

**Town of Merrimac**  
**October 17, 2022 - Special Town Meeting**  
**Articles for Consideration**

Town Vote	Art. #	Recommendations			Description
		Selectmen	Finance Committee	Capital Planning	
	1	Yes 2 - 0	Yes 7-0	N/A	To decrease the amount raised and appropriated in Article 1, Line # 77, Health Insurance, of the April 25, 2022 Annual Town Meeting, by the sum of <b>\$50,000</b> .
	2	Yes 2 - 0	N/A	N/A	To accept the Five-Year (5) contract with Pitney Bowes for the lease of the postage machine at Town Hall.
	3	Yes 2 - 0	Yes 7-0	N/A	To appropriate additional funds in the amount of <b>\$51,800</b> for the Water Department's <b>FY2023</b> Operating Budget.
	4	Yes 2 - 0	Yes 7-0	N/A	To reduce the amount appropriated from Wastewater Retained Earnings for FY2022 in Article 4 of the April 25, 2022 Annual Town Meeting, by the sum of <b>\$56,980.63</b> , for I & I repairs throughout town.
	5	Yes 2 - 0	Yes 7-0	Yes 4 - 0	To transfer the balance of Article 2 of the April 15, 2015 Special Town Meeting, Security Gate, the sum of <b>\$12,623</b> , for the purchase of a Kabota Mower for the Wastewater Department.
	6	Yes 2 - 0	Yes 7-0	Yes 4 - 0	To authorize the Selectmen to enter into a 5 year lease purchase for a tractor for the Wastewater Facility, and transfer <b>\$13,443.83</b> from Article 3a of the April 26, 2021 Annual Town Meeting, Sewer Equipment, for the 1st years payment. <b>2/3 Vote Required</b>
	7	Yes 2 - 0	Yes 7-0	N/A	To accept the provisions of M.G.L. c.64N, §3, to impose an excise tax on the retail sales of marijuana for adult use at the rate of three percent (3%).
	8	Yes 2 - 0	N/A	N/A	To amend the Town of Merrimac General By-Laws by inserting Article 11: Open Space Committee.

**Town of Merrimac Warrant Articles  
Special Town Meeting, October 17, 2022**

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 Sweetsir School Cafeteria, 102 Church St. Merrimac, on October 17, 2022 at 7:30 PM, to act on the following articles, namely:

**Article 1:** To see if the Town will vote to decrease the amount raised and appropriated in Article 1, Line # 77, Health Insurance, of the April 25, 2022 Annual Town Meeting, by the sum of **\$50,000**; or take any other action relative thereto.

**Rationale:** This will reduce the amount required for employee health insurance, based upon the current enrollees. Per the request of the Finance Director.

**Selectmen Recommendation:            Yes 2 - 0**  
**Fin Com Recommendation:            Yes 7 - 0**

**Article 2:** To see if the Town will vote, in accordance with G.L. c. 30B sec. 12(b) to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a contract for a term of Five-Year (5) years with Pitney Bowes for the lease of the postage machine at Town Hall for a sum of **\$8,743.80**; or take any other action relative thereto:

**Rationale:** The Town rents a postage machine, the 60-month term requires Town Meeting approval. This option will save the Town \$320.40 over the life of the lease. Per the request of the Finance Director.

**Selectmen Recommendation:            Yes 2 - 0**

**Article 3:** 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 FY2023; or take any other action relative hereto.

Salaries:	\$	8,300
Expenses:	\$	43,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>51,800</b>

And that **\$ 51,800** be raised as follows:

Departmental Receipts: **\$ 51,800**

**Rationale:** To set FY2023 Budget for Water Department as an Enterprise Fund (M.G.L. c.44 §53F1/2). This will adjust the budget for Insurance Benefits and Chemicals, both have increased more than anticipated at the Annual Town Meeting. Per the request of the DPW Director.

**Selectmen Recommendation: Yes 2 - 0**  
**FinCom Recommendation: Yes 7 - 0**

**Article 4:** To see if the Town will vote to reduce the amount appropriated from Wastewater Retained Earnings for **FY2022** in Article 4 of the April 25, 2022 Annual Town Meeting, by the sum of **\$56,980.63**, for I & I repairs throughout town; or take any other action hereto.

**Rationale:** This will correct the amount appropriated, due to an accounting error. Requested by the DPW Director.

**Selectmen Recommendation: Yes 2 - 0**  
**FinCom Recommendation: Yes 7 - 0**

**Article 5:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the balance of Article 2 of the April 15, 2015 Special Town Meeting, Security Gate, a sum of **\$12,623.00**, for the purchase of a Kabota Mower for the Wastewater Department; or take any other action hereto.

**Rationale:** This will transfer the balance remaining in the Security Gate account to purchase a new Kabota Mower for the Wastewater Department. Requested by the DPW Director.

**Selectmen Recommendation: Yes 2 - 0**  
**FinCom Recommendation: Yes 7 - 0**  
**Capital Planning Recommendation: Yes 4 - 0**

**Article 6:** To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to G.L. c. 44 sec. 21C, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a lease agreement for the lease purchase of a tractor for the Wastewater Facility, for the period of 5 years, but in any event not in excess of the useful life of the property to be purchased, to be procured on such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen deem in the best interest of the Town; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take all actions necessary to administer and implement such agreement and to fund the first year of the lease by transferring **\$13,443.83** from Article 3a of the April 26, 2021 Annual Town Meeting, Sewer Equipment, to Wastewater Debt Service; or take any other action relative thereto.

**2/3 Vote Required**

**Rationale:** The current equipment is no longer functional; this will replace the current tractor with a new tractor. This will be purchased through a 5-year lease to own agreement. The total lease payments will cost 61,426.70. Requested by the DPW Director.

**Selectmen Recommendation:           Yes 2 - 0**  
**FinCom Recommendation:           Yes 7 - 0**  
**Capital Planning Recommendation: Yes 4 - 0**

**Article 7:** To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. c.64N, §3, to impose an excise tax on the retail sales of marijuana for adult use at the rate of three percent (3%); or take any other action relative hereto.

**Rationale:** The Town needs to accept Massachusetts General Laws C64N, §3, to be able to impose an excise tax on the retail sale of marijuana. Requested by the Board of Selectmen.

**Selectmen Recommendation:           Yes 2 - 0**  
**FinCom Recommendation:           Yes 7 - 0**

**Article 8:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Merrimac General By-Laws by adding the following new Article 11

Article 11: OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

11.1 The purpose of the Open Space Committee is to implement the Open Space and Recreation Plan of the Town of Merrimac by maintaining and updating the Plan itself and by managing the implementation of the action plans contained therein.

11.2 Said committee shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen and shall consist of up to seven members. Members shall be appointed for staggered two-year terms with four members to be appointed for two-year terms the first July 1<sup>st</sup> or thereabouts following the passage of this bylaw and three members to be appointed for a one-year term at that time. Subsequent appointments of new members shall be for two-year terms each July 1<sup>st</sup> or thereabouts. In the event of a vacancy caused by the resignation, removal, or inability to serve of a member, the Board of Selectmen, upon recommendation of the remaining committee members, shall appoint a new member to serve the balance of any such term.

; or take any other action relative hereto.

**Rationale:** The Board of Selectmen have been appointing members to the Open Space Committee since the late 1990's, but the committee has not been officially established in the Town By-Laws. The addition of the proposed language to the Town By-Laws will formalize the committee and set the number of members and their terms. Requested by the Open Space Committee.

**Selectmen Recommendation:**

**Yes 2 - 0**