | \$ -              | \$ -              | \$ -              |
| Snow & Ice Deficit | \$ -              | \$ -              | \$ -              |
| Other Deficits     | \$ -              | \$ -              | \$ -              |
| <b>SUBTOTAL</b>    | <b>\$ 196,890</b> | <b>\$ 197,152</b> | <b>\$ 197,152</b> |

**CURRENT YEAR SPECIAL ARTICLES**

|                   |                     |                     |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Special Articles  | \$ 3,815,730        | \$ 3,540,053        | \$ 3,540,053        |
| Transfer Articles | \$ 443,815          | \$ 100,000          | \$ 100,000          |
| <b>SUBTOTAL</b>   | <b>\$ 4,259,545</b> | <b>\$ 3,640,053</b> | <b>\$ 3,640,053</b> |

**BONDED ARTICLES**

|                        |                   |                     |                     |
|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Prior Year Bond Issues | \$ 522,000        | \$ -                | \$ -                |
| Bond Authorization     | \$ -              | \$ 1,200,000        | \$ 1,200,000        |
| <b>SUBTOTAL</b>        | <b>\$ 522,000</b> | <b>\$ 1,200,000</b> | <b>\$ 1,200,000</b> |

**TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENSE**

|                                |                      |                      |                      |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENSE</b> | <b>\$ 22,569,861</b> | <b>\$ 23,421,096</b> | <b>\$ 24,004,624</b> |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

**SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)**

|                          |             |                     |             |
|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------|
| <b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b> | <b>\$ 0</b> | <b>\$ (315,566)</b> | <b>\$ 0</b> |
|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------|

FY2022 Omnibus Budget

| Line # |                               | FY2019 Actual | FY2020 Actual | FY2021 Budget | FY2022 Recommended Budget | FY2022 Dept. Requested Budget | Fin Com Changes | Fin Com Recommended Budget | \$ Change from FY21 | % Change From FY21 | Comments  |
|--------|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---|
| 1      | General Government            |               |               |               |                           |                               |                 |                            |                     |                    |   |
|        | Total Town Moderator:         |               | \$ 87         | \$ 200        | \$ 200                    | \$ 200                        | \$ -            | \$ 200                     | \$ -                | 0.00%              |   |
|        | Board of Selectmen            |               |               |               |                           |                               |                 |                            |                     |                    |   |
| 2      | Total Salaries and Wages:     | \$ 52,421     | \$ 56,963     | \$ 60,286     | \$ 62,072                 | \$ 62,080                     | \$ -            | \$ 62,080                  | \$ 1,794            | 2.98%              |   |
| 3      | Total Other Expenditures:     | \$ 22,848     | \$ 22,780     | \$ 24,600     | \$ 24,600                 | \$ 25,560                     | \$ -            | \$ 25,560                  | \$ 960              | 3.90%              |   |
|        | Total Board of Selectmen:     | \$ 75,269     | \$ 79,744     | \$ 84,886     | \$ 86,672                 | \$ 87,640                     | \$ -            | \$ 87,640                  | \$ 2,754            | 3.24%              |   |
|        | Capital Planning              |               |               |               |                           |                               |                 |                            |                     |                    |   |
| 4      | Total Salaries and Wages:     | \$ 100        | \$ 87         | \$ 184        | \$ 184                    | \$ 400                        | \$ -            | \$ 400                     | \$ 400              |                    | Transferred funds from Town Hall Coverage - for Admin support |
| 5      | Total Other Expenditures:     | \$ 100        | \$ 87         | \$ 184        | \$ 184                    | \$ 184                        | \$ -            | \$ 184                     | \$ -                |                    |   |
|        | Total Capital Planning:       | \$ 200        | \$ 175        | \$ 368        | \$ 368                    | \$ 584                        | \$ -            | \$ 584                     | \$ 400              | 217.39%            |   |
|        | Finance Committee             |               |               |               |                           |                               |                 |                            |                     |                    |   |
| 6      | Total Salaries and Wages:     | \$ 800        | \$ 1,000      | \$ 1,000      | \$ 1,000                  | \$ 1,000                      | \$ -            | \$ 1,000                   | \$ -                | 0.00%              |   |
| 7      | Total Other Expenditures:     | \$ 500        | \$ 313        | \$ 800        | \$ 800                    | \$ 800                        | \$ -            | \$ 800                     | \$ -                | 0.00%              |   |
|        | Total Finance Committee:      | \$ 1,300      | \$ 1,313      | \$ 1,800      | \$ 1,800                  | \$ 1,800                      | \$ -            | \$ 1,800                   | \$ -                | 0.00%              |   |
| 8      | Total Reserve Fund:           | \$ -          | \$ 37,609     | \$ 40,000     | \$ 40,000                 | \$ 40,000                     | \$ -            | \$ 40,000                  | \$ -                | 0.00%              |   |
|        | Finance Administration        |               |               |               |                           |                               |                 |                            |                     |                    |   |
| 9      | Total Salaries and Wages:     | \$ 319,591    | \$ 343,880    | \$ 365,399    | \$ 373,685                | \$ 377,783                    | \$ (400)        | \$ 377,383                 | \$ 11,984           | 3.28%              | Transferred funds from Town Hall Coverage - for Admin support |
| 10     | Total Other Expenditures:     | \$ 67,521     | \$ 86,645     | \$ 87,380     | \$ 87,380                 | \$ 89,265                     | \$ -            | \$ 89,265                  | \$ 1,885            | 2.16%              |   |
|        | Total Finance Administration: | \$ 387,111    | \$ 430,525    | \$ 452,779    | \$ 461,065                | \$ 467,048                    | \$ (400)        | \$ 466,648                 | \$ 13,869           | 3.06%              |   |
| 11     | Total Bond Town Officers:     | \$ 830        | \$ 730        | \$ 1,100      | \$ 1,100                  | \$ 1,100                      | \$ -            | \$ 1,100                   | \$ -                | 0.00%              |   |
| 12     | Total Town Counsel-Legal:     | \$ 33,944     | \$ 46,057     | \$ 50,000     | \$ 50,000                 | \$ 50,000                     | \$ -            | \$ 50,000                  | \$ -                | 0.00%              |   |
|        | Town Hall IT                  |               |               |               |                           |                               |                 |                            |                     |                    |   |
| 13     | Total Salaries and Wages:     | \$ 1,360      | \$ 7,834      | \$ 7,488      | \$ 7,640                  | \$ 7,640                      | \$ -            | \$ 7,640                   | \$ 152              | 2.03%              |   |
| 14     | Total Other Expenditures:     | \$ 15,050     | \$ 15,307     | \$ 27,390     | \$ 27,390                 | \$ 31,016                     | \$ -            | \$ 31,016                  | \$ 3,626            | 13.24%             | Add Gotomeeting Yearly Subscription                           |
|        | Total Town Hall IT:           | \$ 16,410     | \$ 23,141     | \$ 34,878     | \$ 35,030                 | \$ 38,656                     | \$ -            | \$ 38,656                  | \$ 3,778            | 10.83%             |   |
|        | Census Takers                 |               |               |               |                           |                               |                 |                            |                     |                    |   |
|        | Total Other Expenditures:     | \$ 2,322      | \$ 2,381      | \$ 2,860      | \$ 2,860                  | \$ 2,860                      | \$ -            | \$ 2,860                   | \$ 0                | 0.00%              |   |
| 15     | Total Census Takers:          | \$ 2,322      | \$ 2,381      | \$ 2,860      | \$ 2,860                  | \$ 2,860                      | \$ -            | \$ 2,860                   | \$ 0                | 0.00%              |   |
|        | Elections and Registration    |               |               |               |                           |                               |                 |                            |                     |                    |   |
|        | Town Clerk                    |               |               |               |                           |                               |                 |                            |                     |                    |   |
| 16     | Total Salaries and Wages:     | \$ 58,397     | \$ 69,833     | \$ 70,920     | \$ 72,312                 | \$ 94,015                     | \$ (10,853)     | \$ 83,162                  | \$ 12,242           | 17.26%             | 10 new hours for Assistant Clerk.                             |
| 17     | Total Other Expenditures:     | \$ 3,677      | \$ 5,699      | \$ 6,050      | \$ 6,050                  | \$ 6,325                      | \$ -            | \$ 6,325                   | \$ 275              | 4.55%              |   |
|        | Total Town Clerk:             | \$ 62,073     | \$ 75,532     | \$ 76,970     | \$ 78,362                 | \$ 100,340                    | \$ (10,853)     | \$ 89,487                  | \$ 12,517           | 16.26%             |   |
|        | Elections                     |               |               |               |                           |                               |                 |                            |                     |                    |   |
|        | Total Salaries and Wages:     | \$ 6,328      | \$ 2,942      | \$ 9,075      | \$ 9,075                  | \$ 2,000                      | \$ -            | \$ 2,000                   | \$ (7,075)          | -77.96%            | Reductions are due to less elections next fiscal year.        |
| 18     | Total Salaries and Wages:     | \$ 8,953      | \$ 4,354      | \$ 14,430     | \$ 14,430                 | \$ 8,500                      | \$ -            | \$ 8,500                   | \$ (5,930)          | -41.09%            | Reductions are due to less elections next fiscal year.        |
| 19     | Total Other Expenditures:     | \$ 15,281     | \$ 7,296      | \$ 23,505     | \$ 23,505                 | \$ 10,500                     | \$ -            | \$ 10,500                  | \$ (13,005)         | -55.33%            |   |
|        | Total Elections:              | \$ 24,234     | \$ 11,650     | \$ 37,935     | \$ 37,935                 | \$ 18,500                     | \$ -            | \$ 18,500                  | \$ (15,435)         | -40.69%            |   |
|        | Registrars                    |               |               |               |                           |                               |                 |                            |                     |                    |   |
| 20     | Total Salaries and Wages:     | \$ 250        | \$ 250        | \$ 250        | \$ 250                    | \$ 300                        | \$ -            | \$ 300                     | \$ 50               | 20.00%             | State mandated salary increase.                               |
| 21     | Total Other Expenditures:     | \$ 2,026      | \$ 1,920      | \$ 2,045      | \$ 2,045                  | \$ 2,045                      | \$ -            | \$ 2,045                   | \$ -                | 0.00%              |   |







FY2022 Omnibus Budget

| Line # | FY2019 Actual                       | FY2020 Actual | FY2021 Budget | FY2022 Recommended Budget | FY2022 Dept. Requested Budget | Fin Com Changes | Fin Com Recommended Budget | \$ Change from FY21 | % Change From FY21 | Comments   |
|--------|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--|
| 60     | Total Salaries and Wages:           | \$ 50,904     | \$ 56,729     | \$ 53,207                 | \$ 57,864                     | \$ (5,324)      | \$ 57,866                  | \$ 4,659            | 8.76%              | Removed additional 5 hours for BOH Administrative Assistant. |
| 61     | Total Other Expenditures:           | \$ 2,061      | \$ 1,920      | \$ 2,475                  | \$ 2,475                      | \$ -            | \$ 2,475                   | \$ -                | 0.00%              |  |
|        | Total Board Of Health:              | \$ 52,965     | \$ 58,648     | \$ 55,682                 | \$ 60,339                     | \$ (5,324)      | \$ 60,341                  | \$ 4,659            | 8.37%              |  |
|        | Nursing Service                     |               |               |                           |                               |                 |                            |                     |                    |  |
| 62     | Total Salaries and Wages:           | \$ 29,954     | \$ 30,793     | \$ 23,668                 | \$ 32,217                     | \$ (8,076)      | \$ 24,141                  | \$ 473              | 2.00%              | Reduced budget to a 2% increase over FY2021.                 |
| 63     | Total Other Expenditures:           | \$ 84         | \$ 1,145      | \$ 1,929                  | \$ 1,929                      | \$ -            | \$ 1,929                   | \$ -                | 0.00%              |  |
|        | Total Nursing Service:              | \$ 30,037     | \$ 31,938     | \$ 25,597                 | \$ 34,146                     | \$ (8,076)      | \$ 26,070                  | \$ 473              | 1.85%              |  |
|        | Total Health And Sanitation:        | \$ 83,002     | \$ 90,586     | \$ 81,279                 | \$ 94,485                     | \$ (13,400)     | \$ 86,411                  | \$ 5,132            | 6.31%              |  |
|        | Public Assistance                   |               |               |                           |                               |                 |                            |                     |                    |  |
|        | Council On Aging                    |               |               |                           |                               |                 |                            |                     |                    |  |
| 64     | Total Salaries and Wages:           | \$ 222,498    | \$ 224,050    | \$ 244,182                | \$ 247,548                    | \$ -            | \$ 247,559                 | \$ 3,377            | 1.38%              |  |
| 65     | Total Other Expenditures:           | \$ 28,839     | \$ 33,603     | \$ 33,874                 | \$ 33,874                     | \$ -            | \$ 34,074                  | \$ 200              | 0.59%              |  |
|        | Total Council On Aging:             | \$ 251,337    | \$ 257,653    | \$ 278,056                | \$ 281,422                    | \$ -            | \$ 281,633                 | \$ 3,577            | 1.29%              |  |
| 66     | Total Veterans:                     | \$ 122,017    | \$ 147,565    | \$ 162,705                | \$ 162,705                    | \$ -            | \$ 158,286                 | \$ (4,419)          | -2.72%             | Reduction based on current caseload.                         |
|        | Total Public Assistance:            | \$ 373,354    | \$ 405,218    | \$ 440,761                | \$ 444,127                    | \$ -            | \$ 439,919                 | \$ (842)            | -0.19%             |  |
|        | Library                             |               |               |                           |                               |                 |                            |                     |                    |  |
| 67     | Total Salaries and Wages:           | \$ 195,152    | \$ 196,818    | \$ 206,707                | \$ 210,826                    | \$ -            | \$ 211,886                 | \$ 5,179            | 2.51%              |  |
| 68     | Total Other Expenditures:           | \$ 94,771     | \$ 91,773     | \$ 106,933                | \$ 106,933                    | \$ -            | \$ 109,990                 | \$ 3,057            | 2.86%              |  |
|        | Total Library:                      | \$ 289,922    | \$ 288,591    | \$ 313,640                | \$ 317,759                    | \$ -            | \$ 321,876                 | \$ 8,236            | 2.63%              |  |
| 69     | Total Parks and Recreation:         | \$ 12,245     | \$ 9,909      | \$ 12,300                 | \$ 12,300                     | \$ -            | \$ 12,300                  | \$ -                | 0.00%              |  |
| 70     | Total Other - Town Gardens:         | \$ 600        | \$ 600        | \$ 600                    | \$ 600                        | \$ -            | \$ 600                     | \$ -                | 0.00%              |  |
|        | Debt Service                        |               |               |                           |                               |                 |                            |                     |                    |  |
| 71     | Total Principal:                    | \$ 448,903.20 | \$ 188,108.08 | \$ 592,372.00             | \$ 592,372.00                 | \$ -            | \$ 673,243                 | \$ 80,871           | 13.65%             | New debt service for DPW Truck and Fire Rescue Vehicle       |
| 72     | Total Interest:                     | \$ 124,292    | \$ 198,205    | \$ 311,855                | \$ 311,855                    | \$ -            | \$ 305,116                 | \$ (6,739)          | -2.16%             |  |
|        | Total Debt Service:                 | \$ 573,196    | \$ 386,313    | \$ 904,227                | \$ 904,227                    | \$ -            | \$ 978,359                 | \$ 74,132           | 8.20%              |  |
|        | Unclassified                        |               |               |                           |                               |                 |                            |                     |                    |  |
| 73     | Total Dept Benefit Reimb Offset:    | \$ (48,132)   | \$ 53,800     | \$ (54,500)               | \$ (54,500)                   | \$ -            | \$ (55,000)                | \$ (500)            | 0.92%              |  |
| 74     | Total Retirement:                   | \$ 536,032    | \$ 570,968    | \$ 632,436                | \$ 632,436                    | \$ -            | \$ 642,816                 | \$ 10,380           | 1.64%              |  |
| 75     | Total Workers Comp Insurance:       | \$ 48,000     | \$ 53,623     | \$ 56,000                 | \$ 56,000                     | \$ -            | \$ 62,500                  | \$ 6,500            | 11.61%             |  |
| 76     | Total Unemployment:                 | \$ 2,946      | \$ 5,486      | \$ 7,400                  | \$ 7,400                      | \$ -            | \$ 6,500                   | \$ (900)            | -12.16%            |  |
| 77     | HEALTH & DENTAL INS                 | \$ 324,083    | \$ 573,117    | \$ 360,000                | \$ 360,000                    | \$ (52,000)     | \$ 410,000                 | \$ 50,000           | 13.89%             | Estimate based on additional participation in FY2021.        |
| 78     | FICA (TOWN SHR)                     | \$ 42,935     | \$ 64,456     | \$ 50,000                 | \$ 50,000                     | \$ -            | \$ 53,000                  | \$ 3,000            | 6.00%              |  |
| 79     | Total Life Insurance:               | \$ 2,814      | \$ 1,946      | \$ 3,500                  | \$ 3,500                      | \$ -            | \$ 3,000                   | \$ (500)            | -14.29%            |  |
| 80     | Total Property-Liability Insurance: | \$ 54,098     | \$ 67,356     | \$ 74,000                 | \$ 74,000                     | \$ -            | \$ 86,500                  | \$ 12,500           | 16.89%             | Estimate based on loss ratio in FY2021.                      |
| 81     | Total Training Buyback Merit:       | \$ -          | \$ 4,197      | \$ 15,000                 | \$ 15,000                     | \$ -            | \$ 15,000                  | \$ -                | 0.00%              |  |
|        | Total Unclassified:                 | \$ 963,333    | \$ 1,394,950  | \$ 1,143,836              | \$ 1,143,836                  | \$ (52,000)     | \$ 1,224,316               | \$ 80,480           | 7.04%              |  |
| 82     | Total Transfers                     | \$ 256,797    | \$ 90,000     | \$ 90,000                 | \$ 90,000                     | \$ -            | \$ 90,000                  | \$ -                | 0.00%              |  |
|        | Total Omnibus                       | \$ 15,037,604 | \$ 15,987,323 | \$ 17,591,426             | \$ 17,946,397                 | \$ 583,528      | \$ 18,967,419              | \$ 1,375,993        | 7.82%              |  |

**Town of Merrimac Warrant Articles  
Annual Town Meeting, April 26, 2021**

Essex, ss.

To one of the Constables of the Town of Merrimac:

GREETINGS,

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn the voters of the Town of Merrimac to meet in the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School Cafeteria, 115 Amesbury Line Rd., Haverhill, MA 01830 on, on April 26, 2021 at 7:30 PM.

**Article 1:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Free Cash for FY2021, a sum of money in the amount of **\$405,152** for the following specific purposes outlined below; or take any other action relative hereto.

**a. Bear Hill Road Culvert** **\$ 96,741**

**Rationale:** This would allow for the replacement of the Bear Hill Road Culvert (s) carrying Bear Hill Road over the Back River for the Town of Merrimac. The Town has been awarded a Federal Emergency Management Agency Grant through the Hazard Mitigation Project for replacing the Bear Hill Road Culvert. The federal share for this project at the time of award is \$290,223.75 which is 75% of the total approved project cost of \$386,965. **A non-federal cost share (Town match) of at least 25 percent of the total approved project cost totals to \$96,741.25.** Requested by the DPW Director.

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| <b>Selectmen Recommendation:</b>        | <b>Yes 2 - 0</b> |
| <b>FinCom Recommendation:</b>           | <b>Yes 6 - 0</b> |
| <b>Capital Planning Recommendation:</b> | <b>Yes 5 - 0</b> |

**b. DPW F450 Dump Truck w/Plow and Sander** **\$ 80,000**

**Rationale:** This would allow for the replacement of the 2005 F450 Dump Truck and Plow for the Highway Department, that is in need of replacement. Requested by the DPW Director.

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| <b>Selectmen Recommendation:</b>        | <b>Yes 2 - 0</b> |
| <b>FinCom Recommendation:</b>           | <b>Yes 6 - 0</b> |
| <b>Capital Planning Recommendation:</b> | <b>Yes 5 - 0</b> |

**c. Library HVAC Roof Compressor Unit Replacements** **\$ 28,000**

**Rationale:** This would allow for the replacement of (2) non-functioning HVAC compressor units, and (1) non-functioning HVAC system backup pump. Requested by the Library Director.

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| <b>Selectmen Recommendation:</b>        | <b>Yes 2 - 0</b> |
| <b>FinCom Recommendation:</b>           | <b>Yes 6 - 0</b> |
| <b>Capital Planning Recommendation:</b> | <b>Yes 5 - 0</b> |

**d. Landfill Closure Activities** **\$ 150,000**

**Rationale:** This will appropriate funds for additional closure work at the Battis Road Landfill as mandated by the MADEP for activities related to the final closure. This will address deficiencies with data collection activities as well as prepare an acceptable plan for final closure. Requested by the DPW Director.

**Selectmen Recommendation:** **Yes 2 - 0**

**FinCom Recommendation:** **Yes 6 - 0**

**e. Employee Retirement Funding** **\$ 42,300**

**Rationale:** These funds will allow for the required costs of employee retirement accrual payments. Requested by the Finance Director.

**Selectmen Recommendation:** **Yes 2 - 0**

**FinCom Recommendation:** **Yes 6 - 0**

**f. OPEB Trust Funding** **\$ 8,111**

**Rationale:** The OPEB Trust has been established to fund the cost of Retirees Health Benefits. The Town is required to report the OPEB Liability on the Town's books annually. This article will appropriate funds to the OPEB Trust. Requested by the Finance Director.

**Selectmen Recommendation:** **Yes 2 - 0**

**FinCom Recommendation:** **Yes 6 - 0**

**Article 2:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Water Retained Earnings for FY021 a sum of money in the amount of **\$ 160,000** for the following specific capital purposes outlined below; or take any other action relative hereto.

**a. Water Meter Replacement** **\$ 10,000**

**Rationale:** To upgrade older meters to become lead free and radio read. Reducing time needed to read meters and increase public water quality. Requested by the DPW Director.

**Selectmen Recommendation:** **Yes 2 - 0**

**FinCom Recommendation:** **Yes 6 - 0**

**Capital Planning Recommendation:** **Yes 5 - 0**

**b. Well Replacement** **\$ 40,000**

**Rationale:** This will allow the Town to start replacing the aging gravel pack wells. Requested by the DPW Director.

**Selectmen Recommendation:** **Yes 2 - 0**

**FinCom Recommendation:** **Yes 6 - 0**

**Capital Planning Recommendation:** **Yes 5 - 0**

**c. Water Infrastructure** **\$100,000**

**Rationale:** This will replace/upgrade existing infrastructure to meet current DEP requirements. Requested by the DPW Director.

**Selectmen Recommendation:** Yes 2 - 0  
**FinCom Recommendation:** Yes 6 - 0  
**Capital Planning Recommendation:** Yes 5 - 0

**d. Solar Development** **\$ 10,000**

**Rationale:** This will allow for the exploration of solar development. Requested by the DPW Director.

**Selectmen Recommendation:** Yes 2 - 0  
**FinCom Recommendation:** Yes 6 - 0  
**Capital Planning Recommendation:** Yes 5 - 0

**Article 3:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Wastewater Retained Earnings for FY2021 a sum of money in the amount of **\$ 115,000** for the following specific capital purposes outlined below; or take any other action relative hereto.

**a. Wastewater Plant Improvements** **\$50,000**

**Rationale:** This will replace/upgrade/existing out of date and obsolete equipment as well as building improvements. Requested by the DPW Director.

**Selectmen Recommendation:** Yes 2 - 0  
**FinCom Recommendation:** Yes 6 - 0  
**Capital Planning Recommendation:** Yes 5 - 0

**b. Wastewater Plant Engineering** **\$ 50,000**

**Rationale:** This will fund Engineering of Capital Improvement to Main Building, as a result of comprehensive review, as approved by DEP and EPA. Requested by the DPW Director.

**Selectmen Recommendation:** Yes 2 - 0  
**FinCom Recommendation:** Yes 6 - 0  
**Capital Planning Recommendation:** Yes 5 - 0

**c. Water Meter Replacement** **\$ 15,000**

**Rationale:** To upgrade older meters so that they are lead free and radio read, reducing time needed to read meters. Requested by the DPW Director.

**Selectmen Recommendation:** Yes 2 - 0  
**FinCom Recommendation:** Yes 6 - 0  
**Capital Planning Recommendation:** Yes 5 - 0

**Article 4:** To see if the Town will vote pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. c. 44, Section 53E½, as most recently amended, to establish **Fiscal Year 2021** limitations on expenditures from the revolving funds established by the General Bylaw entitled, "Departmental Revolving Funds", with such limitations to remain applicable from fiscal year to fiscal year until such time as they are later amended as follows:

| <b>Revolving Fund</b>               | <b>Fiscal Year Spending Limit</b> |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Firearms                            | \$5,000                           |
| Zoning Board of Appeal              | \$4,000                           |
| Town Nurse                          | \$10,000                          |
| Zoning and Building Code Compliance | \$15,000                          |
| Board of Health Projects            | \$4,500                           |
| Rental Inspections                  | \$4,000                           |
| Inspectional Services               | \$100,000                         |
| PRSD Grounds                        | \$50,000                          |
| Tax Title                           | \$5,000                           |
| Fire Watch                          | \$5,000                           |

or take any other action relative hereto.

**Rationale:**

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, Section 53E ½, as most recently amended by the Municipal Modernization Act, towns must now adopt a bylaw to establish revolving funds, which the Town did at a prior Annual Town Meeting. Town Meeting must still approve expenditure limits, however, as is proposed here. Be reminded that these revolving funds are required in order to receive and disburse funds generated through programs supported by such revolving funds. Revenues will be used to offset expenses related to these programs and activities and disbursed under the direction of those indicated.

**Selectmen Recommendation:**

**Yes 2 - 0**

**FinCom Recommendation:**

**Not available at time of printing**

**Article 5:** To see if the Town will vote pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. c. 44, Section 53E½, as most recently amended, to establish **Fiscal Year 2022** limitations on expenditures from the revolving funds established by the General Bylaw entitled, “Departmental Revolving Funds”, with such limitations to remain applicable from fiscal year to fiscal year until such time as they are later amended as follows:

| <b>Revolving Fund</b>               | <b>Fiscal Year Spending Limit</b> |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Firearms                            | \$5,000                           |
| Zoning Board of Appeal              | \$4,000                           |
| Town Nurse                          | \$10,000                          |
| Zoning and Building Code Compliance | \$15,000                          |
| Board of Health Projects            | \$4,500                           |
| Rental Inspections                  | \$4,000                           |
| Inspectional Services               | \$100,000                         |
| PRSD Grounds                        | \$50,000                          |
| Tax Title                           | \$5,000                           |
| Fire Watch                          | \$5,000                           |

or take any other action relative hereto.

**Rationale:**

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, Section 53E ½, as most recently amended by the Municipal Modernization Act, towns must now adopt a bylaw to establish revolving funds, which the Town did at a prior Annual Town Meeting. Town Meeting must still approve expenditure limits, however, as is proposed here. Be reminded that these revolving funds are required in order to receive and disburse funds generated through programs supported by such revolving funds. Revenues will be used to offset expenses related to these programs and activities and disbursed under the direction of those indicated.

**Selectmen Recommendation: Yes 2 -0**  
**FinCom Recommendation: Not available at time of printing**

**Article 6:** To see if the Town will vote to fix the salary and compensation of all elective officers of the Town as provided by Massachusetts General Laws (M.G.L.), Chapter 41, Section 108 as amended: Town Clerk, three Assessors, three Commissioners of Municipal Light, and raise, appropriate or transfer sums of money therefore and to determine sums of money raised to be transferred to defray the necessary and usual charges and expenses of the Town for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2021 and make appropriations for the same, said sums of money so raised, appropriated or transferred to be expended for specific purposes to be voted; or take any other action relative hereto.

**Rationale:** This article approves the Town’s FY2022 Operating Budget as specified in the attached breakdown.

**Selectmen Recommendation: Yes 2 - 0**  
**FinCom Recommendation: Yes 6 - 0**

**Article 7:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to operate the Wastewater Department Enterprise for FY2022; or take any other action relative hereto.

|                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Salaries:            | \$ 534,831         |
| Expenses:            | \$ 396,138         |
| <u>Debt Service:</u> | <u>\$ 168,311</u>  |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>\$1,099,280</b> |

And that **\$ 1,099,280** be raised as follows:

|                             |                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Departmental Receipts:      | <b>\$ 1,071,280</b> |
| Wastewater Betterment Fund: | <b>\$ 28,000</b>    |

**Rationale:** To set FY2022 Budget for Wastewater Department as an Enterprise Fund (M.G.L. c.44 §53F1/2).

|                                  |                  |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Selectmen Recommendation:</b> | <b>Yes 2 - 0</b> |
| <b>FinCom Recommendation:</b>    | <b>Yes 6 - 0</b> |

**Article 8:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to operate the Water Department Enterprise for FY2022; or take any other action relative hereto.

|                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Salaries:            | \$ 464,328         |
| Expenses:            | \$ 415,386         |
| <u>Debt Service:</u> | <u>\$ 238,258</u>  |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>\$1,117,972</b> |

And that **\$1,117,972** be raised as follows:

|                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Departmental Receipts: | <b>\$ 1,117,972</b> |
|------------------------|---------------------|

**Rationale:** To set FY2022 Budget for Water Department as an Enterprise Fund (M.G.L. c.44 § 53F1/2).

|                                  |                  |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Selectmen Recommendation:</b> | <b>Yes 2 - 0</b> |
| <b>FinCom Recommendation:</b>    | <b>Yes 6 - 0</b> |

**Article 9:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to fund the operations of the Cable Television Department for FY2022; or take any other action relative hereto.

|                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Salaries:        | \$ 58,549         |
| <u>Expenses:</u> | <u>\$ 85,500</u>  |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>\$ 144,049</b> |

And that **\$ 144,049** be transferred from the Cable Television Receipts Reserved Account.

**Rationale:** To set FY2022 Budget for Cable Television Department as a Receipts Reserved Account (M.G.L. c.44 § 53F 3/4).

|                                  |                  |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Selectmen Recommendation:</b> | <b>Yes 2 - 0</b> |
| <b>FinCom Recommendation:</b>    | <b>Yes 6 - 0</b> |



**Article 10:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money from the Electric Light Operating Balance said money to be used by the Assessors to reduce the Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2022; or take any other action relative hereto.

**Rationale:** This is an amount of funds approved by the Merrimac Light Commissioners to reduce the tax rate; this amount helps to offset the costs of general governmental services that all taxpayers use. The Light Department does not pay property taxes.

**Selectmen Recommendation:** Yes 2 - 0  
**FinCom Recommendation:** Yes 6 - 0

**Article 11.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$ 3,600 or other sum of money from available funds known as "Sale of Cemetery Lots", such sum or part thereof, to be expended under the direction of the Cemetery Trustees for the care, improvement, and embellishment of said cemeteries, in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 114, Section 15 and Section 25; or take any other action relative hereto.

**Rationale:** This appropriation authorizes the transfer of funds collected from the previous fiscal year to be used by the Cemetery Trustees for the upkeep of the said cemeteries. Requested by the Cemetery Trustees.

**Selectmen Recommendation:** Yes 3 - 0  
**FinCom Recommendation:** Yes 7 - 0

**Article 12:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$185,000 or other sum of money to be used to make necessary repairs to Town roadways; or take any other action relative hereto.

**Rationale:** This article will allow the DPW Director to use the funds for necessary roadwork beyond the end of the fiscal year, which will give more flexibility when planning the needed repairs. Requested by the DPW Director.

**Selectmen Recommendation:** Yes 2 - 0  
**FinCom Recommendation:** Yes 6 - 0

**Article 13:** To see if the Town will vote to accept the State Grant of Chapter 90 Highway Funds and authorize the Board of Selectmen to expend said funds for Highway purposes in accordance with the terms of said grants; or take any other action relative hereto.

**Rationale:** This article allows the Town to accept State Transportation Aid to help maintain Town roadways.

**Selectmen Recommendation:** Yes 2 - 0  
**FinCom Recommendation:** Yes 6 - 0

**Article 14:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$310,000, or other sum of money for Solid Waste Collection and Disposal, Recycling Collection; or take any other action relative hereto.

**Rationale:** This article allows the Town to raise the funds necessary for the collection and disposal of solid waste, recycling and offset the costs with the funds collected through the sale of Trash Bags.

**Selectmen Recommendation:** Yes 2 - 0  
**FinCom Recommendation:** Yes 6 - 0

**Article 15:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate **\$1,200,000**, or any other amount, to pay costs of purchasing a Fire Apparatus Vehicle, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; to determine whether this amount shall be raised by taxation, transfer from available funds, borrowing, lease-purchase financing or otherwise, or take any other action relative thereto.

**Rationale:** I would request that the Town support the borrowing of 1.2 million for the purchase of a “Quint ladder truck”. The purpose for this request is to replace our 23-year-old, 1998 Tower Truck that has failed to pass all safety inspections. An inspection was provided by a third-party company certified in Ariel truck inspections and certifications. This inspection is required annually.

Presently, the City of Amesbury is also without their 26-year-old Ladder truck, leaving our Community at a much higher risk. Even when each Community has a ladder, it is not recommended to have your sole ladder response to come from such a distance and where it may already be in use.

This new truck will allow us to update our very old force with a truck that can serve two purposes. It should also allow us to adjust our response model thus creating a window for further planning in relations to fleet management.

The article will authorize the borrowing for a term not to exceed 20 years. Requested by the Fire Chief.

**2/3 vote required**

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| <b>Selectmen Recommendation:</b>        | <b>Yes 2 - 0</b> |
| <b>FinCom Recommendation:</b>           | <b>Yes 6 - 0</b> |
| <b>Capital Planning Recommendation:</b> | <b>Yes 5 – 0</b> |

**Article 16:** To see if the Town will vote to change the name and purpose of the Ambulance Stabilization Fund to the Fire and Ambulance Apparatus Fund; and transfer **\$100,000** from the Capital Stabilization Fund to the Fire and Ambulance Apparatus fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

**Rationale:** The Capital Planning Committee is recommending the change of the Stabilization Account to allow for the Fire Chief to request funds for a variety of capital Apparatus, as the needs present. This will allow more flexibility. The Committee also requests that \$100,000 be transferred in from the Capital Stabilization Fund, as the capital needs in the Fire/Ambulance are so great.

**2/3 vote required**

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| <b>Selectmen Recommendation:</b>        | <b>Yes 2 - 0</b> |
| <b>FinCom Recommendation:</b>           | <b>Yes 6 - 0</b> |
| <b>Capital Planning Recommendation:</b> | <b>Yes 5 – 0</b> |

**Article 17:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Merrimac General By-Law, Article I, Town Meeting/Town Elections, by the addition of the following section:

1.1.1 Location of Town Meeting

Town Meetings may be held outside the geographic limits of the town; provided, however, that any meeting for the election by ballot of federal, state or other officers or the determination of other matters that are to be determined by ballot at an election shall be held within the geographic limits of the town.

; or take any other action relative hereto.

**Rationale:** This will allow the Town Meetings to be held outside of the Town limits, when the needs require a different location.

**Selectmen Recommendation:**

**Yes 2 - 0**

**Article 18:** To see if the Town will vote to accept, as a Town way, the layout of the road known as “Farrington Field Road”, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire the land, rights, and easements therein for roadway, drainage, utility, or other purposes, all shown on a plan prepared by GM2 Cammett Engineering & Survey Consultants dated February 11, 2021, entitled “Street Acceptance Plan at Farrington Field Road (Hadley) in Merrimac, Mass.”; or take any other action relative thereto.

**Rationale:** The project is complete and built to plan on file at the Office of the Town Clerk; contingent upon the receipt of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Street Acceptance Form and all departments signs offs. Per the request of the Planning Board.

**Selectmen Recommendation:**

**Yes 2 - 0**

**Article 19:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Merrimac Zoning By-law Section 4.10.6.7 by replacing current wording with the following. “4.10.6.7. No garage or carport shall face the street unless it is located at least two (2) feet behind the front façade of the principal STRUCTURE. When a garage is located under the principal STRUCTURE, the entrance to the garage shall not be located on the front exterior wall facing the street (FRONTAGE) side of the lot

**Rationale:** Experience over the years has demonstrated that the current wording of Zoning Bylaw Section 4.10.6.7 for the location of front-facing garages in the Village Residential District at least 20 feet behind the front façade of the principal structure is impractical for the size of lots and setbacks in this District. It has resulted in frequent requests to the ZBA for variances. Therefore, it is recommended that the 20-foot requirement be changed to two feet. Requested by the Planning Board.

**Selectmen Recommendation:**

**Yes 2 - 0**

**Article 20:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for enactment of special legislation to convert the Board of Health from an elected board to a board appointed by the Board of Selectmen, such act to take effect upon passage by the General Court; provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court which are within the scope of the general public objectives of the petition; or take any other action relative hereto.

**Rationale:** Throughout Covid it became apparent that the Board of Health should be appointed as to allow for a more professionally run Board. This will allow for the Board of Selectmen to interview interested applicants and appoint the most qualified. Requested by the Board of Selectmen.

**Selectmen Recommendation:**

**Yes 2 - 0**

**FY2022 Debt Repayment Detail**

| <b>Borrowing</b>                             | <b>Acct#</b>  | <b>Inside/<br/>Outside</b> | <b>Original<br/>Amount</b> | <b>Fiscal<br/>Year Paid</b> | <b>FY2022<br/>Principal</b> | <b>FY2022<br/>Interest</b> |
|--|---------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Building Constuction (Library)               |               | Inside                     | \$ 2,351,000               | Refinanced                  |                             |                            |
| <b>Sub-Total (Ominibus)</b>                  |               |                            |                            |                             |                             |                            |
| Church Fowler Betterment (Sewer)             |               | Inside                     | \$ 50,000                  | 2024                        | \$ 2,500                    | \$ 278                     |
| Red Oak Betterment (Sewer)                   |               | Inside                     | \$ 50,000                  | 2024                        | \$ 2,500                    | \$ 278                     |
| Sewer Treatment Facility (Sewer)             |               | Inside                     | \$ 1,690,000               | 2024                        | \$ 85,000                   | \$ 9,009                   |
| Engineering Services - Sewer Inflow          |               |                            | \$ 90,000                  | 2009                        | \$ -                        | \$ -                       |
| <b>Total Municipal Purpose - \$4.231M</b>    | <b>610904</b> |                            | <b>\$ 4,231,000</b>        | <b>2024</b>                 | <b>\$ 90,000</b>            | <b>\$ 9,565</b>            |
| Landfill Closure                             |               | Outside                    | \$ 214,801                 | 2020                        |                             |                            |
| Land Acq. - Open Space (Brush Hill)          |               | Inside                     | \$ 107,016                 | 2020                        |                             |                            |
| Municipal Building Renovations               |               | Inside                     | \$ 107,016                 | 2020                        |                             |                            |
| Land Acq. (Library)                          |               | Inside                     | \$ 54,406                  | 2015                        |                             |                            |
| Land/Building (Senior Center)                |               | Inside                     | \$ 160,524                 | 2020                        |                             |                            |
| <b>Sub-Total (Ominibus)</b>                  |               |                            |                            |                             | <b>\$ -</b>                 | <b>\$ -</b>                |
| Belmore Rd. Betterment                       |               | Inside                     | \$ 21,455                  | 2014                        |                             |                            |
| Water  |               | Outside                    | \$ 214,782                 | 2020                        |                             |                            |
| Electric Sub Station                         |               | Outside                    | \$ 1,500,000               | 2028                        | \$ 75,000                   | \$ 19,031                  |
| <b>Total Municipal Purpose - \$2.380M</b>    | <b>992920</b> |                            | <b>\$ 2,380,000</b>        | <b>2020</b>                 | <b>\$ 75,000</b>            | <b>\$ 19,031</b>           |
| Building Constuction (Town Hall Exempt)      |               | Inside                     | \$ 1,256,000               | 2023                        | \$ 130,000                  | \$ 5,850                   |
| Building Constuction (Library Exempt)        |               | Inside                     | \$ 1,145,000               | 2024                        | \$ 110,000                  | \$ 8,100                   |
| Land - School St.                            |               | Inside                     | \$ 140,000                 | 2024                        | \$ 15,000                   | \$ 825                     |
|  |               |                            |                            |                             | <b>\$ 255,000</b>           | <b>\$ 14,775</b>           |
| Sewer - Attitash Lift                        |               | Inside                     | \$ 375,000                 | 2024                        | \$ 35,000                   | \$ 2,625                   |
| Sewer - Chuch/Fowler Betterment              |               | Inside                     | \$ 45,000                  | 2023                        | \$ 5,000                    | \$ 225                     |
| Water - Engineering                          |               | Inside                     | \$ 145,000                 | 2024                        | \$ 15,000                   | \$ 975                     |
| Water - Tonka Filters                        |               | Outside                    | \$ 260,000                 | 2022                        | \$ 30,000                   | \$ 450                     |
| Water - Storage Tanks                        |               | Outside                    | \$ 235,000                 | 2024                        | \$ 25,000                   | \$ 1,125                   |
| Water - Well Fields                          |               | Outside                    | \$ 270,000                 | 2024                        | \$ 25,000                   | \$ 1,875                   |
| Water - Booster Stations                     |               | Outside                    | \$ 100,000                 | 2024                        | \$ 10,000                   | \$ 750                     |
| <b>Total Municipal Purpose - \$3,971,000</b> | <b>992923</b> |                            | <b>\$ 3,971,000</b>        | <b>2021</b>                 | <b>\$ 400,000</b>           | <b>\$ 22,800</b>           |
| Water Mains - Town Share 5%                  |               | Outside                    | \$43,000                   | 2036                        | \$ 1,937                    | \$ 678                     |
| Water Mains                                  |               | Outside                    | \$817,000                  | 2036                        | \$ 36,799                   | \$ 12,888                  |
| <b>Total Municipal Purpose - \$860,000</b>   | <b>992924</b> |                            | <b>\$860,000</b>           | <b>2036</b>                 | <b>\$ 38,736</b>            | <b>\$ 13,567</b>           |
| Water Booster Stations                       |               | Outside                    | \$1,600,000                | 2049                        | \$ 37,847                   | \$ 36,197                  |
| <b>Total Municipal Purpose - \$1.6 M</b>     | <b>601004</b> |                            | <b>\$1,600,000</b>         | <b>2049</b>                 | <b>\$ 37,847</b>            | <b>\$ 36,197</b>           |
| Library - Roof                               |               | Inside                     | \$250,000                  | 2039                        | \$10,000                    | \$ 8,533                   |
| Library - Roof                               |               | Inside                     | \$390,000                  | 2039                        | \$15,000                    | \$ 13,313                  |
| Town Hall                                    |               | Inside                     | \$1,113,000                | 2045                        | \$30,000                    | \$ 36,073                  |
| Police Engineering                           |               | Inside                     | \$465,000                  | 2045                        | \$10,000                    | \$ 15,113                  |
| Police Construction                          |               | Inside                     | \$5,767,000                | 2045                        | \$145,000                   | \$ 187,165                 |
| <b>Total Municipal Purpose - \$7.985M</b>    |               |                            | <b>\$7,985,000</b>         | <b>2045</b>                 | <b>\$210,000</b>            | <b>\$ 260,195</b>          |
| DPW Truck                                    |               | Inside                     | \$197,000                  | 2026                        | \$ 40,000                   | \$ 3,448                   |
| Fire Rescue Vehicle                          |               | Inside                     | \$325,000                  | 2031                        | \$ 33,000                   | \$ 8,125                   |
| <b>New Borrowing Estimate</b>                |               |                            | <b>\$522,000</b>           | <b>2031</b>                 | <b>\$73,000</b>             | <b>\$11,573</b>            |
| <b>TOTAL LONG TERM DEBT</b>                  |               |                            |                            |                             | <b>\$ 851,583</b>           | <b>\$ 361,355</b>          |
| <b>Short Term Debt/Lease</b>                 |               |                            |                            |                             |                             |                            |
| Town/School Energy                           |               | Inside                     | \$ 753,925                 | 2025                        | \$ 77,302                   | \$ 8,284                   |
| Water Energy                                 |               | Inside                     | \$ 38,594                  | 2025                        | \$ 3,931                    | \$ 421                     |
| Sewer Energy                                 |               | Inside                     | \$ 229,334                 | 2025                        | \$ 23,390                   | \$ 2,506                   |
| <b>Total Lease - \$1,021,853</b>             | <b>992925</b> |                            | <b>\$ 1,021,853</b>        | <b>2025</b>                 | <b>\$ 104,623</b>           | <b>\$ 11,211</b>           |
| Fire Air Packs                               |               | Inside                     | \$ 141,364                 | 2023                        | \$ 29,093                   | \$ 1,766                   |
| <b>Total Lease - \$141,364</b>               |               |                            | <b>\$ 1,163,217</b>        | <b>2025</b>                 | <b>\$ 29,093</b>            | <b>\$ 1,766</b>            |
| Dump Truck Lease                             |               | Inside                     | \$ 174,860                 | 2024                        | \$ 34,911                   | \$ 4,668                   |
| <b>Total Lease - \$174,860</b>               |               |                            | <b>\$ 1,338,077</b>        | <b>2025</b>                 | <b>\$ 34,911</b>            | <b>\$ 4,668</b>            |
| <b>TOTAL LEASE EXPENSE</b>                   |               |                            |                            |                             | <b>\$ 168,627</b>           | <b>\$ 17,645</b>           |