

Report of the
FINANCE COMMITTEE
of the Town of
MERRIMAC, MASSACHUSETTS

A Summary of the recommendations
To be presented at the
Special and Annual Town Meetings
To be held on:

Monday April 29, 2019
7:30 P.M. and 7:45 P.M. respectively
At the Dr. Frederick N. Sweetsir School

Town of Merrimac Finance Committee Report FY 2020

To the Voters and Taxpayers of Merrimac:

The Merrimac Finance Committee presents the FY2020 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. Despite the best efforts of all town departments, we had to make cuts to many of the departmental requests in order 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. 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 \$9,480,724 which represents an increase of \$290,870 or 3%. Public Education will now comprise 58% of our total operating budget.

The Finance Committee is very appreciative to the various department heads, Board of Selectmen, Public Ed 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 forth by the town's department heads who were awarded grants totaling \$1,355,630 with special appreciation to the DPW, Selectmen, and Police departments.

The town is fortunate this year to have \$706,297 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 police, highway department, town improvements, and additional funding for state-mandated funding of OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits), as well as smaller one-time expenses.

Currently the Town's stabilization funds are at approximately 7.92% of the FY2019 Omnibus budget, which is up from the previous year, but still at the low end 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
Christine Berube
Mike Marden
Marcia Zosack
Tracy Grazio
Drew Bowie
Jason Pechilis

**Town of Merrimac
April 29, 2019 - Special Town Meeting
Articles for Consideration**

Town Vote	Art. #	Recommendations			Description
		Selectmen	Finance Committee	Capital Planning	
-	1	-	-	-	To appropriate \$ 706,297 from Free Cash for the following specific purposes:
		Yes 3 - 0	Yes 7 - 0	Yes 5 - 0	a. \$ 31,000 To purchase a new animal control vehicle.
		Yes 3 - 0	Yes 7 - 0	Yes 5 - 0	b. \$ 270,000 To fund town wide road repairs.
		Yes 3 - 0	Yes 7 - 0	Yes 5 - 0	c. \$ 65,000 To purchase a 4x4 Pickup truck and plow for the highway department.
		Yes 3 - 0	Yes 7 - 0	Yes 5 - 0	d. \$ 20,000 To purchase a vac truck loader for the cemetery department.
		Yes 3 - 0	Yes 7 - 0	Yes 5 - 0	e. \$ 10,000 To fund the repairs to the library exterior.
		Yes 3 - 0	Yes 7 - 0	N/A	f. \$ 2,000 To purchase iPads for the Selectmen.
		Yes 3 - 0	Yes 7 - 0	N/A	g. \$ 5,000 To fund the bi-annual actuarial study for OPEB.
		Yes 3 - 0	Yes 7 - 0	N/A	h. \$ 20,000 To fund repairs to Engines 31 & 34.
		Yes 3 - 0	Yes 7 - 0	N/A	i. \$ 1,500 To purchase a new laptop for the Planning Board Administrative Assistant.
		Yes 3 - 0	Yes 7 - 0	Yes 5 - 0	j. \$ 25,000 To appropriate funds to the Ambulance Stabilization Fund to offset future costs.
		Yes 3 - 0	Yes 7 - 0	Yes 5 - 0	k. \$ 95,000 To appropriate funds to the Capital Stabilization Fund to offset future costs.
		Yes 3 - 0	Yes 7 - 0	N/A	l. \$ 5,000 To appropriate funds to the OPEB Trust Fund for retirees health benefits.
		Yes 2 - 1	Yes 7 - 0	N/A	m. \$ 40,000 To appropriate funds to offset the projected FY2019 Police Salary budget deficit.
		Yes 3 - 0	*	N/A	n. \$ 25,000 To appropriate funds for handicap assessable work on the playground.
		Yes 3 - 0	Yes 7 - 0	N/A	o. \$ 40,000 To appropriate funds to reduce the FY2019 Snow & Ice deficit.
		Yes 3 - 0	Yes 7 - 0	Yes 5 - 0	p. \$ 51,797 To appropriate the remaining Free Cash balance to the Stabilization Fund.
-	2	-	-	-	To appropriate \$80,000 from Water Retained Earnings for the following specific Capital purposes:
		Yes 3 - 0	Yes 7 - 0	Yes 5 - 0	a. \$ 30,000 To fund the purchase of new water meters throughout town.
		Yes 3 - 0	Yes 7 - 0	Yes 5 - 0	b. \$ 50,000 To make necessary upgrades to the wells located at Bear Hill/Sargent.
-	3	-	-	-	To transfer \$180,000 from Wastewater Development fund for the following specific Capital purposes:
		Yes 3 - 0	Yes 7 - 0	Yes 5 - 0	a. \$ 30,000 To fund the purchase of new water meters throughout town.
		Yes 3 - 0	Yes 7 - 0	Yes 5 - 0	b. \$ 150,000 To fund the engineering needed for the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan.
4		Yes 3 - 0	Yes 7 - 0	Yes 5 - 0	To transfer \$50,000 from Wastewater Betterment fund for land acquisition for future plan expansion.
	5	Yes 3 - 0	Yes 7 - 0	N/A	To appropriate \$500,000 from Wastewater Retained Earnings for I & I work throughout town.
	6	Yes 2 - 1	*	*	To approve the appropriation and borrowing for Merrimac's share of the new Middle/High School.
	7	Yes 3 - 0	Yes 7 - 0	Yes 5 - 0	Transfer \$20,000 from Article 1 (i) of the 4/24/17 STM, Library HVAC Repairs, to fund the repairs to the library exterior.
	8	Yes 3 - 0	*	Yes 5 - 0	To appropriate \$1,145,000 for exterior repairs at Town Hall including roof, window & store fronts, and repointing of masonry and rescind the votes taken under Articles 15, 16, and 17 at the 4/30/18 ATM. (2/3 vote required)

* - Vote was not known at the time of printing

**Town of Merrimac Warrant Articles
Special Town Meeting, April 29, 2019**

Article 1: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Free Cash, a sum of money in the amount of **\$706,297** for the following specific purposes outlined below; or take any other action relative hereto.

a. Animal Control Vehicle and Equipment **\$31,000**

Rationale: To purchase a new animal control vehicle and the necessary equipment to set it up, the Town does not have a vehicle for animal control. Requested by the Police Chief.

Selectmen Recommendation:	Yes 3 - 0
FinCom Recommendation:	Yes 7 - 0
Capital Planning Recommendation:	Yes 5 - 0

b. Town Wide Road Repairs **\$270,000**

Rationale: This will allow the Highway Department to start to move forward with our current road conditions until such time as the Town approves a 2 ½ Proposition Override in the amount of \$500,000 to be added to the highway department road budget for road improvements. Requested by the DPW Director.

Selectmen Recommendation:	Yes 3 - 0
FinCom Recommendation:	Yes 7 - 0
Capital Planning Recommendation:	Yes 5 - 0

c. Pickup Truck 4x4 w/plow **\$ 65,000**

Rationale: To purchase a new pickup truck 4x4 with a plow for the Highway Department. The current truck will be reassigned to the cemetery department, where it will be replacing the current vehicle that is schedule to be scrapped. Requested by the DPW Director.

Selectmen Recommendation:	Yes 3 - 0
FinCom Recommendation:	Yes 7 - 0
Capital Planning Recommendation:	Yes 5 - 0

d. Vac Truck Loader **\$ 20,000**

Rationale: This will replace the current equipment that was acquired 2002 which has reached its usefulness. Requested by the DPW Director.

Selectmen Recommendation:	Yes 3 - 0
FinCom Recommendation:	Yes 7 - 0
Capital Planning Recommendation:	Yes 5 - 0

e. Library Exterior Repairs **\$ 10,000**

Rationale: The Library exterior has several areas of deterioration and considerable rot that needs replacement with a composite material. Requested by the Library Director.

Selectmen Recommendation:	Yes 3 - 0
FinCom Recommendation:	Yes 7 - 0
Capital Planning Recommendation:	Yes 5 - 0

f. iPads – Selectmen

\$ 2,000

Rationale: This article allows for the replacement of the outdated tablets currently used. The iPads will allow the Board of Selectmen to continue to access all documents, agendas and minutes remotely to maintain a paperless system saving on paper costs, time, and storage space. Requested by the Board of Selectmen.

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

g. OPEB Actuarial Study

\$ 5,000

Rationale: To fund the OPEB Actuarial Study. This is required by law to be done every two years. Requested by the Finance Director.

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

h. Fire Truck Repairs

\$ 20,000

Rationale: To fund the repairs to Engines 31 & 34 of approximately \$10,000 each. When the trucks were being put through testing this past year, it was discovered that the pumps would need some substantial repair if they were to fail during the year. These funds would only be used if the repairs were needed. We are working with Capital Planning to put a replacement plan in place. Requested by the Fire Chief.

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

i. Planning Board Laptop

\$ 1,500

Rationale: To purchase a new laptop for the Planning Board Administrative Assistant. The current laptop was purchased in February 2015. Requested by the Planning Board.

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

j. Ambulance Stabilization

\$ 25,000

Rationale: To appropriate funds to the Ambulance Stabilization Fund, which will allow the town to offset the cost of a new ambulance in future years. Requested by the Finance Director.

Selectmen Recommendation: Yes 3 - 0
FinCom Recommendation: Yes 7 - 0
Capital Planning Recommendation: Yes 5 - 0

k. Capital Stabilization**\$ 95,000**

Rationale: To appropriate funds to the Capital Stabilization Fund, which will allow the town to offset the cost of capital requests in future years. Requested by the Finance Director.

Selectmen Recommendation: Yes 3 - 0

FinCom Recommendation: Yes 7 - 0

Capital Planning Recommendation: Yes 5 - 0

l. OPEB Trust Funding**\$ 5,000**

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 the balance in Free Cash to the OPEB Trust. Requested by the Finance Director.

Selectmen Recommendation: Yes 3 - 0

FinCom Recommendation: Yes 7 - 0

m. FY2019 Police Salaries Deficit**\$ 40,000**

Rationale: This will appropriate funds to eliminate the FY2019 Police Salaries deficit.

Unfortunately, the Police Department is facing a budget shortfall in FY2019. We are busy and our budget lacks depth for coverage. In past years, we have been able to deal with these issues within our budget. This year we will not be able to do that. We have had a number of unexpected incidents / events that have occurred that have had an impact on the police budget.

These include coverage for employees that were out for training or injuries, the costs associated with training new employees, payout costs for employees that have left our department and overtime expended on several investigations. Per the request of the Police Chief.

Selectmen Recommendation: Yes 2 - 1

FinCom Recommendation: Yes 7 - 0

n. Playground Handicap Accessibility**\$25,000**

Rationale: This will appropriate additional funds to make the playground handicap accessible. Requested by the Board of Selectmen.

Selectmen Recommendation: Yes 3 - 0

FinCom Recommendation: *

Capital Planning Recommendation: Yes 5 - 0

o. FY2019 Snow and Ice Deficit

\$ 40,000

Rationale: This will appropriate funds to reduce the Snow and Ice deficit. Requested by the Finance Director.

Selectmen Recommendation: Yes 3 - 0

FinCom Recommendation: Yes 7 - 0

p. Stabilization Fund

\$ 51,797

Rationale: To appropriate the remaining Free Cash balance to the Stabilization Fund. Requested by the Finance Director.

Selectmen Recommendation: Yes 3 - 0

FinCom Recommendation: Yes 7 - 0

Capital Planning Recommendation: Yes 5 - 0

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Water Retained Earnings a sum of money in the amount of **\$ 80,000** for the following specific capital purposes outlined below; or take any other action relative hereto.

a. Water Meter Replacement

\$ 30,000

Rationale: To upgrade older meters to become lead free and radio read. Reducing time needed to read meters as well as accounting for unaccounted water. Requested by the DPW Director.

Selectmen Recommendation: Yes 3 - 0

FinCom Recommendation: Yes 7 - 0

Capital Planning Recommendation: Yes 5 - 0

b. Upgrade Wells at Bear Hill/Sargent

\$ 50,000

Rationale: This will replace/upgrade wells that are starting to reach their end of life. Requested by the DPW Director.

Selectmen Recommendation: Yes 3 - 0

FinCom Recommendation: Yes 7 - 0

Capital Planning Recommendation: Yes 5 - 0

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Wastewater Development Fund a sum of money in the amount of **\$ 180,000** for the following specific capital purposes outlined below; or take any other action relative hereto.

a. Water Meter Replacement

\$ 30,000

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 3 - 0
FinCom Recommendation:	Yes 7 - 0
Capital Planning Recommendation:	Yes 5 - 0

b. Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan

\$150,000

Rationale: DEP review of engineering scope of Management Plan. As well as Scope and fee to evaluate the WWTF, including operation and schematic plans of improvements. Requested by the DPW Director.

Selectmen Recommendation:	Yes 3 - 0
FinCom Recommendation:	Yes 7 - 0
Capital Planning Recommendation:	Yes 5 - 0

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire for sewer purposes, by gift, purchase or 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 raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow a sum of money, 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; or take any other action relative hereto.

Rationale: This land will allow for future expansion. Requested by the DPW Director.

Selectmen Recommendation:	Yes 3 - 0
FinCom Recommendation:	Yes 7 - 0
Capital Planning Recommendation:	Yes 5 - 0

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Wastewater Retained Earnings a sum of money in the amount of **\$500,000** for I & I repairs throughout town; or take any other action relative thereto.

Rationale: This will allow for ongoing I & I work as required by the DEP as needed. Requested by Robert Sinibaldi, DPW Director.

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

Article 6: To see if the Town will approve the appropriation and borrowing authorized by the Pentucket Regional School District for the purpose of the construction of a new Middle/High School to be located at 24 Main Street, West Newbury, Massachusetts, 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 Building Committee. 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. Any grant that the District may receive from the MSBA for the Project shall not exceed the lesser of (1) the approved percentage of eligible, approved project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA; to determine whether the approval of such borrowing will be contingent upon a vote of the Town to exempt its allocable share of the debt service on the borrowing for the Project from the tax limitations of Proposition 2 1/2, so-called; or take any other action relative thereto.

Rationale: This article will approve the appropriation and borrowing of Merrimac’s share of a new Middle/High School, contingent upon a vote of the Town to exempt its allocable share of the debt service on the borrowing for the Project from the tax limitations of Proposition 2 ½. The ballot vote will be held on May 6th in all three towns. All 3 towns must approve the appropriation and borrowing by a simple majority vote at Town Meeting; and all 3 towns must approve the override at the ballot by simple majority. Requested by the PRSD.

Selectmen Recommendation:	Yes 2 - 1
FinCom Recommendation:	*
Capital Planning Recommendation:	*

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote 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; or take any other action relative hereto.

Rationale: With the ability to include the HVAC upgrades, which total \$92,089.63 into the Green Community Grant, the funds previously allocated will be used to fund the exterior repairs at the library. Requested by the Library Director.

Selectmen Recommendation:	Yes 3 - 0
FinCom Recommendation:	Yes 7 - 0
Capital Planning Recommendation:	Yes 5 - 0

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate **\$1,145,000**, or any other amount, 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; to determine whether this amount shall be raised by taxation, transfer from available funds, borrowing or otherwise, and to see if the town will vote to rescind the votes taken under Articles 15, 16, and 17 at the April 30, 2018 town meeting which appropriated and authorized bonds for the town exterior repair projects, or take any other action relative hereto.

Rationale: With the ability to combine the three borrowing articles that were created at last year's town meeting for individual projects for exterior repairs to Town Hall, it would allow us the ability to prioritize projects and complete them as funding permits. When the projects were bid as a combined project, the bids came in a million dollars more than what was budgeted, or projected for the total project. Requested by the DPW Director.

2/3 vote required

Selectmen Recommendation:	Yes 3 - 0
FinCom Recommendation:	*
Capital Planning Recommendation:	Yes 5 - 0

***Vote was unknown at the time of printing.**

TOWN OF MERRIMAC BUDGET SUMMARY

REVENUE ESTIMATES

	Adopted	Departmental Requested Budget	Fin Com Recommended Budget
	FY2019	FY2020	FY2020
PROPERTY TAXES			
Tax Base	\$ 12,282,175	\$ 12,817,276	\$ 12,817,276
2 1/2 % Increase	\$ 307,054	\$ 320,432	\$ 320,432
Est New Growth	\$ 228,047	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
General Override	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Unused Levy Capacity	\$ (43,673)	\$ -	\$ (3,056)
PROPERTY TAXES	\$ 12,773,603	\$ 13,237,708	\$ 13,234,652
STATE PROVIDED FUNDS			
Cherry Sheet/State Aid	\$ 1,007,096	\$ 1,021,962	\$ 1,021,962
MSBA	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
SUBTOTAL: STATE FUNDS	\$ 1,007,096	\$ 1,021,962	\$ 1,021,962
DEBT EXCLUSIONS			
New Library Construction	\$ 132,100	\$ 129,225	\$ 129,225
Town Hall Renovations	\$ 156,625	\$ 148,200	\$ 148,200
SUBTOTAL	\$ 288,725	\$ 277,425	\$ 277,425

PROJECTED LOCAL RECEIPTS

Motor Vehicle Excise	\$ 940,000	\$ 940,000	\$ 975,000
Other Excise	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Penalties & Interest	\$ 22,000	\$ 22,000	\$ 22,000
In Lieu of Tax	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200
Trash	\$ 115,000	\$ 115,000	\$ 120,000
Ambulance	\$ 220,000	\$ 220,000	\$ 320,000
Fees	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Rentals	\$ 105,000	\$ 105,000	\$ 115,000
Cemetery	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Licenses & Permits	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 65,000
Fines & Forfeitures	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000
Investment Income	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 45,000
Misc Recurring	\$ 37,000	\$ 37,000	\$ 37,000
Misc Non Recurring	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
SUBTOTAL	\$ 1,740,200	\$ 1,740,200	\$ 1,905,200

OTHER REVENUE

Free Cash Approp	\$ 358,257	\$ 655,116	\$ 655,116
Water Privilege	\$ 68,000	\$ -	\$ -
Water Retained Earnings	\$ 155,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000
Other Revenue	\$ 519,710	\$ 34,800	\$ 34,800
Wastewater Retained Earnings	\$ 246,000	\$ -	\$ -
Wastewater Development Fund	\$ -	\$ 180,000	\$ 180,000
Wastewater I & I	\$ -	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000
Wastewater Betterment Fund	\$ -	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Bonded Capital	\$ 7,803,280	\$ -	\$ -
Water Enterprise	\$ 1,028,623	\$ 1,042,565	\$ 1,042,565
Wastewater Enterprise	\$ 1,145,224	\$ 1,145,405	\$ 1,145,405
Cable Revenue	\$ 140,355	\$ 141,716	\$ 141,716
SUBTOTAL	\$ 11,464,449	\$ 3,829,602	\$ 3,829,602
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUE	\$ 27,274,073	\$ 20,106,897	\$ 20,268,841

EXPENDITURE ESTIMATES

	Adopted	Departmental Requested Budget	Fin Com Recommended Budget
	FY2019	FY2020	FY2020
ARTICLE 1 OMNIBUS			
Gen Govt Unclassified	\$ 1,079,932	\$ 1,174,068	\$ 1,164,068
General Government	\$ 869,267	\$ 905,278	\$ 903,278
Public Safety	\$ 1,918,600	\$ 2,186,316	\$ 2,154,556
Health & Sanitation	\$ 115,317	\$ 139,007	\$ 121,749
Highway	\$ 565,301	\$ 600,011	\$ 600,011
Public Assistance	\$ 381,174	\$ 437,735	\$ 393,696
Education	\$ 9,189,854	\$ 9,480,724	\$ 9,480,724
Library	\$ 293,057	\$ 299,686	\$ 299,686
Cemetery	\$ 56,090	\$ 63,850	\$ 60,700
Parks & Rec	\$ 12,300	\$ 12,300	\$ 12,300
Town Gardens	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 600
Long Term Principal	\$ 326,816	\$ 321,855	\$ 321,855
Long Term Interest	\$ 141,827	\$ 87,818	\$ 87,818
Lease Expense	\$ 75,189	\$ 152,907	\$ 152,907
SUBTOTAL	\$ 15,025,323	\$ 15,862,155	\$ 15,753,948

CHARGES/ABATEMENTS/OTHER AMOUNTS TO BE RAISED

State & County	\$ 106,169	\$ 104,423	\$ 104,423
Tax Abatements	\$ 77,264	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000
Library Offset	\$ 10,066	\$ 9,628	\$ 9,628
Overlay Deficit	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Snow & Ice Deficit	\$ 36,562	\$ -	\$ -
Other Deficits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
SUBTOTAL	\$ 230,061	\$ 189,051	\$ 189,051

CURRENT YEAR SPECIAL ARTICLES

Special Articles	\$ 4,010,099	\$ 4,315,342	\$ 4,305,842
Transfer Articles	\$ 205,310	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
SUBTOTAL	\$ 4,215,409	\$ 4,335,342	\$ 4,325,842

BONDED ARTICLES

Prior Year Bond Issues	\$ 7,803,280		
Bond Authorization		\$ -	\$ -
SUBTOTAL	\$ 7,803,280	\$ -	\$ -

TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENSE	\$ 27,274,073	\$ 20,386,549	\$ 20,268,842
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	\$ 0	\$ (279,651)	\$ (0)

Town of Merrimac
April 29, 2019 - Annual Town Meeting
Articles for Consideration

Town Vote	Art. #	Recommendations			Description
		Selectmen	Finance Committee	Capital Planning	
	1	Yes 3 - 0	Yes 7 - 0	N/A	To accept the Town's Omnibus Budget, per the attached breakdown.
	2	Yes 3 - 0	Yes 7 - 0	N/A	To accept the revenue and expenditures for the operation of the Wastewater Department.
	3	Yes 3 - 0	Yes 7 - 0	N/A	To accept the revenue and expenditures for the operation of the Water Department.
	4	Yes 3 - 0	Yes 7 - 0	N/A	To accept the revenue and expenditures for the operation of the Cable Television Department.
	5	Yes 3 - 0	Yes 7 - 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.
	6	Yes 3 - 0	Yes 7 - 0	N/A	To raise & appropriate \$10,740 for the Assessors to hire a consultant to perform an independent revaluation of the Town.
	7	Yes 3 - 0	Yes 7 - 0	N/A	To appropriate \$4,800 from "Sale of Cemetery Lots" for the "care, improvement and embellishment" of said cemeteries.
	8	Yes 3 - 0	Yes 7 - 0	N/A	To raise and appropriate \$160,500 to be used to make necessary repairs to Town roadways.
	9	Yes 3 - 0	Yes 7 - 0	N/A	To accept the State Grant of Chapter 90 Highway Funds.
	10	Yes 3 - 0	Yes 7 - 0	N/A	To raise & appropriate \$275,000 for Solid Waste, Recycling and Disposal.
	11	Yes 3 - 0	Yes 6 - 0 - 1	N/A	To amend and authorize, pursuant to MGL Chapter 44, Section 53 E 1/2, the Town's Revolving Funds.
	12	Yes 3 - 0	Yes 6 - 0 - 1	N/A	To raise and appropriate \$60,000 for additional landfill activities at the Battis Rd. Landfill.
	13	Yes 3 - 0	N/A	N/A	To accept the donation of undeveloped land, Parcel ID # 94-1-223
	14	Yes 3 - 0	N/A	N/A	To approve the changes to the Pentucket Regional School Agreement.
	15	Yes 3 - 0	N/A	N/A	To accept MGL C41, §19K: Additional Compensation for Town Clerk.
	16	Yes 3 - 0	N/A	N/A	To amend the Merrimac Zoning Bylaw Article 15 Open Space Residential Development. (2/3 vote required)
	17	Yes 3 - 0	N/A	N/A	To amend the Merrimac Zoning Bylaw Article 17 Accessory Dwelling Units . (2/3 vote required)
	18	Yes 2 - 0 - 1	N/A	N/A	To amend the Merrimac Zoning Map - Citizens Petition. (2/3 vote required)
	19	Yes 2 - 1	N/A	N/A	To amend the Zoning Bylaws - Marijuana - Citizens Petition. (2/3 vote required)
	20	Yes 2 - 1	N/A	N/A	To accept MGL C64N, §3, to impose an excise on the retail sales of marijuana.
	21	Yes 3 - 0	N/A	N/A	To accept MGL C40, §8J – Creating a Commission on Disabilities.

Town of Merrimac Warrant Articles
Annual Town Meeting, April 29, 2019

Article 1: 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, 2019 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 Operating Budget as specified in the attached breakdown.

Selectmen Recommendation: Yes 3 - 0

FinCom Recommendation: Yes 7 - 0

Article 1 FY2020 Omnibus Budget

Line #	Description	Dept #	FY2017 Actuals	FY2018 Actuals	FY2019 Approved Budget	FY2020 Main Budget	FY2020 Changes	FY2020 Dept. Request	FY2020 Finance Com Changes	FY2020 Finance Com Budget	Change FY2019 to FY2020	% Change
General Government												
1	Selectmen Salaries	122	\$ 41,887	\$ 46,677	\$ 53,181	\$ 53,181	\$ 2,986	\$ 56,167		\$ 56,167	\$ 2,986	5.6%
2	Selectmen Expense	122	\$ 6,089	\$ 6,939	\$ 8,550	\$ 8,550	\$ 200	\$ 8,750		\$ 8,750	\$ 200	2.3%
3	Annual Town Audit	122	\$ 13,600	\$ 14,000	\$ 14,880	\$ 14,880	\$ 480	\$ 15,360		\$ 15,360	\$ 480	3.2%
4	Capital Planning Expense	130	\$ 70	\$ 50	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 84	\$ 184		\$ 184	\$ 84	84.0%
5	Finance Committee Salaries	131	\$ -	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ 200	\$ 1,000		\$ 1,000	\$ 200	25.0%
6	Finance Committee Expense	131	\$ 496	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 84	\$ 584		\$ 584	\$ 84	16.8%
7	Reserve Fund	132	\$ 22,104	\$ 35,300	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000		\$ 40,000		\$ 40,000	\$ -	0.0%
8	Finance Department Salaries	135-146	\$ 292,403	\$ 301,971	\$ 324,676	\$ 324,676	\$ 15,341	\$ 340,017		\$ 340,017	\$ 15,341	4.7%
9	Finance Department Expense	135-146	\$ 58,708	\$ 56,606	\$ 68,598	\$ 68,598	\$ 3,655	\$ 72,253		\$ 72,253	\$ 3,655	5.3%
10	Bonding of Officers Expense	149	\$ 894	\$ 941	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,100	\$ -	\$ 1,100		\$ 1,100	\$ -	0.0%
11	Legal/Consulting Expense	151	\$ 33,659	\$ 36,938	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ 50,000		\$ 50,000	\$ -	0.0%
12	Town Hall IT Salaries	155	\$ 1,300	\$ 1,333	\$ 1,360	\$ 1,360	\$ 5,872	\$ 7,232		\$ 7,232	\$ 5,872	431.8%
13	Town Hall IT Expense	155	\$ 14,488	\$ 15,475	\$ 16,419	\$ 16,419	\$ (1,968)	\$ 14,451		\$ 14,451	\$ (1,968)	-12.0%
14	Census Takers Expense	160	\$ 1,419	\$ 2,043	\$ 2,322	\$ 2,322	\$ 350	\$ 2,672		\$ 2,672	\$ 350	15.1%
15	Town Clerk Salary	161	\$ 43,942	\$ 52,545	\$ 58,399	\$ 58,399	\$ 10,428	\$ 68,827		\$ 68,827	\$ 10,428	17.9%
16	Town Clerk Expenses	161	\$ 1,478	\$ 1,564	\$ 4,060	\$ 4,060	\$ 795	\$ 4,855		\$ 4,855	\$ 795	19.6%
17	Election Salaries	162	\$ 6,764	\$ 1,375	\$ 6,328	\$ 6,328	\$ (5,078)	\$ 1,250		\$ 1,250	\$ (5,078)	-80.2%
18	Election Expense	162	\$ 5,877	\$ 6,619	\$ 8,953	\$ 8,953	\$ (5,103)	\$ 3,850		\$ 3,850	\$ (5,103)	-57.0%
19	Board of Registrars Salaries	163	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ 250		\$ 250	\$ -	0.0%
20	Board of Registrars Expense	163	\$ 2,127	\$ 2,045	\$ 2,045	\$ 2,045	\$ -	\$ 2,045		\$ 2,045	\$ -	0.0%
21	Vital Statistics Salaries	164	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ -	\$ 150		\$ 150	\$ -	0.0%
22	Vital Statistics Expense	164	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 395	\$ 395	\$ -	\$ 395		\$ 395	\$ -	0.0%

Article 1 FY2020 Omnibus Budget

Line #	Description	Dept #	FY2017 Actuals	FY2018 Actuals	FY2019 Approved Budget	FY2020 Main. Budget	FY2020 Changes	FY2020 Dept. Request	FY2020 Finance Com Changes	FY2020 Finance Com Budget	Change FY2019 to FY2020	% Change
23	Conservation Salaries	171	\$ 13,764	\$ 14,584	\$ 14,918	\$ 14,918	\$ 2,338	\$ 17,256	\$ (2,000)	\$ 15,256	\$ 338	2.3%
24	Conservation Expense	171	\$ 800	\$ 699	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ 409	\$ 1,209		\$ 1,209	\$ 409	51.1%
25	Open Space Comm. Expense	172	\$ 263	\$ 380	\$ 630	\$ 630	\$ -	\$ 630		\$ 630	\$ -	0.0%
26	Planning Board Salaries	175	\$ 5,420	\$ 5,839	\$ 7,124	\$ 7,124	\$ 142	\$ 7,267		\$ 7,267	\$ 142	2.0%
27	Planning Board Expense	175	\$ 1,257	\$ 1,478	\$ 2,150	\$ 2,150	\$ -	\$ 2,150		\$ 2,150	\$ -	0.0%
28	Appeals Board Admin Salary	176	\$ 4,066	\$ 4,462	\$ 4,750	\$ 4,750	\$ 95	\$ 4,845		\$ 4,845	\$ 95	2.0%
29	Appeals Board Expense	176	\$ 277	\$ 341	\$ 425	\$ 425	\$ -	\$ 425		\$ 425	\$ -	0.0%
30	MVPC Expense	177	\$ 2,256	\$ 2,312	\$ 2,370	\$ 2,370	\$ 60	\$ 2,430		\$ 2,430	\$ 60	2.5%
31	Rent Control Expense	185	\$ -	\$ 20	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ 200		\$ 200	\$ -	0.0%
32	Electricity for Town Buildings	192	\$ 75,598	\$ 77,927	\$ 81,000	\$ 81,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 83,000		\$ 83,000	\$ 2,000	2.5%
33	Heat for Town Buildings	192	\$ 23,874	\$ 26,135	\$ 28,950	\$ 28,950	\$ 1,000	\$ 29,950		\$ 29,950	\$ 1,000	3.5%
34	Water/Sewer for Town Buildings	192	\$ 5,073	\$ 5,526	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,500	\$ 500	\$ 6,000		\$ 6,000	\$ 500	9.1%
35	Telephone Expense	192	\$ 14,126	\$ 14,311	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 500	\$ 15,500		\$ 15,500	\$ 500	3.3%
36	Town Hall Maint. Expense	192	\$ 24,555	\$ 21,724	\$ 27,385	\$ 27,385	\$ 640	\$ 28,025		\$ 28,025	\$ 640	2.3%
37	Municipal Buildings Expense	192	\$ 18,871	\$ 14,500	\$ 14,500	\$ 14,500	\$ -	\$ 14,500		\$ 14,500	\$ -	0.0%
38	Town Report	195	\$ 400	\$ 412	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500		\$ 500	\$ -	0.0%
	Total General Government		\$ 738,304	\$ 774,771	\$ 869,267	\$ 869,267	\$ 36,011	\$ 905,278	\$ (2,000)	\$ 903,278	\$ 34,012	3.9%

Article 1 FY2020 Omnibus Budget

Line #	Description	Dept #	FY2017 Actuals	FY2018 Actuals	FY2019 Approved Budget	FY2020 Main Budget	FY2020 Changes	FY2020 Dept. Request	FY2020 Finance Com Changes	FY2020 Finance Com Budget	Change FY2019 to FY2020	% Change
Public Safety												
39	Police Department Salaries	210	\$ 941,697	\$ 1,011,082	\$ 1,084,789	\$ 1,084,789	\$ 94,003	\$ 1,178,792	\$ (25,000)	\$ 1,153,792	\$ 69,003	6.4%
40	Police Department Expense	210	\$ 100,403	\$ 132,383	\$ 112,106	\$ 112,106	\$ 6,750	\$ 118,856	\$ (3,375)	\$ 115,481	\$ 3,375	3.0%
	Sub-Total Police Department		\$ 1,042,100	\$ 1,143,465	\$ 1,196,895	\$ 1,196,895	\$ 100,753	\$ 1,297,648	\$ (28,375)	\$ 1,269,273	\$ 72,378	6.0%
41	Fire Department Salaries	220	\$ 305,134	\$ 310,208	\$ 330,739	\$ 330,739	\$ 30,742	\$ 361,481		\$ 361,481	\$ 30,742	9.3%
42	Fire Department Expense	220	\$ 87,009	\$ 85,548	\$ 85,911	\$ 85,911	\$ 33,945	\$ 119,856		\$ 119,856	\$ 33,945	39.5%
43	EMT Wages	231	\$ 116,153	\$ 119,812	\$ 122,470	\$ 122,470	\$ 95,159	\$ 217,629		\$ 217,629	\$ 95,159	77.7%
44	Ambulance Expense	231	\$ 47,181	\$ 40,577	\$ 46,930	\$ 46,930	\$ 6,770	\$ 53,700	\$ (3,385)	\$ 50,315	\$ 3,385	7.2%
	Sub-Total Fire Department		\$ 555,477	\$ 556,145	\$ 586,050	\$ 586,050	\$ 166,616	\$ 752,666	\$ (3,385)	\$ 749,281	\$ 163,231	27.9%
45	Inspectional Services Salaries	241	\$ 65,136	\$ 76,627	\$ 72,592	\$ 72,592	\$ (862)	\$ 71,729		\$ 71,729	\$ (862)	-1.2%
46	Inspectional Services Expense	241	\$ 5,491	\$ 7,104	\$ 9,470	\$ 9,470	\$ -	\$ 9,470		\$ 9,470	\$ -	0.0%
47	Sealer of Weights Salary	244	\$ 1,740	\$ 1,788	\$ 1,824	\$ 1,824	\$ 36	\$ 1,860		\$ 1,860	\$ 36	2.0%
48	Sealer of Weights Expense	244	\$ 119	\$ -	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ 250		\$ 250	\$ -	0.0%
49	Emergency Management Salary	291	\$ 15,677	\$ 15,904	\$ 16,441	\$ 16,441	\$ 181	\$ 16,622		\$ 16,622	\$ 181	1.1%
50	Emergency Management Expense	291	\$ 8,713	\$ 7,698	\$ 12,141	\$ 12,141	\$ 500	\$ 12,641		\$ 12,641	\$ 500	4.1%
51	Animal Control Salary	292	\$ 17,368	\$ 16,806	\$ 18,656	\$ 18,656	\$ 466	\$ 19,122		\$ 19,122	\$ 466	2.5%
52	Animal Control Expense	292	\$ 2,437	\$ 1,886	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ -	\$ 2,500		\$ 2,500	\$ -	0.0%
53	Parking Clerk Salary	293	\$ 1,260	\$ 1,296	\$ 1,320	\$ 1,320	\$ 26	\$ 1,346		\$ 1,346	\$ 26	2.0%
54	Parking Clerk Expense	293	\$ 85	\$ 88	\$ 460	\$ 460	\$ -	\$ 460		\$ 460	\$ -	0.0%
	Subtotal Other Public Safety		\$ 118,026	\$ 129,197	\$ 135,654	\$ 135,654	\$ 348	\$ 136,002	\$ -	\$ 136,002	\$ 348	0.3%
	Total Public Safety		\$ 1,715,603	\$ 1,828,807	\$ 1,918,600	\$ 1,918,600	\$ 267,718	\$ 2,186,316	\$ (31,760)	\$ 2,154,556	\$ 235,957	12.3%

Article 1 FY2020 Omnibus Budget

Line #	Description	Dept #	FY2017 Actuals	FY2018 Actuals	FY2019 Approved Budget	FY2020 Main. Budget	FY2020 Changes	FY2020 Dept. Request	FY2020 Finance Com Changes	FY2020 Finance Com Budget	Change FY2019 to FY2020	% Change
Public Education												
55	Whittier Minimum Assessment	301	\$ 900,127	\$ 885,563	\$ 966,730	\$ 966,730		\$ 972,617		\$ 972,617	\$ 5,887	0.6%
56	Whittier Capital	301	\$ 16,478	\$ 19,262	\$ 25,311	\$ 25,311	\$ 1,023	\$ 26,334		\$ 26,334	\$ 1,023	4.0%
	Subtotal Whittier Assessment		\$ 916,605	\$ 904,825	\$ 992,041	\$ 992,041	\$ 1,023	\$ 998,951	\$ -	\$ 998,951	\$ 6,910	0.7%
57	Pentucket Base Assessment	302	\$ 7,390,538	\$ 7,637,936	\$ 7,841,302	\$ 7,841,302	\$ 293,683	\$ 8,134,985	\$ -	\$ 8,134,985	\$ 293,683	3.7%
58	Pentucket Net Capital	302	\$ 211,339	\$ 213,824	\$ 220,239	\$ 220,239	\$ (13,811)	\$ 206,428	\$ -	\$ 206,428	\$ (13,811)	-6.3%
	Subtotal Pentucket Regional		\$ 7,601,877	\$ 7,851,760	\$ 8,061,541	\$ 8,061,541	\$ 279,872	\$ 8,341,413	\$ -	\$ 8,341,413	\$ 279,872	3.5%
59	Essex-North Shore Tuition	303	\$ 96,442	\$ 120,435	\$ 136,272	\$ 136,272	\$ 4,088	\$ 140,360		\$ 140,360	\$ 4,088	3.0%
	Total Public Education		\$ 8,614,924	\$ 8,877,020	\$ 9,189,854	\$ 9,189,854	\$ 284,983	\$ 9,480,724	\$ -	\$ 9,480,724	\$ 290,870	3.2%
Highway Department												
60	Highway Wages	420	\$ 320,065	\$ 326,452	\$ 374,511	\$ 374,511	\$ 16,750	\$ 391,261		\$ 391,261	\$ 16,750	4.5%
61	Highway Expense	420	\$ 44,319	\$ 58,112	\$ 70,790	\$ 70,790	\$ 7,960	\$ 78,750		\$ 78,750	\$ 7,960	11.2%
62	Snow & Ice	420	\$ 151,000	\$ 171,562	\$ 120,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 130,000		\$ 130,000	\$ 10,000	8.3%
	Total Highway		\$ 515,384	\$ 556,126	\$ 565,301	\$ 565,301	\$ 34,710	\$ 600,011	\$ -	\$ 600,011	\$ 34,710	6.1%
63	Landfill	430	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ -	\$ 30,000		\$ 30,000	\$ -	0.0%

Article 1 FY2020 Omnibus Budget

Line #	Description	Dept #	FY2017 Actuals	FY2018 Actuals	FY2019 Approved Budget	FY2020 Main. Budget	FY2020 Changes	FY2020 Dept. Request	FY2020 Finance Com Changes	FY2020 Finance Com Budget	Change FY2019 to FY2020	% Change
Cemetery												
64	Cemetery Salaries	491	\$ 42,782	\$ 46,904	\$ 50,490	\$ 50,490	\$ 1,209	\$ 51,700		\$ 51,700	\$ 1,210	2.4%
65	Cemetery Expense	491	\$ 3,996	\$ 4,634	\$ 5,600	\$ 5,600	\$ 6,550	\$ 12,150	\$ (3,150)	\$ 9,000	\$ 3,400	60.7%
	Total Cemetery		\$ 46,778	\$ 51,538	\$ 56,090	\$ 56,090	\$ 7,759	\$ 63,850	\$ (3,150)	\$ 60,700	\$ 4,610	8.2%

Health & Sanitation												
66	Board of Health Salaries	512	\$ 43,442	\$ 38,447	\$ 50,913	\$ 50,913	\$ 22,903	\$ 73,816	\$ (17,258)	\$ 56,558	\$ 5,645	11.1%
67	Board of Health Expense	512	\$ 1,965	\$ 1,430	\$ 2,475	\$ 2,475	\$ -	\$ 2,475		\$ 2,475	\$ -	0.0%
68	Town Nurse Salary	522	\$ 28,745	\$ 29,365	\$ 29,954	\$ 29,954	\$ 834	\$ 30,788		\$ 30,788	\$ 834	2.8%
69	Town Nurse Expense	522	\$ 1,444	\$ 1,392	\$ 1,975	\$ 1,975	\$ (46)	\$ 1,929		\$ 1,929	\$ (46)	-2.4%
	Total Health & Sanitation		\$ 75,596	\$ 70,634	\$ 85,317	\$ 85,317	\$ 23,690	\$ 109,007	\$ (17,258)	\$ 91,749	\$ 6,432	7.5%

Public Assistance												
70	COA Salaries	541	\$ 217,761	\$ 203,615	\$ 224,143	\$ 224,143	\$ 48,515	\$ 272,658	\$ (40,654)	\$ 232,004	\$ 7,861	3.5%
71	COA Expense	541	\$ 24,839	\$ 28,972	\$ 28,439	\$ 28,439	\$ 6,770	\$ 35,209	\$ (3,385)	\$ 31,824	\$ 3,385	11.9%
	Subtotal Council on Aging		\$ 242,600	\$ 232,587	\$ 252,582	\$ 252,582	\$ 55,285	\$ 307,867	\$ (44,039)	\$ 263,828	\$ 11,246	4.5%
72	Veterans' Expense	543	\$ 98,698	\$ 112,058	\$ 128,592	\$ 128,592	\$ 1,276	\$ 129,868		\$ 129,868	\$ 1,276	1.0%
	Subtotal Veterans' Services		\$ 98,698	\$ 112,058	\$ 128,592	\$ 128,592	\$ 1,276	\$ 129,868		\$ 129,868	\$ 1,276	1.0%
	Total Public Assistance		\$ 341,298	\$ 344,645	\$ 381,174	\$ 381,174	\$ 56,561	\$ 437,735	\$ (44,039)	\$ 393,696	\$ 12,522	3.3%

Article 1 FY2020 Omnibus Budget

Line #	Description	Dept #	FY2017 Actuals	FY2018 Actuals	FY2019 Approved Budget	FY2020 Main. Budget	FY2020 Changes	FY2020 Dept. Request	FY2020 Finance Com Changes	FY2020 Finance Com Budget	Change FY2019 to FY2020	% Change
Library												
73	Library Salaries	610	\$ 186,833	\$ 186,833	\$ 196,451	\$ 196,451	\$ 4,750	\$ 201,201		\$ 201,201	\$ 4,750	2.4%
74	Library Expense	610	\$ 92,585	\$ 93,768	\$ 96,606	\$ 96,606	\$ 1,879	\$ 98,485		\$ 98,485	\$ 1,879	1.9%
	Total Library		\$ 279,418	\$ 280,601	\$ 293,057	\$ 293,057	\$ 6,629	\$ 299,686	\$ -	\$ 299,686	\$ 6,629	2.3%
75	Parks & Recreation Expense	650	\$ 9,497	\$ 5,255	\$ 12,300	\$ 12,300	\$ -	\$ 12,300		\$ 12,300	\$ -	0.0%
76	Town Gardens	690	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ -	\$ 600		\$ 600	\$ -	0.0%
Debt Service Principal												
77	\$2.380M (FY28)	992920	\$ 63,751	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000		\$ 55,000		\$ 55,000	\$ -	0.0%
78	\$3.971M (FY24)	992923	\$ 280,000	\$ 270,000	\$ 270,000	\$ 270,000	\$ (5,000)	\$ 265,000		\$ 265,000	\$ (5,000)	-1.9%
	\$378K (FY17)		\$ 10,000		\$ -	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	0.0%
	Title V Septic Loan (FY17)		\$ 11,100		\$ -	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	0.0%
79	MWPAT 860K - 5%	992924	\$ 1,740	\$ 1,777	\$ 1,816	\$ 1,816	\$ 39	\$ 1,855		\$ 1,855	\$ 39	2.1%
	Total Debt Service Principal		\$ 366,591	\$ 326,777	\$ 326,816	\$ 326,816	\$ (4,961)	\$ 321,855	\$ -	\$ 321,855	\$ (4,961)	-1.5%

Article 1 FY2020 Omnibus Budget

Line #	Description	Dept #	FY2017 Actuals	FY2018 Actuals	FY2019 Approved Budget	FY2020 Main. Budget	FY2020 Changes	FY2020 Dept. Request	FY2020 Finance Com Changes	FY2020 Finance Com Budget	Change FY2019 to FY2020	% Change
Debt Service Interest												
80	\$2.380M (FY28)	992920	\$ 10,932	\$ 8,502	\$ 3,287	\$ 3,287	\$ (2,297)	\$ 990		\$ 990	\$ (2,297)	-69.9%
81	\$3.971M (FY24)	992923	\$ 52,300	\$ 46,650	\$ 35,750	\$ 35,750	\$ (6,675)	\$ 29,075		\$ 29,075	\$ (6,675)	-18.7%
	\$378K (FY17)		\$ 990	\$ 495	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	0.0%
82	MWPAT 860K - 5%	992924	\$ -	\$ 798	\$ 790	\$ 790	\$ (37)	\$ 753		\$ 753	\$ (37)	-4.7%
83	Short term Debt/Lease	752	\$ 21,923	\$ 22,000	\$ 102,000	\$ 102,000	\$ (45,000)	\$ 57,000		\$ 57,000	\$ (45,000)	-44.1%
	Total Debt Service Interest		\$ 86,145	\$ 78,445	\$ 141,827	\$ 141,827	\$ (54,009)	\$ 87,818	\$ -	\$ 87,818	\$ (54,009)	-38.1%

Lease Expense												
84	Lease Principal - Energy	992925	\$ 55,648		\$ 61,357	\$ 61,357	\$ 8,966	\$ 70,323		\$ 70,323	\$ 8,966	14.6%
85	Lease Interest - Energy	992925	\$ 18,294		\$ 13,832	\$ 13,832	\$ (1,685)	\$ 12,147		\$ 12,147	\$ (1,685)	-12.2%
86	Lease Principal - Air Packs	992927	\$ -	\$ -			\$ 27,428	\$ 27,428		\$ 27,428	\$ 27,428	100.0%
87	Lease Interest - Air Packs	992927	\$ -	\$ -			\$ 3,430	\$ 3,430		\$ 3,430	\$ 3,430	100.0%
88	Lease Principal - DPW Dump Truck	992928	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 32,109	\$ 32,109		\$ 32,109	\$ 32,109	100.0%
89	Lease Interest - DPW Dump Truck	992928	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,470	\$ 7,470		\$ 7,470	\$ 7,470	100.0%
	Total Lease Expense		\$ 73,942	\$ -	\$ 75,189	\$ 75,189	\$ 77,719	\$ 152,907	\$ -	\$ 152,907	\$ 77,719	103.4%

Article 1 FY2020 Omnibus Budget

Line #	Description	Dept #	FY2017 Actuals	FY2018 Actuals	FY2019 Approved Budget	FY2020 Main. Budget	FY2020 Changes	FY2020 Dept. Request	FY2020 Finance Com Changes	FY2020 Finance Com Budget	Change FY2019 to FY2020	% Change
Unclassified												
90	Department Offset	5192	\$ (50,148)	\$ (45,252)	\$ (48,000)	\$ (48,000)	\$ (5,800)	\$ (53,800)		\$ (53,800)	\$ (5,800)	12.1%
91	Essex Regional Retirement	5170	\$ 423,206	\$ 474,044	\$ 536,032	\$ 536,032	\$ 34,936	\$ 570,968		\$ 570,968	\$ 34,936	6.5%
92	Unemployment Expense	5171	\$ 4,064	\$ 4,385	\$ 6,400	\$ 6,400	\$ 5,000	\$ 11,400		\$ 11,400	\$ 5,000	78.1%
93	Group Health & Life Insurance	5172	\$ 232,477	\$ 248,963	\$ 342,000	\$ 342,000	\$ 18,000	\$ 360,000		\$ 360,000	\$ 18,000	5.3%
94	Medicare Expense	5174	\$ 37,692	\$ 37,754	\$ 43,500	\$ 43,500	\$ 3,000	\$ 46,500		\$ 46,500	\$ 3,000	6.9%
95	Prop/Liab. & Workers Comp.	5740	\$ 74,303	\$ 85,999	\$ 110,000	\$ 110,000	\$ 14,000	\$ 124,000		\$ 124,000	\$ 14,000	12.7%
96	OPEB Liability Funding	5966	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 100,000	\$ (10,000)	\$ 90,000	\$ 10,000	12.5%
97	Salary Adjustments				\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 15,000		\$ 15,000	\$ 5,000	100.0%
	Total Unclassified		\$ 761,594	\$ 845,893	\$ 1,079,932	\$ 1,079,932	\$ 94,136	\$ 1,174,068	\$ (10,000)	\$ 1,164,068	\$ 84,136	7.8%
	TOTAL OMNIBUS		\$ 13,655,674	\$ 14,071,112	\$ 15,025,323	\$ 15,025,323	\$ 830,944	\$ 15,862,155	\$ (108,207)	\$ 15,753,948	\$ 728,626	4.8%

Article 2: 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; or take any other action relative hereto.

Salaries:	\$ 515,842
Expenses:	\$ 434,510
<u>Debt Service:</u>	<u>\$ 195,053</u>
Total	\$1,145,405

And that **\$ 1,145,405** be raised as follows:

Departmental Receipts:	\$ 1,105,405
Wastewater Betterment Fund:	\$ 40,000

Rationale: To set FY2020 Budget for Wastewater Department as an Enterprise Fund (M.G.L. c.44 §53F1/2).

Selectmen Recommendation: Yes 3 - 0
FinCom Recommendation: Yes 7 - 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; or take any other action relative hereto.

Salaries:	\$ 404,272
Expenses:	\$ 374,292
<u>Debt Service:</u>	<u>\$ 264,001</u>
Total	\$1,042,565

And that **\$1,042,565** be raised as follows:

Departmental Receipts: **\$ 1,042,565**

Rationale: To set FY2020 Budget for Water Department as an Enterprise Fund (M.G.L. c.44 § 53F1/2).

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

Article 4: 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; or take any other action relative hereto.

Salaries:	\$ 56,216
<u>Expenses:</u>	<u>\$ 85,500</u>
Total	\$ 141,716

And that **\$ 141,716** be transferred from the Cable Television Receipts Reserved Account.

Rationale: To set FY2020 Budget for Cable Television Department as a Receipts Reserved Account (M.G.L. c.44 § 53F 3/4).

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

Article 5: 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 2020; 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 3 - 0

FinCom Recommendation: Yes 7 - 0

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money in the amount of **\$10,740** to be expended by the Board of Assessors to hire a consultant to perform an independent revaluation; or take any other action relative hereto.

Rationale: This article allows the Board of Assessors to hire an outside consultant to perform an independent revaluation of the entire town every five years, as required by the State. This is a special article to raise 1/5 of the amount needed each year, instead of raising the entire amount in the year of the revaluation. Requested by the Board of Assessors.

Selectmen Recommendation: Yes 3 - 0

FinCom Recommendation: Yes 7 - 0

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money in the amount of **\$ 4,800** 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 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money in the amount of **\$160,500**, 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 3 - 0

FinCom Recommendation: Yes 7 - 0

Article 9: 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 3 - 0

FinCom Recommendation: Yes 7 - 0

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money in the amount of **\$275,000** 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 3 - 0

FinCom Recommendation: Yes 7 - 0

Article 11: 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 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:

Revolving Fund	Fiscal Year Spending Limit
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 3 - 0

FinCom Recommendation: Yes 6 - 0 - 1

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds, a sum of money in the amount of **\$60,000**, for additional closure activities at the Battis Rd. Landfill; or take any other action relative hereto.

Rationale: This article will appropriate funds for additional work at the Battis Road Landfill as mandated by the MassDEP as a result of deficiencies with data collection activities that are typically performed to properly care for the former landfill. A handout is available describing the past efforts with funds appropriated at the landfill and the upcoming activities to be funded with this appropriation. Requested by the Board of Selectmen.

Selectmen Recommendation: Yes 3 - 0

FinCom Recommendation: Yes 6 - 0 - 1

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to accept the donation of a certain parcel of land located on Lakeview Avenue, described in a deed recorded with the Essex South Registry of Deeds in Book 2613, Page 301 (Parcel ID #94-1-223), to be held by the Board of Selectmen for general municipal purposes; or take any other action relative hereto.

Rationale: The Board of Selectmen recommends that the Town agree to accept the donation of a parcel of vacant land on Lakeview Avenue. Requested by the Board of Selectmen.

Selectmen Recommendation: Yes 3 - 0

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Pentucket Regional School District Regional Agreement last amended July 1, 2014, per the attached document (Attachment A) with strike through and underlined changes; or take any other action relative hereto.

Selectmen Recommendation: Yes 3 - 0

Rationale: This article will amend the Pentucket Regional School District (PRSD) Regional Agreement in order to revise the designation, composition and activities of the Regional Finance Advisory Board, and to incorporate by cross-reference the Pentucket Regional School District Contingency Plan as approved and as may be amended from time to time by the Pentucket Regional School District.

PENTUCKET REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGIONAL AGREEMENT

PreK-12 REGIONAL AGREEMENT OF APRIL 30, 1993
AS AMENDED JULY 1, 1997, JULY 1, 1998, JULY 1, 1999, JULY 1, 2005,
JULY 1, 2006, JULY 1, 2012, ~~AND JULY 1, 2014,~~ AND JULY 1, 2019

For a Regional School District for the Towns of Groveland, Merrimac, and West Newbury, towns in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts hereinafter referred to as member towns.

Section I. MEMBERSHIP OF THE REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

- A. The Regional District School Committee shall consist of nine members, three from each member town, who shall be elected by the voters of that town. Each member so elected shall serve a three year term. In the event that a town or towns separate from the Regional School District at the elementary level as stated in Section X, the three (3) elected members from said town or towns shall constitute the elementary school committee as well as represent their town at the regional level.
- B. Any vacancy occurring on the Regional District School Committee for any cause shall be filled by the local Board of Selectmen and the remaining School Committee members from the town where the vacancy occurs. Such replacement shall serve until the next annual town election.
- C. At the first scheduled meeting of the Regional District School Committee after the annual election of all member towns, the Regional District School Committee shall organize in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 71, Section 16A, known as "Regional School Committee, Organization". In addition, the Regional District School Committee shall fix the time and place for its regular meetings for the new term, provide for the calling of special meetings upon notice to all its members, and appoint appropriate sub-committees and other officers.
- D. The Chairmanship, Vice Chairmanship and Secretary positions shall be revolving with one position being from each town. No Town shall hold more than one office.

Section II. QUORUMS, VOTES AND GOVERNANCE

- A. A quorum to conduct business at regular meetings shall consist of a simple majority of its members and special meetings shall require not less than two members from each of the towns.
- B. On all issues requiring a vote of the Regional District School Committee, each member's vote will be weighted according to the respective town's population based on the most recent decennial Federal census data, calculated out to two decimal places, and remain as such until the next official Federal census.

- C. Any action voted by the Regional District School Committee which directly and specifically affects the elementary school(s) in only one town shall require that two of the three members of the Regional District School Committee from the town in which the affected elementary school is located vote in support of that action. In order, however, for a school to be closed in any member town where there is more than one elementary school, all three committee members from the affected town are required to vote in favor of the proposed closure after a public hearing is held in the affected town.

Section III. TYPE OF SCHOOL

- A. The Regional School District shall include all grades from PK – 12.
- B. The secondary schools shall serve students in grades 6 or 7 – 12.
- C. The elementary schools shall serve students in grades PK – 5 or 6.
- D. In the agreement where “preschool” is mentioned it is done so for future purposes to permit the Regional District School Committee with the approval of all member towns at their respective Town Meetings, at some future date, to include preschool classes. Until such time all preschool expenses shall be on a self supporting basis, except those excluded by law.

Section IV. LOCATION OF SCHOOLS

- A. The Regional District secondary school buildings shall be located on sites owned by the District.
- B. There shall be not less than one elementary school in each member town. Students in grades PK – 5 or 6 shall attend schools in their towns of residence, except in cases of emergency as defined by the Regional District School Committee, children attending special education low incidence classes, regional “magnet” classes, or intradistrict school choice. In such instances of emergency, refer to the Pentucket Regional School District “Contingency Plan” as approved by the Pentucket Regional School Committee, and as may be amended from time to time.
- C. Each member town shall retain ownership of all elementary school buildings and related grounds, including any new elementary school buildings constructed in the future. Each member town shall lease each elementary school building and related grounds to the Pentucket Regional School District for the sum of one dollar. Each lease shall be for a term not greater than the term permitted by either general or special State law. The initial term of each lease shall commence on the date that the Regional District School Committee assumes jurisdiction over the pupils in grades PK-12 or as otherwise provided in such lease. Each lease may contain provisions for an extension of the lease term at the option of the Regional District School Committee. Responsibilities for maintenance of elementary school buildings shall be uniform across all District elementary school leases. A lease shall not prevent the use of the elementary school buildings or premises by the

respective owner towns with the approval of the School Committee, which shall not withhold such approval unless educationally necessary. If permitted by either general or special State law, a lease may provide that it shall terminate and the leased property shall revert to the member town if the town should no longer be a member of the Pentucket Regional School District or if the Regional District School Committee should determine that the land, with the building and other improvements thereon, is no longer needed for the educational program of the District. Each lease may include such other terms as may be agreed upon by the Board of Selectmen of a member town and the Regional District School Committee. A lease shall be executed by the Board of Selectmen on behalf of the member town and the Regional District School Committee on behalf of the District.

- D. Said requirements to lease land and buildings shall not include portions of land and buildings already under separate lease at the time of the effective date of this agreement until such time as the existing lease terms expire.
- E. Payments from present leases and future leases shall be paid to the Regional School District in accordance with the lease agreement by and between the District and the Town.
- F. When necessary to implement due to an emergency as described in Section IV (B), the Pentucket Regional School District "Contingency Plan" will be in place for not more than one year, or until all towns have convened a special town meeting for the purpose of reviewing any amendments as may be proposed to the Regional Agreement, whichever comes first.

Section V. TRANSPORTATION

Transportation shall be provided by the Regional School District. The Regional District School Committee shall set District transportation policy.

Section VI. DEFINITIONS

The budget for construction and operation of the District's Schools including payments of principal and interest on bonds and other evidence of indebtedness issued by the District shall be apportioned to the member towns subject to the following definitions:

A. Budget

As defined by this document, the budget is the amount of dollars voted by the Regional District School Committee to finance the District schools to be paid from the general revenues of the Regional School District.

The budget shall be comprised of two parts: operating costs and debt service, each as herein defined.

1. DEBT SERVICE and CAPITAL COSTS include all costs that are used for payment of principal and interest on bonds or other obligations issued by the District. Capital projects shall be defined as costing not less than \$10,000 and having a depreciable life of not less than 5 years.
2. OPERATING COSTS include all costs not included in Debt Service and Capital Costs as defined in 1, but includes interest and principal on revenue anticipation notes.

Section VII. METHOD OF ASSESSING COSTS OF THE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

- A. All operating costs shall be assessed to the three towns on the basis of M.G.L. Chapter 71, Section 16B.
 1. The district assessment will be calculated and reported to the member towns by using the two – step method. The District shall list all general fund revenues, including but not limited to Chapter 70 and Transportation Aid, and reduce the member assessment as it relates to the approved operating budget by said amount. The remaining member assessments shall be calculated by charging each member Town its net minimum spending amount as approved by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for the Fiscal Year being assessed. Should the requested member assessments exceed the net minimum spending required then the remaining amount shall be charged to each member Town based upon its percentage of the entire District enrollment calculated to 4 decimal places as of October 1 of the prior Fiscal Year for grades K to 12, including out of District placements, as reported to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education on the statewide pupil census. All Debt Service and Capital Costs not associated directly to one member community's Elementary School(s) shall be allocated and assessed annually using the calculation stated above for any amount over the net minimum spending requirement.
 2. Should all member Towns agree on an alternative method of assessment the District shall be notified in writing by each member community's Board of Selectmen Chair on the agreed procedure on or before March 1 of the year prior to the Fiscal year budget start date. If the per pupil method of assessment is chosen then the calculation shall be the same as the amount over net minimum spending stated in Part 1 of this section.
- B. Debt Service, incurred by the District for an elementary school building of a member town, less applicable Chapter 70B MSBA aid, shall be assessed to the member town in which the elementary school is located.
- C. The payment of the assessed share of operating costs and debt service by each member town, as computed by the Regional District School Committee according

to the methods specified in Sections VI, and VII, shall be made by each member town's Treasurer by check payable to the Regional School District in twelve equal installments by the fifteenth of each month.

Section VIII. RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADDITIONS, MAJOR REPLACEMENTS AND MAINTENANCE OF SECONDARY AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

- A. The District shall develop a 5 year capital plan for each building that will be provided to each member town by January 15th. This plan shall include; item descriptions, estimated costs, and the projected depreciable life. Capital projects shall be defined as costing not less than \$10,000 and having a depreciable life of not less than 5 years. Capital projects shall be scheduled and approved by the member Town. Emergency repair procedures shall be defined by the member Town lease agreement.

In addition, the District shall provide the member towns with a maintenance plan for each of its buildings. The District shall include a line item in its budget to fully fund this plan. A year end maintenance report shall be provided to the member towns identifying the cost of all maintenance performed.

- B. Each member town shall be responsible for payment of costs associated with the construction of new buildings, renovations, or making extraordinary repairs to the elementary school building/s located in that member town so long as they meet the requirements of a capital project as described in VIII A.
- C. The costs of on-going maintenance for those items not included in paragraph VIII B. for the elementary schools and all costs for the secondary schools shall be borne by the Regional School District.

Section IX. ADMISSION OF ADDITIONAL TOWNS

By an amendment of this agreement adopted by each member town in accordance with Section XIV and complying with the provision therein contained, any other town or towns may be admitted to the Regional School District upon adoption as herein provided of such amendment and upon acceptance of the agreement as so amended, and also upon compliance with the provision of law as may be applicable and such terms as may be set forth in such amendment.

A new member may be admitted to the Regional School District as of July 1 of any fiscal year, provided that all requisite approvals for such admission, including the Commissioner's approval, shall be obtained no later than the preceding December 31. The authorizing votes may provide for the deferral of said admission until July 1 of a subsequent fiscal year.

Section X. WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBER TOWNS FROM THE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

- A. Any town withdrawing from the District must first pay all its share of total debt and current operating expenses. All withdrawals are subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education and must be approved by two thirds of the member Towns.

Any member town may withdraw from the regional school district in total or at the elementary level if accepted by a majority vote of the voters present and voting on the question at its Annual Town meeting called for the purpose, such withdrawal to become effective on June 30th of the year named in the question, provided: (1) that in pursuance of such vote, the withdrawing town gives the regional school district at least one years written notice of its intention to withdraw, (2) that the said town has paid over to the District any costs which have been certified by the District Treasurer to the Treasurer of the withdrawing town.

Section XI. ANNUAL REPORT

- A. The Regional District School Committee shall submit to each member town an annual report containing a detailed financial statement and a statement showing methods by which the annual charges assessed against each town were computed, together with such additional information relating to the operation and maintenance of the secondary schools and each elementary school as may be deemed necessary by the Regional District Committee or by the Selectmen and/or the Finance Committee of any member town. This report shall contain a detailed listing of salaries by individual employee.

Section XII. BUDGET

- A. ~~There shall be a Regional Finance Advisory Committee, comprised of the following: one Selectmen from each member town annually appointed by each member town Board of Selectmen; the Finance Director, or person holding such position by whichever title it may be known, from each member town; the Regional District School Committee Chair, or his/her designee; and the District Superintendent and/or Business Manager.~~ The Regional Advisory Committee will meet, from time to time, with the Regional District School Committee Chair, the Superintendent and/or Business Manager to discuss matters that may impact the District and/or the towns, including budget calendars and timelines, content and detail of budgets, revenue estimates and other revenue matters, capital budget items and use of Excess and Deficiency funds. ~~The chairmanship of the Advisory Committee shall rotate annually among the members from each of the towns.~~ The Committee shall prepare reports to be read into the School Committee minutes.
- B. The Regional District School Committee shall prepare a budget on a fiscal year basis for the District in the following manner:

1. The budget process shall be initiated annually in December and shall provide an opportunity for the Selectmen and Finance Committee of each member town to have input into its preparation. The Regional District School Committee shall complete its proposed budget for the ensuing year, and said proposed budget shall be posted in the Town Hall of each member town, shall be provided to each member town's public library, and shall be submitted to the Selectmen, Finance Directors and Finance Committee members of each member town.
2. The proposed budget shall contain a notice stating when and where a public hearing will be held. The public hearing shall be held in any District school building. The notice of the public hearing shall be posted in all three towns. Said hearing shall be held at least ten (10) days prior to final adoption of the proposed budget. Upon request of the Finance Committee and/or the Board of Selectmen of any member town, the Regional District School Committee shall arrange to meet with such Finance Committee and/or Board of Selectmen for the purpose of discussing the proposed budget. Said proposed budget shall be submitted in the template approved by the School Committee, itemized at least as follows: central administration; expenses of instruction; transportation; operation of school plant; maintenance of school plant; outlay, debt and interest charges; the last named to specify all items costing \$1,000.00 or more. All non-recurring expenditures shall be itemized. Enrollment, staffing, total expenditures and assessments for the past five years shall be included. The Chair of any member Board of Selectmen or Finance Committee may request further information.
3. 45 days prior to the date of the earliest member Annual Town Meeting the Regional District School Committee shall adopt by a two-thirds vote of all its members a budget with such changes as may have resulted from conferences and an open hearing. This budget shall be presented in two parts as outlined in the attached template (Exhibit A). No later than 30 days from the date of the approval vote, but within 10 days if possible, the Treasurer of the District shall certify to the Treasurer of each member town its assessed share of such budget.
4. The budget and assessment shall be so constructed as to show debt service, capital and operating costs. It shall also list all general fund revenue used to reduce member assessments as described in VII. A. This budget should also identify the costs of any programs not uniformly offered at all District elementary schools.
5. Budget approval will be in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 71, Section 16B.

6. If, in the opinion of the Board of Selectmen and/or Finance Committee of any of the towns, the Regional School District budget will not fit the budgetary capabilities of their town, they can request of the Regional District School Committee a special meeting to discuss the budget.

This meeting shall be called within seven (7) days of the presentation of the budget to the member towns.

The meeting shall be attended by six members of the Regional District School Committee (two members from each member town), as well as two representatives of the Board of Selectmen and two representatives of the Finance Committee from each member town.

The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss the ability of the town or towns to meet the financial obligation brought forth by their assessment of the submitted Regional School District budget.

The charge of this group will be to recommend to the Regional District School Committee a reduced budget that least affects the educational integrity of the District and meets the financial capabilities of the town(s).

7. If a member town fails to hold a meeting within forty-five (45) days from the date on which an amended assessment was adopted by the Regional District School Committee, the member town shall be deemed to have voted affirmatively regardless of whether the town had previously approved an amount equal to or greater than the revised assessment. No action by the town constitutes approval.

Section XIII. INCURRING OF DEBT

- A. The Regional District School Committee shall have authority to develop plans for District schools. According to Chapter 71, S.16d. the Regional District School Committee shall not incur any debt for the school until the expiration of sixty (60) days from the date said debt is authorized by the Regional District School Committee. Prior to the expiration of said period each member town will be notified of the intent to incur debt. Each member town which would bear a financial responsibility for the debt through the assessment of all or a portion of the principal and interest on such debt shall hold a Town Meeting for the purpose of expressing approval or disapproval of the amount of debt authorized by the Regional District School Committee by a majority of voters present and voting on the question. If the debt is disapproved by any member town, the debt shall not be incurred, and the Regional District School Committee shall then prepare an alternative proposal and a new or revised authorization to incur debt. The only exception to the restrictions in this paragraph shall be the incurring of debt in anticipation of revenues.

- B. In the event that a member town should determine, prior to the issuance by the District of long term indebtedness to finance a Capital Cost, to make an upfront cash contribution to pay all of its allocable share of such Capital Cost, then the total borrowing authorized to pay costs of such Capital Cost shall be reduced by the amount of such upfront cash contribution. A member town's share of Capital Costs for purposes of this section shall be determined in the same manner as used in determining the allocation of Capital Costs for the fiscal year in which the District's borrowing for a particular Capital Cost is authorized.

When a member town has paid its entire share of such Capital Cost, then such member town shall not be assessed for any portion of Debt Service incurred by the District to finance the balance of such Capital Cost. Then, notwithstanding the provisions of Section VII(A) to the contrary, Debt Service on the amount to be borrowed shall be assessed upon the member town or towns that did not determine to make an upfront cash contribution on account of such Capital Cost, as if the District's total enrollment consisted solely of the students from the noncontributing town or towns.

Any upfront cash contribution on account of a Capital Cost shall be paid to the District prior to the issuance of long term bonds by the District to finance such capital cost.

Section XIV. AMENDMENTS

- A. Amendments to the agreement must receive a majority vote of approval by each member town at a Town Meeting. Amendments may be initiated by the Regional District School Committee or by the Board of Selectmen of any one of the member towns.
- B. No such amendment shall be made which shall substantially impair the rights of the holders of any of the District's bonds or notes of the District then outstanding or the rights of the District to procure the means for payment thereof.
- C. This agreement ~~will~~shall be reviewed every three years by a group comprised of the Chief Financial Officer of each town (or person holding such position by whichever title it may be known), the PRSD Business Manager, and the PRSD Superintendent, the members of the Regional Finance Advisory Board, as described in Section XII. A who will jointly make recommendations for changes to the member Town's Boards of Selectmen. Each town's Chief Financial Officer shall participate on behalf of their respective Board of Selectmen, and shall be responsible to keep their Board apprised of communications and related meetings, and to provide their respective Board regular opportunities to initiate any potential amendments to this agreement or respond to any amendments as may be initiated by others. At any time the Towns may also appoint a task force to review the Regional Agreement. This task force will be made up of a member from each Town's Board of Selectmen, the member town's Finance Directors, the Chairman

of the School Committee, the Superintendent and a citizen from each member town.

- D. All amendments are subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Section XV. SEVERABILITY OF SECTIONS

According to Chapter 71.S.16L., in the event that any provision of this Regional School District Agreement shall be held invalid in any circumstance, such invalidity shall not affect any other provisions or circumstances.

Approval Signatures

Chair, Groveland Board of Selectmen	Date
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Duly authorized

Chair, Merrimac Board of Selectmen	Date
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Duly authorized

Chair, West Newbury Board of Selectmen	Date
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Duly authorized

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to accept MGL C41, §19K: Additional Compensation for Town Clerk; or take any other action relative hereto.

Rationale: In any Town that accepts this section, a town clerk who has completed the necessary courses of study and training, and has been awarded a certificate by the Massachusetts Town Clerks' Association as a certified Massachusetts municipal clerk, shall receive as compensation from such town, in addition to the regular annual compensation paid by such town for services in such office, an amount equal to 10 per cent of such regular annual compensation, but not more than \$1,000 per year. In order to qualify for such additional compensation, a town clerk shall submit to the Board of Selectmen of such town proof of the award of such certificate. The additional compensation provided in this section shall be prorated for any 12-month period in which an eligible person does not hold the office of town clerk for 12 consecutive months. Such additional compensation shall discontinue when certification is discontinued or withdrawn. Requested by the Town Clerk.

Selectmen Recommendation: Yes 3 - 0

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Merrimac Zoning Bylaw; Article 15: Open Space Residential Development, as follows, where new text is shown in bold and deleted text is stricken through:

15.11 Dimensional Standards

The Planning Board may waive the minimum requirements for ~~lot area~~ **LOT AREA**, FRONTAGE and/or yard requirements that would normally apply to land in the Agricultural Residential District in order to maximize the amount of open space, protect significant landscapes and reduce site disturbance. ~~The Planning Board may also permit more than one single or two-family dwelling to be located on a LOT in an OSRD, subject to the following requirements;~~

And to insert a new section 15.11.1 as follows:

15.11.1 If the minimum requirements in the AR District are waived for a SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLING located on a LOT in the OSRD, it is subject to the following requirements:

- 15.11.1.1 Minimum LOT AREA: 21,780 square feet
- 15.11.1.2 Minimum FRONTAGE: 100 feet
- 15.11.1.3 Maximum LOT COVERAGE: 40%
- 15.11.1.4 Minimum Front Yard SETBACK: 20 feet
- 15.11.1.5 Minimum Side Yard SETBACK: 10 feet
- 15.11.1.6 Minimum Rear Yard SETBACK: 10 feet
- 15.11.1.7 Minimum Rear and Side Yard SETBACKS for ASSESSORY STRUCTURES: One (1) foot greater than that of the PRIMARY STRUCTURE on the LOT.

And to insert a new section 15.11.2 as follows:

15.11.2 The Planning Board also may permit more than one SINGLE or TWO-FAMILY DWELLING to be located on a LOT in an OSRD, subject to the following requirements:

And to renumber existing sections 15.11.1 thru 15.11.8 as 15.11.2.1 thru 15.11.2.8

; or take any other action relative hereto.

Rationale: After experience with several Open Space Residential Developments in town, the Planning Board decided it is necessary to add the minimum dimensional standards for Single-Family Dwelling as stated in new sections 15.11.1.1 through 15.11.1.7 above. This addition necessitated the renumbering of other existing sections of Article 15 of the zoning bylaw. Requested by the Planning Board and Building Commissioner.

2/3 vote required

Selectmen Recommendation: Yes 3 - 0

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Merrimac Zoning Bylaw; Article 17 ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS & CONVERSION OF EXISTING SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLINGS, Subsection 17.3 Accessory Dwelling Unit as follows: By deleting the current sub-section 17.3.5 in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

Subsection 17.3.5 DESIGN. An ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT shall be a structurally integral part of the SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLING in which it is contained. Viewed from the exterior it shall preserve the appearance of and be indistinguishable from such a SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLING. It may be created by the installation of a common wall or the partitioning of or extension of existing habitable area. It shall not be separated from such existing habitable area by unheated or uninhabitable space, such as a garage, but may be separated from such area by common residential space not exceeding 35 square feet in floor area. All stairways to additional stories shall be enclosed within the exterior walls of the STRUCTURE.

And to insert a new section 17.3.5.1 as follows:

17.3.5.1 Ingress, egress. access. Adequate provision, as determined by the BUILDING COMMISSIONER, shall be provided for separate ingress and egress to the outside of each unit. An interior doorway shall be provided between DWELLING UNITS as a means of access for purposes of supervision and emergency response.

; or take any other action relative hereto.

Rationale: This would increase the consistency and ease in which applicants can obtain a special permit with clear design criteria. Requested by the Planning Board and Building Commissioner.

2/3 vote required

Selectmen Recommendation: Yes 3 - 0

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to approve an amendment to the Official Zoning Map, by re-zoning the parcels of land located at 6 High Street and Broad Street and an abutting unnumbered parcel of land at High Street shown on Assessor's Map 36 as Lots 2-4 and 2-3.A, respectively, from the Agricultural Residential District to the Highway Services District, as follows, or take any other action in relation hereto:

1. Change the designation of parcels of land known as Assessor's Map 36 Lots 2-4 and 2-3.A, from the Agricultural Residential District to Highway Services District; and
2. Revise the Official Zoning Map to locate Assessor's Map 36 Lots 2-4 and 2-3.A in the Highway Services District.

Rationale: This is a Citizens Petition. The Planning Board does not support/recommend passage of this citizen's petition.

2/3 vote required

Selectmen Recommendation: Yes 2 - 0 – 1

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw as follows:

Remove Article 3.1.1: The operation of all types of non-medical marijuana establishments as defined in GL c 94G sec.1, including marijuana cultivators, independent testing laboratory, marijuana product manufacturers, marijuana retailers or any other type of licensed marijuana related businesses within the Town of Merrimac.

Add Article 11.4.5 **Adult Use Retail Marijuana Establishments**

Add New Article **Adult Use Retail Marijuana Establishments**

Purpose

- A. To provide for Marijuana Establishments in suitable locations and under strict conditions.
- B. To regulate the siting, design, placement, operation, safety, monitoring, modification and removal of any Marijuana Establishment that may be located within the Town.
- C. To minimize the adverse impacts of any Marijuana Establishment on the Town, nearby properties, residential neighborhoods, schools and other places where minors congregate, local historic districts, and other land uses incompatible with said establishments.
- D. To limit the overall number of Marijuana Retailers that may be located within the Town to an appropriate amount, which shall not exceed twenty per cent (20%) of the number of licenses issued within the Town for the retail sale of alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises where sold under Chapter 138 of the General Laws.
- E. To establish that on-premises consumption shall not be permitted unless the Town votes to authorize on-premises consumption pursuant to M.G.L. c.94G, §3.

Applicability.

- A. The commercial cultivation, production, processing, manufacturing, packaging, testing, retail or wholesale trade, distribution, transporting, dispensing, researching and studying of Marijuana for Adult Use is prohibited unless permitted as a Marijuana Establishment under this Article.
- B. No Marijuana Establishment shall be established except in compliance with the provisions of this Article.

- C. Nothing in this Article shall be construed to supersede federal and state laws governing the sale and distribution of narcotic drugs; nor shall any special permit issued pursuant to this Article supersede federal, state or local laws.
- D. Where not expressly defined, all terms used herein shall be as defined in MGL C. 94G and 935 CMR 500 et seq.

Siting.

- A. The following classes of Marijuana Establishments may be sited within the Office-Light Industrial District (01) only, subject to all of the provisions of this Article:
 - 1. Marijuana Retailer;

Limitations on Marijuana Retailers.

- A. The number of Marijuana Retailers within the Town shall not exceed twenty per cent (20%) of the number of licenses issued within the Town for the retail sale of alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises where sold under Chapter 138 of the General Laws.
- B. All Marijuana Establishments are prohibited from delivering cannabis or marijuana products to consumers, and from offering cannabis or marijuana products for consumption on the premises of a Marijuana Establishment.

Administration and Procedure.

- A. A Retail Marijuana Establishment may be allowed in locations set forth above by special permit from the Planning Board (the "SPGA") in accordance with M.G.L. c.40A, §9, only subject to the procedures, regulations, requirements, conditions and limitations set forth herein. Only an applicant holding a valid license from the Cannabis Control Commission issued pursuant to M.G.L. c.94G and 935 CMR 500 et. seq., is eligible to receive a special permit pursuant to this Article.
- B. Applicants for a special permit pursuant to this Article are strongly encouraged to meet with the SPGA at a public meeting to discuss the proposed application for a new Marijuana Establishment and to discuss in general terms of the proposed Marijuana Establishment prior to the formal submission of an application.
- C. In addition to the standard Special Permit Application form, an applicant for a special permit under this Article shall also submit the following:
 - 1. A copy of the final, executed Host Community Agreement ("HCA") between the applicant and the Town of Merrimac.
 - 2. A written description of the status of its application to the Cannabis Control Commission relative to the establishment at issue, or a copy of such license, as applicable.
 - 3. A list of any waivers of regulations that the applicant seeks to obtain from the Cannabis Control Commission, or a copy of any such waivers that the Commission has issued to the applicant, as applicable.
 - 4. Copies of all policies and procedures that have been submitted to the Cannabis Control Commission including without limitation the Marijuana Establishment's operating and safety procedures, or copies of such policies and procedures that the applicant intends to submit to the Commission, as applicable.
 - 5. The quantity and source or sources of all marijuana and marijuana products that will be sold at the proposed Marijuana Establishment, as applicable.
 - 6. Written statement confirming that no marijuana or marijuana products will be smoked, burned, or consumed on the premises as part of the cultivation, manufacturing, testing or researching operations, as applicable, or a statement explaining how any such uses have been authorized by the Commission.

7. Names and addresses of each owner of the Marijuana Establishment, and where the owner is a business entity, the names and address of each owner of that establishment.
8. If applicable, a copy of the Applicant's Articles of Organization, a current Certificate of Legal Existence from the Commonwealth, and the most recent annual report.
9. Copies of all licenses and permits issued to the Applicant by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and any of its agencies.
10. Evidence that the applicant has site control and the right to use the proposed site as a Marijuana Establishment. Such evidence shall be in the form of a deed, purchase and sale agreement, lease, or other legally binding document.
11. In addition to what is otherwise required to be shown on a site plan, the applicant shall provide details showing all exterior proposed security measures for the premises, including but not limited to lighting, fencing, gates and alarms to ensure the safety of employees and patrons and to protect the premises from theft or other criminal activity. The site plan shall further delineate various areas of the Marijuana Establishment (indoors and outdoors) such as public access areas, employee only access areas, storage, cultivation, preparation, waste disposal, administrative, transportation, loading and parking areas. Site plans and/or application narrative shall contain sufficient information so that the SPGA can evaluate the design and operational standards contained in this Article.
12. Certification to the SPGA that the applicant has filed copies of the special permit application as required.

Special Permit Requirements.

- A. No Marijuana Establishment shall be located within 500 feet of any lot containing a school. For purposes of this section, distances shall be measured in a straight line from the nearest point of the property line in question to the nearest point of the property line where the Marijuana Establishment is or will be located.
- B. No smoking, burning, or consumption of any marijuana product shall be permitted at any Marijuana Establishment, except as may be authorized by 935 CMR 500 et seq for purposes of cultivation, testing, research, or manufacturing.
- C. All shipping and receiving areas shall serve the Marijuana Establishment exclusively. In the case of a multi-use or multi-tenant site, the Marijuana Establishment shall be laid out and designed to ensure separation from other uses or tenants at the site.
- D. The Marijuana Establishment shall have adequate water supply, storm water systems, sewage disposal, and surface and subsurface drainage.
- E. A Marijuana Retailer shall post at a conspicuous location at the public entrance a sign that states "Only individuals 21 years of age or older, unless in possession of a registration card issued by the MA Department of Public Health." The required text shall be a minimum of two inches in height. Signage shall otherwise be limited to that which is permitted under 935 CMR 500 et. seq. and the Town's sign bylaw.
- F. The Marijuana Establishment shall provide and keep up to date contact information as required by the Chief of Police such as name, telephone number and electronic mail address of a contact person who must be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- G. No special permit shall be issued unless the applicant has executed a Host Community Agreement with the Town in accordance with M.G.L. c.94G, §3.
- H. No special permit shall be issued until the Applicant has held a community outreach hearing consistent with the Commission's Guidance for License Applicants on Community Outreach and 935 CMR 500.101(1)(a)(9) or (2)(b)(7).

Special Permit Approval Criteria.

The SPGA may grant a SPECIAL PERMIT for an Adult Use Retail Marijuana Establishment with any conditions, safeguards, and limitations, upon determining that the applicant meets all SPECIAL PERMIT granting criteria for the zoning district in which the proposed facility will be located and the following additional criteria:

- A. The Marijuana Establishment is fully permitted by all applicable agencies within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and is in compliance with all State laws and regulations; provided, however, that issuance of a valid license pursuant to M.G.L. c.94G may be a condition of the special permit.
- B. The proposed use is designed to minimize any adverse impacts on the on the residents of the Town;

Special Permit Conditions.

- A. In addition to compliance with M.G.L. c.94G, and 935 CMR 500 et seq., the SPGA may impose reasonable conditions to Improve site design, traffic flow, public safety, water quality, air quality, protection of significant environmental resources and the preservation of community character of the surrounding area including, without limitation, the following:
 - 1. Minimization of the impacts of increased noise and traffic.
 - 2. Imposition of security precautions related to the high value of products and case transactions.
 - 3. Deterring the presence of unauthorized or ineligible persons at, or near, the Marijuana Establishment.
 - 4. Imposition of measures to prevent diversion of marijuana and marijuana products.
 - 5. Conditions related to the design and construction of the facility to improve safety, security and conformance with community character.
 - 6. Conditions, consistent with the State Building Code, relating to energy efficiency and conservation.
- B. The SPGA shall include conditions concerning the following in any special permit granted pursuant to this Article:
 - 1. Hours of operation
 - 2. Compliance with the Host Community Agreement.
 - 3. The submission of a copy of the license from the Cannabis Control Commission with the SPGA and the Building Commissioner prior to the issuance of a building permit, certificate of occupancy, or commencement of use, whichever occurs first.
 - 4. The reporting of any incidents to the Building Commissioner as required pursuant to 935 CMR 500.110(7) within 24 hours of their occurrence. Such reports may be redacted as necessary to comply with any applicable state or federal laws or regulations.
 - 5. The reporting of any cease and desist order, quarantine order, suspension order, limiting sales order, notice of hearing or final action by the Cannabis Control Commission or the Division of Administrative Law Appeals, as applicable, regarding the Marijuana Establishment to the Building Commissioner within 48 hours of the applicant's receipt.
 - 6. Copies of all reports submitted to any state agency, including, but not limited to, the reports required by 935 CMR 500.105(10) (d) describing the establishment's liability insurance coverage and the annual security system audits required by 935 CMR 500.110(8) shall be submitted to the SPGA within 5 business days of submission to the State. Such reports may be redacted as necessary to comply with any applicable state or federal laws or regulations.
 - 7. Documentation to the SPGA that each Marijuana Establishment Agent has completed training regarding the proper handling of marijuana prior to performing job functions. Such

documentation must be provided to the Board within 5 business days of the completion of such training. Annually, the establishment shall provide documentation to the SPGA and the Board of Selectmen that all Marijuana Establishment Agents have received at least eight hours of on-going training.

- C. The issuance of a special permit pursuant to this Article shall also be subject to the following:
1. The special permit shall expire within five (5) years of the date of issue. If the applicant wishes to renew the special permit, an application to renew must be submitted at least 120 days prior to the expiration of the special permit.
 2. Special permits shall be limited to the original applicant(s) and shall expire on the date the special permit holder ceases operation of the Marijuana Establishment.
 3. The holder of a special permit shall annually file an affidavit with the Building Commissioner demonstrating that it is in good standing with respect to its license from the Cannabis Control Commission and any other applicable State licenses.
 4. The holder of a special permit shall notify the Building Commissioner and the SPGA in writing within 48 hours of the cessation of operation of the Marijuana Establishment or the expiration or termination of the permit holder's license from the Cannabis Control Commission.
 5. Special permits shall lapse upon the expiration or termination of an applicant's license from the Cannabis Control Commission.

Rationale: This is a Citizens Petition. The Planning Board does not support/recommend passage of this citizen's petition.

2/3 vote required

Selectmen Recommendation: Yes 2 - 1

Article 20: 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: If the Citizen's Petition in Article 20 is successful, 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 - 1

Article 21: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. c.40, §8J authorizing the Town to create a Commission on Disabilities, and in accordance therewith, to establish a Commission of 5-13 Members to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen for alternating three year terms (other than initial appointments, which must be for one, two and three year terms); a majority of said Commission members shall consist of people with disabilities, one member shall be a member of the immediate family of a person with a disability and one member of said Commission shall be either an elected or appointed official of the Town; such Commission shall be charged to undertake all of the matters authorized by law, including but not limited to: researching local problems of people with disabilities, serving as a resource to the Town in ensuring compliance with applicable state and federal laws affecting people with disabilities; and reviewing and making recommendations about Town policies, procedures, services, activities and facilities of departments, boards and agencies as they affect people with disabilities; or take any other action relative hereto.

Rationale: This will establish a Commission on Disabilities in the Town. Merrimac will be applying for grants to make town owned buildings handicap accessible, having a Commission on Disabilities will help on the application. In the fall the Commission will propose a bylaw to define the roles and responsibilities of the Commission. Requested by the Board of Selectmen.

Selectmen Recommendation: Yes 3 - 0

FY2020 Debt Repayment Detail

Borrowing	Acct#	Inside/ Outside	Original Amount	Fiscal Year Paid	FY2020 Principal	Line #	FY2020 Interest	Line #
River Road (Sewer)	610903	Outside	\$200,000	2020	\$ 7,196	SA	\$ -	SA
Building Constuction (Library)		Inside	\$ 2,351,000	Refinanced				
Sub-Total (Ominibus)								
Church Fowler Betterment (Sewer)		Inside	\$ 50,000	2024	\$ 2,500	SA	\$ 491	SA
Red Oak Betterment (Sewer)		Inside	\$ 50,000	2024	\$ 2,500	SA	\$ 491	SA
Sewer Treatment Facility (Sewer)		Inside	\$ 1,690,000	2024	\$ 85,000	SA	\$ 16,234	SA
Engineering Services - Sewer Inflow			\$ 90,000	2009	\$ -		\$ -	
Total Municipal Purpose - \$4.231M	610904		\$ 4,231,000	2023	\$ 90,000		\$ 17,215	
Landfill Closure		Outside	\$ 214,801	2020	\$ 20,000		\$ 360	
Land Acq. - Open Space (Brush Hill)		Inside	\$ 107,016	2020	\$ 10,000		\$ 180	
Municipal Building Renovations		Inside	\$ 107,016	2020	\$ 10,000		\$ 180	
Land Acq. (Library)		Inside	\$ 54,406	2015	\$ -		\$ -	
Land/Building (Senior Center)		Inside	\$ 160,524	2020	\$ 15,000		\$ 270	
Sub-Total (Ominibus)					\$ 55,000	77	\$ 990	80
Belmore Rd. Betterment		Inside	\$ 21,455	2014				
Water		Outside	\$ 214,782	2020	\$ 20,000	SA	\$ 360	SA
Electric Sub Station		Outside	\$ 1,500,000	2028	\$ 75,000	SA	\$ 24,600	SA
Total Municipal Purpose - \$2.380M	992920		\$ 2,380,000	2020	\$ 150,000		\$ 25,950	
Sewer - Ridgefield Rd		Inside	\$ 132,080	2021	\$ 10,000	SA	\$ 638	SA
Total Municipal Purpose - \$132,080	610902		\$ 132,080	2021	\$ 10,000		\$ 638	
Building Constuction (Town Hall Exempt)		Inside	\$ 1,256,000	2023	\$ 135,000		\$ 13,200	
Building Constuction (Library Exempt)		Inside	\$ 1,145,000	2024	\$ 115,000		\$ 14,225	
Land - School St.		Inside	\$ 140,000	2024	\$ 15,000		\$ 1,650	
					\$ 265,000	78	\$ 29,075	81
Sewer - Attitash Lift		Inside	\$ 375,000	2024	\$ 35,000	SA	\$ 4,550	SA
Sewer - Chuch/Fowler Betterment		Inside	\$ 45,000	2023	\$ 5,000	SA	\$ 500	SA
Water - Engineering		Inside	\$ 145,000	2024	\$ 15,000	SA	\$ 1,800	SA
Water - Tonka Filters		Outside	\$ 260,000	2022	\$ 30,000	SA	\$ 2,100	SA
Water - Storage Tanks		Outside	\$ 235,000	2024	\$ 25,000	SA	\$ 2,500	SA
Water - Well Fields		Outside	\$ 270,000	2024	\$ 25,000	SA	\$ 3,250	SA
Water - Booster Stations		Outside	\$ 100,000	2024	\$ 10,000	SA	\$ 1,300	SA
Total Municipal Purpose - \$3,971,000	992923		\$ 3,971,000	2021	\$ 410,000		\$ 45,075	
Water Mains - Town Share 5%		Outside	\$43,000	2036	\$ 1,855	79	\$ 753	82
Water Mains		Outside	\$817,000	2036	\$ 35,251	SA	\$ 14,314	SA
Total Municipal Purpose - \$860,000	992924		\$860,000	2036	\$ 37,106		\$ 15,067	
Water Booster Stations		Outside	\$1,600,000	2049	\$ 35,965	SA	\$ 37,968	SA
Total Municipal Purpose - \$1.6 M	601004		\$1,600,000	2049	\$ 35,965		\$ 37,968	
TOTAL LONG TERM DEBT					\$ 740,267		\$ 141,913	
Short Term Debt/Lease							\$ 57,000	83
Town/School Energy		Inside	\$ 753,925	2025	\$ 70,323	84	\$ 12,147	85
Water Energy		Inside	\$ 38,594	2025	\$ 3,576	SA	\$ 618	SA
Sewer Energy		Inside	\$ 229,334	2025	\$ 21,278	SA	\$ 3,676	SA
Total Lease - \$1,021,853	992925		\$ 1,021,853	2025	\$ 95,178		\$ 16,441	
Fire Air Packs		Inside	\$ 141,364	2023	\$ 27,428	86	\$ 3,430	87
Total Lease - \$141,364			\$ 1,163,217	2025	\$ 27,428		\$ 3,430	
Dump Truck Lease		Inside	\$ 174,860	2024	\$ 32,109	88	\$ 7,470	89
Total Lease - \$174,860			\$ 1,338,077	2025	\$ 32,109		\$ 7,470	
TOTAL LEASE EXPENSE					\$ 154,715		\$ 27,341	