

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
*of the*  
**OFFICERS, BOARDS**  
*and*  
**COMMITTEES**  
*of the*  
**TOWN OF MERRIMAC**  
**MASSACHUSETTS**

*For the Year Ending December 31, 2014*



**IN MEMORY**

Of those

Who Have Held

Public Office

In the

Town of Merrimac



**Charlie Haynes**  
Cemetery Department

**Judith Silvia**  
School Nurse

**Philip Drolet**  
Light Department

**Gordon Rines**  
Highway Superintendent

**Arthur O'Keefe**  
Planning Board

**Evelyn Calnan**  
Historical Commission

**Carl (Tony) Deminie**  
School Department  
Fire Department

## DIRECTORY OF ELECTED OFFICERS

### **Moderator** – *One Year*

Robert Bender Term Expires 2015

### **Board of Selectmen** – *Three Years*

Laura D. Mailman, Chairwoman Term Expires 2015  
Hal Lloyd Term Expires 2016  
W. Earl Baumgardner Term Expires 2017

### **Board of Assessors** – *Three Years*

Edward R. Davis, Chairman Term Expires 2015  
Louise Lingeran Term Expires 2016  
William Pollman Term Expires 2017

### **Planning Board** – *Five Years*

Karol Flannery Term Expires 2015  
Dennis Brodie Term Expires 2016  
John Thomas Term Expires 2017  
Ronald Barnes Term Expires 2018  
Sandy Venner, Chairperson Term Expires 2019  
Patricia True, Secretary

### **Constables** – *Three Years*

Arthur Evans Term Expires 2016  
Robert Turner Term Expires 2016

### **Town Clerk** – *Three Years*

Patricia True Term Expires 2016

### **Board of Health** – *Three Years*

Russell S. Hussey, Jr. Term Expires 2015  
Jason D. Sargent Term Expires 2016  
Eileen Hurley, Chairperson Term Expires 2017

### **School Committee** – *Three Years*

Todd Treado Term Expires 2015  
Joanna Blanchard Term Expires 2016  
Brian Page Term Expires 2017

**Library Trustees - Three Years**

Susan M. Coburn	Term Expires 2015
Jennifer Brown	Term Expires 2015
Jeffrey W. Hoyt, Chairman	Term Expires 2016
Ellen Evans	Term Expires 2016
Yvonne Cosgrove	Term Expires 2017
Linda Getz	Term Expires 2017

**Municipal Light Commissioners - Three Years**

Norman R. Denault	Term Expires 2015
	Term Expires 2017
	Term Expires 2016

**Cemetery Trustees - Three Years**

Patricia Casey	Term Expires 2015
Carol Ranshaw	Term Expires 2016
Sandra Brown	Term Expires 2017

**Merrimac Housing Authority - Five Years**

Altha Ottman	Term Expires 2017
C. Shirley Jones	Term Expires 2018
Stephen P. True, Vice Treasurer	Term Expires 2018
Henry A. Beadoin	Term Expires 2019
Vacant, State Appointee	Term Expires 2015

## DIRECTORY OF APPOINTED OFFICERS

### Finance Committee

Richard LeSavoy, Co-Chairman  
Patricia Dillon, Secretary  
Ann Crowell  
Andrew Connor

Paula Hamel  
Lana Scully  
James Archibald

### Board of Appeals

Arthur Amirault  
Gordon Broz, Alternate  
Ronald Dandurant  
Kathleen Marshall, Secretary

Joshua Jackson, Vice Chair  
Michael Roche

### Conservation Commission

Robert Prokop, Chairman  
Jon Pearson  
Arthur Yarranton  
Mary Hess  
Joanna Blanchard

Ellis Katz  
Janet Terry  
Jay Smith, Agent  
Gregory Hochmuth  
Timothy Simmons

### Building Inspector

Robert Sinibaldi

### Local Inspector

Denis Nadeau

### Plumbing & Gas Inspector

Ronald Caruso

### Wiring Inspector

William Nutter

### Department of Public Works

Robert Sinibaldi

### Highway Department

Tom Barry, Foreman

### Fire Department

Ralph Spencer, Chief

Greg Habgood, Deputy Chief

Larry Fisher, Deputy Chief

### Board of Registrars

Betty Eliot  
Rebekah Reynolds

Giuseppina Hayes

**Town Counsel**  
Ashod N. Amirian

**Town Accountant**  
Anne O. Jim

**Finance Director & Treasurer**  
Carol A. McLeod

**Tax Collector**  
Geraldine A. Gozycki

**Selectmen's Secretary**  
Jennifer Penney

**Cable Access Director**  
Carol Traynor

**Rent Control Board**

Arthur Evans  
Harold Lloyd

Sandy Venner

**Animal Care & Control Officer**  
Lisa Young-Carey

**Cultural Council**

Gillian Corkery Hosman  
Joyce Zarins  
Julia Bethmann

Christina Corkery  
Eleanor Hope McCarthy

**Veteran's Agent**  
Kevin Hunt

**Historical Commission**

Jeffrey W. Hoyt, Chairman  
Yvonne D. Cosgrove

Evelyn M. Calnan (1923-2014)  
Jason Sargent

**Council on Aging**

Laura Dillingham-Mailman, Director  
Colleen Ranshaw-Fiorello, Chairperson  
Carol Ranshaw, Secretary  
Nancy Bachelder, Food Pantry Coordinator  
David Dutton  
Natalie Christie

Dorothy Lumsden  
James Murphy  
David Vance  
Betty Elliot  
Lucy St. Pierre

**Emergency Management Director**  
Ralph W. Spencer, Chief

**Open Space Committee**

Michelle Carley  
Carrie Rennie

Sandra Venner  
Tracy Kelly

**Parks and Recreation**

Bill Brown

Harold Lloyd

**Town Nurse**

Charlotte Eileen Stepanian

**Capital Planning Committee**

Patricia Dillon, Finance Committee Rep.  
Janet Bruno  
Ricky J. Pinciario

Sandra Venner, Chairperson  
Carol A. Traynor  
Richard LeSavoy

**Affordable Housing Board of Trustees**

Sandra Venner, Chairperson  
Hal Lloyd, Selectman  
Phillip Parry  
Josh Jackson

Ray Gingras, Vice-Chairperson  
Laura Dillingham-Mailman  
Colleen Ranshaw-Fiorello

The Board of Selectmen would like to thank all those who have served the town this past year, especially the ones who have retired or moved on.

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

This year the Board of Selectmen focused on several issues and projects that were continued from the previous year:

- A contractor for the Town Square Project was selected in December of 2013 and construction began in late spring. The project has been financed with \$5 million in State and Federal funds. Some additional funding was provided by the town so that the water infrastructure could be improved since there will be a 5 year moratorium against digging up the road for 5 years.
- Ameresco completed the work on town buildings to make them energy efficient and make green repairs.
- An Essex National Heritage grant was awarded to the town to help get the town listed on the National Register of Historic Buildings.
- The Merrimac Public Cable Access made several improvements to their studio and have added additional programming including adding another channel for school news and sports.
- Merrimac Fire Department was awarded the 2013 Life Safety Achievement award for their continuing programs on education and fire safety.
- In 2014 the Board of Selectmen helped Merrimac Couplings celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Couplings are a wonderful group of volunteers who help support the Fire Department during emergencies and do fundraising to help purchase needed items. We wish to thank them again for all that they do!
- The Police Department continued to work trying to get a new Emergency Radio System to broadcast communication from American Tower.
- The Selectmen decided to go green and use tablets instead of paper for meetings, using Novus Agenda. Thank you to Jen for bringing us into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and for providing her support!
- The Selectmen decided to move from “Tags” to “Bags” after much deliberation and consultation. With the high overage cost to the town, the cost to either the tags or the bags had to increase to meet the \$100,000.00 increase in cost. It was determined that bags would be the fairest way to collect, as everyone would be using the same sizes. This was to begin in October.
- The town applied for a grant to help underwrite the cost of cleanup of Coastal Metals.
- A parent group came before the BOS to ask to form a committee to build a playground. Much discussion centered about where it would be best to build it and how much money they would need to raise. A dog park has also been requested.
- A Town Flag Committee was formed to design a new Merrimac flag. It is felt that the current one that hangs in the Hall of Flags at the State House does not represent Merrimac well and is rather drab. The committee is Laura Dillingham-Mailman, Jeffrey Hoyt, Allan Jarvis, Rick Olson, and Ricky Pinciario.
- It was determined that due to severe structural deficiencies, the Old Fire Station/Senior Center at 28 School Street cannot be repaired.

- The Selectmen have begun the task of reviewing the Town Bylaws, something that has not been done since the town was formed nearly 140 years ago. The changes will be brought to town meeting for approval in April, 2015. Continued review of the bylaws and changes are expected to continue on an annual basis.
- With the retirement of Ricky Pinciario, and after a one year hiatus, we welcomed back Earl Baumgardner to the Board.

It has been a pleasure to work with the town over the last three years on the Board of Selectmen. I would like to thank all who work at Town Hall who help make the job of selectman easier with their knowledge, cooperation and patience: Jennifer Penny, BOS Executive Assistant; Carol McLeod, Finance Director; Anne Jim, Town Accountant; Robert Sinibaldi, DPW Director.

Sincerely,

Laura Dillingham-Mailman, Chairwoman, BOS  
Submitted on behalf of Board members:

Hal Lloyd and Earl Baumgardner

## 2014 REPORT OF THE CHIEF OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

To: The Honorable Board of Selectman &  
The Citizens of the Town of Merrimac.

The Fire Department has been busy this year with 813 calls.

Engine 34 has returned from some rehab work. The pump was worked on and body work included replacing the windshields, replacing the emergency lighting, front bumper, body work, and electrical work.

The new Ambulance has arrived and is in service.

The Town voted to go with a strong Fire Chief this past town meeting; we wish to thank you for your support.

The Town also voted for an Administrative Assistant to the Chief to help take a little of the load off his desk. After 10 interviews, Shelley Fusco of Amesbury was hired to fill the spot.

Engine 3 the 1953 White pumper was taken out of service after 61 years of service. It was getting to hard to find parts for repairs. The truck was put out to bids.

To Deputy Fisher and Habgood I wish to thank for all your hours of very dedicated work.

To the Firefighters and EMT'S I can never say thank you enough for all the hard work you all put in this year.

Many thanks to the voters for your support this past year.

To the Board of Selectmen thank you for all your support this past year it is a pleasure to work for and with you.

Chief Ralph W Spencer

**MERRIMAC FIRE DEPARTMENT  
INCIDENT TYPE REPORT (SUMMARY) \*MONTHLY\***

Alarm Date Between {01/01/2014} And {12/31/2014}

Incident Type	Count	Pct of Incidents	Total Est Loss	Pct of Losses
<b>5 Service Call</b>				
520 Water problem, Other	2	0.24%	\$0	0.00%
522 Water or steam leak	1	0.12%	\$0	0.00%
531 Smoke or odor removal	3	0.36%	\$0	0.00%
542 Animal rescue	1	0.12%	\$0	0.00%
551 Assist police or other governmental agency	2	0.24%	\$0	0.00%
553 Public service	1	0.12%	\$0	0.00%
571 Cover assignment, standby, moveup	16	1.96%	\$0	0.00%
	<b>58</b>	<b>7.13%</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>6 Good Intent Call</b>				
600 Good intent call, Other	3	0.36%	\$0	0.00%
611 Dispatched & cancelled en route	40	4.92%	\$0	0.00%
622 No Incident found on arrival at dispatch	23	2.82%	\$0	0.00%
652 Steam, vapor, fog or dust thought to be	1	0.12%	\$0	0.00%
	<b>67</b>	<b>8.24%</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>7 False Alarm &amp; False Call</b>				
700 False alarm or false call, Other	1	0.12%	\$0	0.00%
730 System malfunction, Other	1	0.12%	\$0	0.00%
733 Smoke detector activation due to	30	3.69%	\$0	0.00%
734 Heat detector activation due to malfunction	3	0.36%	\$0	0.00%
735 Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	3	0.36%	\$0	0.00%
736 CO detector activation due to malfunction	24	2.95%	\$0	0.00%
740 Unintentional transmission of alarm, Other	2	0.24%	\$0	0.00%
743 Smoke detector activation, no fire -	10	1.23%	\$0	0.00%
746 Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	4	0.49%	\$0	0.00%
	<b>78</b>	<b>9.59%</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>8 Severe Weather &amp; Natural Disaster</b>				
814 Lightning strike (no fire)	4	0.49%	\$0	0.00%
	<b>4</b>	<b>0.49%</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

Total Incident Count: 813

Total Est Loss:

\$8,000



## MERRIMAC POLICE DEPARTMENT

16 East Main Street  
Merrimac, Massachusetts 01860  
Tel: 978-346-8321  
Fax: 978-346-0592



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Eric M. Shears  
*Chief of Police*

### REPORT OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE, 2014

To: The Honorable Board of Selectmen and the Citizens of the Town of Merrimac, Massachusetts.

I am honored to serve as your Police Chief. Merrimac is a fine New England community that deserves exemplary services from all of the Town's departments. The Merrimac Police Department is committed to providing that kind of quality service. I am very proud of my staff for their hard work and dedication to the citizens of Merrimac.

We would like to thank our residents, the Board of Selectmen, the Finance Committee, Capital Planning and the entire staff at Town Hall for their continued support. We are also thankful for the public safety partnerships we enjoy with our Fire Department, Emergency Management, Department of Public Works and Light Department. Working together, we continue to provide for the safety and security of our town.

In 2014 we had a few retirements of long time employees. Congratulations and many thanks to Dispatcher Brian Peavey (26 years as a part-time dispatcher), Dispatcher Bonnie Bishop (19 years as a full-time dispatcher) and Officer James Mikson (17 years as a reserve police officer). We wish you all the best in your future endeavors and thank you for your years of dedicated service.

In addition retirements we have had promotions as well. Tenley Goodwin has been a part time dispatcher since January 2013, and became full time in November 2014. Part time dispatcher Christopher Maguire completed our Reserve FTO program and has been a wonderful addition to our reserve line. He is also a full time Patrolman in Newton, NH. Part time dispatcher Michael Arahovites has been promoted Reserve officer and will complete the FTO program by early 2015.

We continue to embrace social media as a means to communicate with our community. If you haven't, please "like" us on Facebook and "follow" us on Twitter.

It is truly a pleasure to serve as Police Chief in Merrimac. The men and women of the police department remain dedicated to our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric M. Shears  
Chief of Police

## Merrimac Police Department 2014

*Eric M. Shears*  
Chief of Police

*Stephen M. Ringuette*  
Administrative Sergeant

*Jennifer Sforza*  
Administrative Assistant

*David J. Vance*  
Operations Sergeant

### Patrolmen

*Richard P. Holcroft*  
Patrolman

*Stephen A. Ringuette*  
Patrolman

*Jeffrey D. Boisvert*  
Patrolman

*Robert F. Coppola*  
Patrolman

### Reserve Officers

*Michael R. McGrath*  
Reserve Officer

*Mark E. Sayers*  
Reserve Officer

*Paul M. Hogg*  
Reserve Officer

*Stephen E. Beaulieu*  
Reserve Officer

*Michael A. D'Angelo*  
Reserve Officer

*Adam E. White*  
Reserve Officer

*Christopher J. Maguire*  
Reserve Officer

*Michael A. Arahovites*  
Reserve Officer

### Police & Fire Signal Operators

*Mark E. Sayers*  
Dispatcher

*Kathy A. Spencer*  
Dispatcher

*Jacob R. Wallace*  
Dispatcher

*Tenley A. Goodwin*  
Dispatcher

### Part-Time Police & Fire Signal Operators

*Sydney Hilts*  
Reserve Dispatcher

*Christopher Markey*  
Reserve Dispatcher

*AJ Pesci*  
Reserve Dispatcher

### Police Matrons

*Kathy A. Spencer*  
Matron

*Jennifer D. Marden*  
Matron

*Sydney Hilts*  
Matron

2014 POLICE ACTIVITIES BY DISPATCH REASON	
Intelligence	70
Robbery	2
Assault & Battery	1
B & E (Attempted)	2
B&E Building	13
B&E Motor Vehicle	11
Larceny / Personal Property	27
Larceny by Check	3
Larceny of Motor Vehicle	6
Assault (Threats / No Battery)	3
Forgery & Counterfeiting	3
Receive / Possess Stolen Property	1
Vandalism Complaint	8
Weapons Violation	1
Sex Offenses	1
Drug Law Violations	2
Offenses Against Family / Child	1
Intoxicated Driver Complaint	8
Liquor Law Violations	2
Disorderly Conduct	4
209A Violation	8
209A Order Received	34
Officer Investigation	226
Warrant Arrest	23
Larceny of Bicycle	1
General Offenses	14
Trespass Complaint	14
Civil Complaint	39
Juvenile Offense	2
Town Bylaw Violation	1
Missing Person	17
Lost / Found Property	51
Disturbance (General)	31
Domestic Disturbance	45
Disturbance (Group)	18
Hazard / Youths in Street	41
Disturbance (Noise)	51
Annoying Harassing Phone Calls	18
Suspicious Activity	173

ATV / Dirt bike Complaint	6
General Services	1381
Welfare Check	47
Officer Wanted	681
Provide Escort	2
Prisoner Transport	6
Assist Citizen	321
Building Check	2112
Message Delivery	98
Animal Incident (ACO)	321
Assist Municipal Agencies	288
Utility Alarm / Emergency	93
Medical Emergency	438
Mental Health Emergency	12
Intoxicated Person	6
FIRE ALARM - Street Box	16
FIRE ALARM - Brush Fire	12
FIRE ALARM - Car Fire	11
FIRE ALARM - Structure Fire	5
FIRE ALARM - Investigation	134
FIRE ALARM - Mutual Aid	38
Burglar Alarm	124
Assist Other Police Department	152
Motor Vehicle Stop	1247
Motor Vehicle Listing	138
Parking Violation	131
RADAR Assignment	509
Motor Vehicle Complaint (Speed)	60
Motor Vehicle Accidents	121
Traffic Control	27
Abandoned MV Complaint	3
Disabled MV Complaint	78
Inter - Department Services	10
Court (On Duty)	70
911 Calls	56
Servicing Cruiser	544
TOTAL	10274

**ADULT ARRESTS**

Male Arrests .....65  
Female Arrests .....16

**JUVENILE ARRESTS**

Male Juvenile Arrests .....4  
Female Juvenile Arrests .....0

**PROTECTIVE CUSTODY**

Male PC .....2  
Female PC.....2

**CRIMINAL COMPLAINT APPLICATIONS**

Various Criminal Offenses .....94



## MERRIMAC DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES

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Kevin Hunt  
Director

Telephone: 978 465-4418

TOWN OF MERRIMAC  
OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MERRIMAC, MA 01860

What follows is the annual report from The Department of Veterans' Services.

### **COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER 115 BENEFITS:**

This department was able to assist veterans or family members this past year under M.G.L. Chapter 115. This is emergency financial assistance provided to selected veterans or their surviving spouses. Any money expended by the town under Chapter 115 is returned to the Town by the State at the rate of \$.75 to the dollar expended. In 2014, approximately \$84,000 was expended to eligible veterans and their families.

### **VETERANS DAY:**

Thanks to the efforts of Commander Roger Clark, and the members of Post 134 of the American Legion, Veterans Day was commemorated on November 11, 2014.

### **MEMORIAL DAY FLAGS**

Again, thanks to the efforts of Commander Clark and the members of Post 134 of the American Legion, veterans' graves and memorials were appropriately decorated before Memorial Day in 2014.

### **VA COMPENSATION**

This department continues to assist and secure various VA benefits -- service connected and non-service connected -- disability compensations and pensions. Last year, the Federal Department of Veterans' Affairs distributed nearly \$667,000 to Merrimac veterans and/or their surviving spouses as compensation or pension. The Veterans' Office assists veterans in applying for these benefits. The Town of Merrimac does not have to pay anything to receive these funds, much of which is spent within the Town.

### **VA HEALTH CARE**

This department assisted and secured various VA medical benefits for service and non-service connected veterans. These medical benefits included short and long-term medical treatments at the VA Clinic satellite clinic in Haverhill and VA Hospitals in the surrounding area.

**SOCIAL SECURITY**

This department continues to assist and refer veterans seeking benefits from Social Security.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Hunt  
Director of Veterans' Services  
Town of Merrimac

## MERRIMAC ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

**District Administrative Offices  
22 Main Street  
West Newbury, MA 01985  
Telephone (978) 363-2280  
Fax (978) 363-1165**

Dr. Jeffrey J. Mulqueen  
Superintendent of Schools

Michael A. Smith  
Director of Academics and Arts

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The Merrimac Annual Report of the School Department activities for FY14 has been developed by the Principals of the Frederick N. Sweetsir School, Helen R. Donaghue School, Pentucket Regional Middle School and Pentucket Regional High School on behalf of the Superintendent of Schools and the Pentucket Regional School Committee.

John Willett, Chairman  
Christopher Wile, Vice Chairman  
Brian Page, Secretary  
Lisa O'Connor  
Douglas Gelina  
Jayne Broz  
Wayne Adams  
Jill Eichhorst  
Christine Reading

## **DR. FREDERICK N. SWEETSIR SCHOOL HELEN R. DONAGHUE SCHOOL**

It is a pleasure to submit the annual report for the Dr. Fredrick N. Sweetsir School and the Helen R. Donaghue School for 2014.

The school year began again with the annual, “Merrimac Goes Back to School Day” to celebrate the opening of school. This afternoon and evening, sponsored by the Merrimac PTO, provides families and students an opportunity to visit classrooms, meet teachers and obtain information about the school, community, and the PTO. Since its inception, this evening has provided a positive beginning to each school year. Students and families report benefitting from the event, with families new to the school community, in particular, saying that the event helped them to connect with other students and families before school gets underway.

The October 1, 2013 enrollment was 216 students in grades Preschool through grade 2 at the Dr. Sweetsir School and 330 in grades 3 through 6 at the Helen R. Donaghue School. This continued a decline in total enrollment in the town’s schools. Class sizes in the schools ranged from 17 to 24.

The schools, along with the rest of the Pentucket Regional School District, continued on their journey to provide Pentucket students with a World Class education. Our goal is to become the educational opportunity of choice for students, the employment opportunity of choice for talented educators, and the investment opportunity of choice for our communities. To help realize this goal, several teachers in the Merrimac schools applied to become an Innovation School that will bring the curriculum, teaching, and learning focus of the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program to students in Merrimac. The process to fully bring this program to the schools will take four years, though teachers have begun the work of doing so this year.

Innovation Schools are part of the state of Massachusetts’s effort to bring high-quality learning to all students through increased teacher leadership, autonomy, and responsibility. This acclaimed program will help the schools to provide students with comprehensive and coherent high-powered learning experiences that foster inquiry and deeper learning of skills and ideas. It will also provide students with experiences that connect with real-world experiences and problems through application of what they learn. The Innovation School plan will also provide staff with a clear sense of purpose for the work they do, greater autonomy in how they do it, and opportunities for them to master what they do and support to help them do so. Purpose, autonomy, and mastery are key elements of motivation, and will help us and the school district realize our World Class goal.

As part of their professional growth, teachers continued to participate in monthly instructional rounds with Dr. Mulqueen and me. During these sessions, teachers observed classroom activities and then discussed the level of challenge they saw students engaged in, as well as the amount of relevance or meaning the classroom learning activities had for students. As the year progressed, we saw an increase in both elements in many classrooms, and session participants came away with ideas for improving their own work. Providing more challenging and relevant learning opportunities to students remain a goal in the current school year.

As part of the Innovation School plan, both schools continued their work to develop school and classroom climates and environments that support challenging learning. Students participated in daily class meetings to develop positive classroom climates marked by positive relationships between students and student attitudes and behaviors of respect, personal responsibility, self-discipline, and caring. Students also participated in monthly school-wide community meetings to build their sense of belonging to a large group. At Sweetsir, students continued to learn and practice the value of “filling another’s bucket” through intentional acts of kindness. Teachers all read the book on which this practice is based and they recognized students when they “filled someone’s bucket.” The schools recognize that the success of this effort will come only with the active support of parents.

Each year, students in grades 3 through 6 take state assessments, MCAS exams. The assessments taken last spring showed that students in subgroups did not make the annual performance gains in English language arts and mathematics expected by the state. The subgroups at the Donaghue School are students from low income households and students with identified disabilities. The overall performance for students in these groups did not indicate that the schools are closing the achievement gap between these students and their peers. In response, we increased Title I support in mathematics for students not making the progress we intend in the classrooms. A team of teachers also created a school schedule that allows time for greater collaboration between classroom and special education teachers, so they can better support all students’ learning.

Overall, student MCAS results were largely consistent with previous years. The percentage of students scoring at the proficient or advanced level increased from the previous year in Grade 3 and Grade 5 English Language Arts, and in Grade 3 and Grade 6 Mathematics. The number of students scoring in the top two levels decreased in English Language Arts in Grade 6 and held steady in Grade 4. Students in Grade 5 scored slightly lower in Science, Engineering, and Technology than in the previous year. When compared with ten Massachusetts schools with similar demographics, Donaghue students achieved higher than five schools and lower than five.

These test results, along with other assessments of students’ learning, were used by the teachers to set improvement goals in their Professional Learning Teams. The new educator evaluation system used by the state connects teachers’ work with student learning results, so will design and teach units of study that integrate students’ learning content skills and knowledge with developing the important adaptive learning skills and making personal connections with what they learn. Additional reading support, Title I mathematics support, scheduled intervention periods, and frequent monitoring of students’ progress will all be used to help students learn and achieve as well as they can.

Once again, the PTO has been a strong partner with the schools. They purchased a variety of educational resources for the schools to support student learning across the curriculum. They also provided funds for field trip experiences and in-school science and social studies presentations. These parents also coordinated teacher appreciation events, produced a student yearbook, offered Exploration Classes after school, sponsored evening events for families, and supported our classroom programs by volunteering in our schools every day. On behalf of the

schools, I want to take this opportunity to thank the PTO for their continued commitment to the children of Merrimac.

Our Before and After School Program continues to provide tuition-based services to over 90 children daily at the two schools. This year, the program also offered a play-based learning kindergarten experience for students enrolled in the half-day kindergarten classroom. Enrollment in this program has increased during the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year. This program represents an important way that the schools continue to provide parents and their children with support for their learning.

To help the school maintain elementary class sizes at about 23 students or below, the superintendent's budget modified the leadership of the Merrimac Schools beginning in 2013. To reduce administrative expenses, one principal now leads both schools. A School Manager and Support Coordinator provides daily assistance to the principal. This manager takes responsibility for procedures, schedules, transportation, facilities, daily student discipline, and other similar tasks. This has allowed the principal to focus and spend needed time on daily and long-term activities that impact the quality of teaching and learning at the two schools and the educational opportunities offered to students. This model of school leadership and management was implemented at the two other elementary schools in the district at the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year.

In closing, on behalf of all the Dr. Frederick N. Sweetsir and Helen R. Donaghue staff members, I want to express my appreciation for the continued support shown to the schools by the Merrimac community. As educators, the staff of the two schools continue to highly value public education and base their work on the belief that education is the cornerstone of a community, a major resource for enhancing the quality of life for our current and future citizens.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Harrison, Principal

## PENTUCKET REGIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014

### Demographic Information

The Pentucket Regional Middle School is located in the town of West Newbury, Massachusetts, and serves the students in grades 7 (241 students) and 8 (261 students) from West Newbury (107), Merrimac (178), and Groveland (183). The Middle School is the first experience students have outside their home community and combining with others within the Pentucket Regional School District. The enrollment for the 2013- 2014 school year was 502 students, 34 of whom were school choice.

### School Highlights

RTI Math model implemented during period 1

Middle school students participating in high school athletics

Students have the opportunity to participate in both Concert Band and Chorus

Advisory program supports grade 8 End of Year presentations

Professional Walkthroughs guide instructional design

Below is a summary of activities at PRMS that took place in the areas of curriculum, instruction, assessment, and community service.

### Curriculum

- Teachers incorporate a triangular approach of technical skill, adaptive leadership skills, and personal meaning into unit and lesson design
- Grade 8 students and staff design culminating year end demonstrations of learning with increased personal meaning using the “*What will your verse be?*” theme
- Grade 7 students participate in grade 8 year end demonstrations as an interactive audience
- Schedule retooled to support both middle school team model as well as like subject Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)

### Instruction

- Faculty walkthroughs were continued during the 2013 2014 school year. Walkthroughs provide a building snapshot of the application of rigor and relevance in the classroom, and facilitate professional dialogue opportunities
- First year implementation of the new Massachusetts’ Educator Evaluation system including self-assessment, goal setting, and evidence collection
- High School Department Chairs meet with middle school department teachers to align a curriculum for a grade 7- 12 system of instruction

### Assessment

- Grade 7 math teachers piloted a grade wide District determined Measure (DDM)
- Building level math teachers collaborated to design and implement an RTI model to support mathematics learning and assessment utilizing the entire staff
- Grade 7 students participated in the communication assessment of grade 8 students’

year-end demonstrations of learning

- Two grade 8 groups of students participated in the state's pilot of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessment

### **Community Service**

- Organized food and clothing drives for local community organizations
- Organized blanket and cleaning supplies drive for local animal shelters
- Supported after school activities at district community elementary schools
- Organized toy drive for Holiday season
- Organized supply drive for U.S. soldiers serving overseas

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth Kelley, Principal

## **PENTUCKET REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014**

The 2013-2014 school year was productive at Pentucket Regional High School. Student enrollment was 777 and comprised of 175 from West Newbury, 272 from Groveland, 294 from Merrimac, and 36 students through school choice.

Below is a summary of activities that took place in the areas of curriculum, instruction, assessment, professional development and the community.

### **Curriculum:**

New courses were added to the program of studies for the 2013-14 school year. Several of these new courses were pilot classes for the new Innovation Schools focused on the Arts (Character Sculpture), Safety and Public Service (Public Safety I), and Movement Science and Athletics (Sports Medicine I). These courses gave approximately 180 students the chance to take courses in these exciting curriculum areas. Furthermore, a cohort of 20 students enrolled in a new sequence of Early College Courses in cooperation with NECC. These students have the opportunity to complete the equivalent of 1 year of college credits by the time they graduate from high school.

### **Instruction:**

Instructors continue to challenge themselves to create the most engaging classroom environment through the use of varied instructional approaches. These approaches are on display every day across the school. In particular, staff are working to create powerful units of study that include rigorous thinking, real world problem solving and personal connections.

### **Assessment:**

Pentucket High School students continue to score at very high levels on the yearly MCAS assessments as can be seen by the results below.

Students Scoring Advanced and/or Proficient

ELA - 98% (58% Advanced) Math - 90% (69% advanced) Science - 90% (48% Advanced)

### **Professional Development:**

Teachers regularly engage in powerful self-reflection on their practices through a process called instructional rounds, or classroom walkthroughs. During these sessions, teachers spend a class period walking through classrooms, spending approximately 5 minutes per classroom and then follow up with another class period discussing what we observed. The focus of the conversation is the level of rigor and relevance evident in the lesson students were working on. The definition of rigor we use is higher level thinking – Knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis and evaluation. The definition of relevance is the degree to which students understand why they are learning or if they see a personal connection to the learning or can identify that this is a real world problem or application they are working through.

**Community:**

School support organizations namely The Pentucket Arts Foundation, the Pentucket Athletic Association and the Pentucket Education Foundation continue to provide great supports and benefits to the high school throughout the school year, sponsoring teacher curriculum grants, improving athletic equipment and facilities and providing improved equipment to enhance our educational program. The close of the 2014 school brought confirmation of nearly \$50,000 in funding from the PEF for equipment to support the new Movement Science and Athletics and Arts Academy Innovation Schools. The graduating class of 2014 was the first class that was required to complete 40 hours of Community Service as a part of their requirements (10 hrs. per year).

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan P. Seymour  
Principal

## MERRIMAC GRADUATES:

Barlow, Alan	Lingerman, Makayla
Barlow, George	Lischke, Whitney
Barlow, Jessica	Malhi, Ayeshah
Barry, Robert	Marchant, Emma
Beauregard, Vanessa	Merrill, Ryan
Bernier, Kaylin	Merritt, Charlotte
Bordeianu, Jake	Migliozzi, Megan
Brennan, Jaclyn	Mikson, Emily
Cebula, Dylan	Miles, Emily
Chute, Kyle	Ministeri, Katherine
Clement, Scott	Murray, Tyler
Corkery, Liam	Norton, Carleigh
Crawford, Nocola	O'Connor, Casey
Crawford, Sarah	O'Neil, Kristina
Crocker, Jarrid	Padellaro, Austin
Croteau, Christopher	Rancourt, Mitchell
Daroga, Emily	Recine, Zachary
Desjardins, Amelia	Richard, Amber
Desjardins, Carley	Romanowski, Matthew
Devlin, Brittany	Russell, Savannah
Dumas, Alex	Saadatmand, Ashley
Durkin, Connor	Schmidt, Mark
Dwyer, William	Sergeant, Will
Fitzgerald, Michael	Sherwood, Logan
Flinn, Jordan	Silveira, Cameron
Fowler, Rachel	Sirois, John
Gallagher, Thomas	Slack, Alden
Garrant, Reid	Smith, Dylan
Gildner, Murphy	Spohn, Jonathan
Greene, Laura	Sullivan, Kristina
Hardway, Eric	Waterhouse, Sarah
Hardy, Steven	Wickramaratne, Nadisha
Hart, Sydney	Saadatmand, Eric
Imperioso, Daniel	
Jackson, Davis	
Journey, James	
Ketola, Shane	
Knowles, Allison	
Kolvek, Stephen	
Kuchar, Ryan	
Lancey, Amber	
Lancey, Holly	
Legault, Chad	

# WHITTIER ANNUAL OPERATING REPORT TO MERRIMAC

September 11, 2014

## ANNUAL OPERATIONAL REPORT

TO: The Honorable Board of Selectmen

FROM: Paul Tucker, Whittier Representative  
William P. DeRosa, Superintendent

Whittier offers 20 vocational technical career areas designed to provide the necessary training and skills for further education or work force success.

Whittier's academic program is designed to offer students the fundamental skills through its core curriculum in English, Math, Science and Technology, Social Studies, World Languages, Physical Education/Health, and Elective subjects. Courses are aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks in order to achieve success on the MCAS.

Courses are offered in a sequential format and are integrated with the vocational-technical areas, wherever practicable and mutually beneficial. All academic courses offer advanced sections for students who desire to further their education. We offer honors courses in English, science, and math to lead toward advanced placement courses. Moreover, a Tech Prep program is offered to eleventh and twelfth grade students which parallels the College Prep program and provides students with the opportunity to earn college credit and/or advanced college placement.

Since all programs are open to both females and males, we encourage our students to explore and to specialize in non-stereotyped, non-traditional vocational-technical areas and to strive for the maximum realization of their goals and potential.

Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School is entering its forty first year. To date we have graduated 10,348 students from the day school.

The enrollment for the Evening School from Merrimac: 16

The October 1, 2013 Day School Enrollment:

	Boys	Girls
Grade 9	11	3
Grade 10	9	11
Grade 11	10	6
Grade 12	3	1
Total -		54

2014 Graduates - 4

The cost to Merrimac for the school year 2013-2014 was \$607,836.00.

Respectfully yours,

Paul Tucker  
Merrimac Representative

William P. DeRosa  
Superintendent

WPD/lr

**ANNUAL REPORT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MERRIMAC PUBLIC LIBRARY  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2014**

To the citizens of Merrimac:

The year 2014 marked the tenth anniversary of Merrimac Public Library operating from our new and commodious building at 86 West Main Street. To celebrate this significant milestone, the community was invited to an afternoon of several informal events at the library in October. On that day patrons and guests could view a continuously running computer slide show of photos from the building phase and significant events since the library opened in 2004. There were also photo albums from the old library on display that people enjoyed thumbing through. The Special Collections room was open for perusal and manned by our volunteer docent David Grant. An array of delicious refreshments was available all afternoon, including a Tenth Anniversary sheet cake.

The dramatic impact of the new library complex on library services, patron participation, and community use for the past ten years has been chronicled in every annual report since the building opened. The current advanced status of these features will be found in the library director's portion of this annual report.

A new and important part-time staff position was added this year. The position provides for a 12 hour per week administrative assistant for the library director to help with meeting room scheduling, adult programming, and related office functions. We wish to thank the board of selectmen and the voters at the annual town meeting for supporting this much-needed position.

A town-wide energy audit of all municipal properties has had significant results for the library building this year. Throughout the interior of the library, new lamps and fixtures have been installed that provide much better lighting in areas that had been too dark for comfortable patron use and also reduce energy consumption. Outside the building, the lighting in the parking lot and on the sides of the building has also been improved greatly. Furthermore, the LED lights in the parking lot will last much longer and greatly reduce the time and expense required of replacing bulbs with a bucket truck and contractor fees. The energy audit changes have also updated a number of fixes to the HVAC system to make it run more efficiently.

The library trustees are pleased to report that our library director has played an important leadership role in developing emergency procedures for the library and staff. Everyone today is aware of the growing need for policies and preparedness training in public institutions for a number of emergency situations (viz. natural disasters, disturbed individuals exhibiting hostile and violent behavior, bomb threats, and more). Policy materials on this topic provided by the Massachusetts Library System have been employed in this effort. Merrimac Police Chief Eric Shears conducted a four-hour staff workshop one morning in August. His training format was called A.L.I.C.E. ("Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate"). A policy document is being developed for Merrimac Public Library on emergency procedures and will be fashioned with input from library staff, trustees, and all appropriate local officials. The completed policy needs to be flexible and readily adaptable to new and changing circumstances.

Early in the year, the Merrimac Savings Bank donated a portable defibrillator to the library. The Merrimac Fire Department provided training to the library staff on use of the device. The staff also received CPR certification during this process. We sincerely thank both the bank and the fire department for their generosity and expertise.

A new Exhibits Advisor, Catherine Dullea, was appointed in June. We remind the public that this position is paid for entirely by donations from local businesses and a grant from the Merrimac Cultural Council.

This fall the board of trustees received with deep regret the resignation of longtime trustee and co-chair Ellen Evans for personal reasons. Soon thereafter, the board voted unanimously to name the children's section of the library building "The Ellen L. Evans Children's Room" in her honor. The naming is not only in recognition of her long tenure of dedicated service as a library trustee but also in appreciation for her years of reading advocacy for the youth of Merrimac as a revered and beloved elementary school teacher in this town.

Finally, this report would not be complete without thanking, as we do each year, three specific and important support groups. First are the Friends of Merrimac Public Library, who generously provide materials and services that supplant and enrich every aspect of our library services. Second is the dependable cadre of tireless and versatile volunteers that greatly assist the regular library staff every day. Third, the Merrimac Highway Department, under the capable supervision of the D.P.W. director, performs all of the lawn mowing and snow removal during the year. They can also be relied upon for good advice and troubleshooting assistance with a variety of specific building and grounds issues as they unexpectedly occur.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Coburn, *Chair*.

Jennifer Brown

Yvonne D. Cosgrove

Linda Getz

Jeffrey W. Hoyt

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

It is hard to believe that the "new" library has been open now for ten years, 2004 - 2014! Look for the celebration banner designed by local teen, Zoe Hasham, applauding the library as "The Heart of our Community."

As with all libraries today, the challenge is to stay relevant in a changing world. When the library opened its doors in 2004, there were many empty shelves and collection materials consisted mostly of hard cover books, VHS videos and audiobook tapes, periodicals and a few DVDs. Today, we have a notably larger collection of hardcover fiction, non-fiction, Large Print and paperback books and a significantly expanded DVD and audiobook CD collection. Added to that, to keep up with public demand, the library has a world of access to electronic materials;

e-books, audio books, music, online classes including language courses and databases containing endless amounts of information from journal articles and newspapers.

Check out the electronic services on the library website's home page:

[www.merrimaclibrary.org](http://www.merrimaclibrary.org). In addition to our regular electronic offerings such as the very popular Overdrive for e-books and audio books, Freegal music, Safari technical books and Rocket Languages, in 2014 we also added: Wowbrary, where people sign up for weekly email deliveries of the library's new materials; Universal Class, offering over 500 free classes for people to explore new interests and even earn CPUs; OneClick Digital, for popular and classic audio books. Novelist has also been upgraded to Novelist Select which adds recommendations according to individual preferences; "If you like this, then you will like this" and so forth. And, be sure to stop at the circulation desk next time you are at the library and pick up a copy of Book Page, a very popular monthly paper edition of new books, reviews, bestsellers and new releases.

The library is very fortunate to have a large and appealing meeting room that is used by diverse members of the community. I would like to shine a light on some of the many programs and groups that are able to make use of the meeting room space throughout the year. "Fizz Boom Read" was the science theme of the summer reading program. Some of those programs included "The Science of Magic" from the Museum of Science, Ed's Flea Circus Magic Workshop, Lindsey and her Puppet Pals, Wayne from Maine, and Creature Teachers. We had a great turnout for a Fairy House program for little children who brought parents and grandparents with gathered "fairy housing" materials such as acorns, bark, fir boughs and berries. They built charming miniature houses in nooks and crannies in the library's back lawn and the children brought family members over to look at their creations for weeks after. It was a charming program and so well received that the children's librarians plan to do it again in the coming year.

Programs for adults included music: a guitar concert, "Kangaralian," in the spring and at Christmastime the Friends hosted Amare Cantare, an a Capella group. We had another very well attended murder mystery play in November which was great for the community since there were so many local people involved; actors, back stage workers, and the Friends group providing refreshments. The Friends held their Booksale on October and shortly thereafter an Ansel Adams talk discussing his life and photos. The Merrimac Garden Club held their annual Book in Bloom event, there were two jewelry programs, and a local Quilters group used the meeting room to judge their creations.

In addition to special library programs and events, the meeting room is also used by a variety of groups; public Town department meetings, the Finance Committee, Zoning Board of Appeals and Conservation Committee. There are scout meetings, Blood Drives, Yoga, Zumba, and local sports committee meetings and signups among others. The meeting room, like the library itself, is a busy and useful place.

Respectfully submitted,

Martina Follansbee  
Library Director



# TOWN OF MERRIMAC INSPECTIONAL SERVICES

2 School Street Merrimac, MA 01860

Ph. (978) 346-0525 Fax (978) 346-0522

## 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED	CALENDAR YEAR		+/-	
	2014	2013		
New 1+2 Family Dwellings (R4)	27	27	0	
Residential: Addition/Remodel (R4)	192	180	12	
Accessory Building / Barn / Detached Garage	3	5	-2	
Fireplace & Wood/Coal/Pellet Stove (independent)	2	3	-1	
Swimming Pools: In-ground + Above-ground	9	5	4	
New/Replacement Manufactured Housing (M.H.)	4	3	1	
Permit for Temporary Housing Unit	0	0	0	
Trench Permits	13	8	5	
Sheet Metal Permits	27	18	9	
Commercial: New / Addition / Remodel	16	12	4	
Multi-family Dwelling: R3, R2, R1 (Building, not dwelling units)	0	0	0	
Municipal Projects	1	4	-3	
Demolition Permit	4	9	-5	% Change
Pending Permit	24	0	24	
<b>NUMBER OF BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>18%</b>
Amount collected from building permits issued	\$85,034.50	\$90,220.00		
Addendum to open building permit, fees collected	\$300.00	\$676.71		
Trench permits, fees collected	\$450.00	\$240.00		
Mechanical permit fees collected	\$1,620.00	\$1,080.00		
Municipal Projects, fees collected	\$0.00	\$3,901.00		
Copy and miscellaneous, fees collected	\$27.50	\$196.00		
Occupancy and Use certificate	\$700.00	\$1,000.00		
Inspections: 780CMR, §106 and MGL c.138, § 11E	\$280.00	\$160.00	+/-	% Change
<b>Total Building Permit Fees</b>	<b>\$88,412.00</b>	<b>\$99,497.00</b>	<b>-\$11,085.00</b>	<b>-11%</b>
<b>Total Wiring Permit Fees</b>	<b>\$18,793.00</b>	<b>\$31,319.00</b>	<b>-\$12,526.00</b>	<b>-40%</b>
<b>Total Plumbing Permit Fees</b>	<b>\$11,595.00</b>	<b>\$9,700.00</b>	<b>\$1,895.00</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Total Gas Permit Fees</b>	<b>\$7,885.00</b>	<b>\$6,560.00</b>	<b>\$1,325.00</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Total Enforcement Action Fees</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>	<b>-\$150.00</b>	<b>-75%</b>
<b>TOTAL DEPARTMENT FEES</b>	<b>\$128,220.00</b>	<b>\$148,468.00</b>	<b>-\$20,248.00</b>	<b>-14%</b>
<b>Fees Waived by Selectmen</b>	<b>\$1,485.00</b>	<b>\$1,192.00</b>		
<b>TOTAL COLLECTED REVENUE</b>	<b>\$126,735.00</b>	<b>\$147,276.00</b>	<b>-\$20,541.00</b>	<b>-14%</b>

Submitted By: Robert S. Sinibaldi, Building Commissioner / Zoning Enforcement Officer (D.W.)

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MERRIMAC WATER DEPARTMENT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2014**

**NEW CONNECTIONS:** During FY2014 there were 3 new homes connected to the town's water system, bringing the total number of connections to 1,827.

**PRIVILEGE FEE:** \$4,800.00 was collected during FY2014 from individuals and developers for new service connections and deposited to Water Department Privilege Fee account. MWD utilizes this funding for various improvements to our distribution system.

**SURPLUS FUNDS:** MWD ended FY14 with a surplus of \$ 223,836.55. Those funds will be added to our Water Capital account which is used for capital improvements.

**WELL CLEANING:** Wells at both East Main and Bear Hill well fields were cleaned. The well cleaning, completed by F.G. Sullivan Co. is performed to improve pumping capacity and water quality.

**ANNUAL PUMPING STATISTICS:**

Gallons pumped from Bear Hill and East Main	127,942,700	an increase of 7,498,000 from FY13
Gallons sold to customers	109,104,677	an increase of 2,364,617 from FY13
Gallons plant backwash	1,991,100	
Gallons unaccounted for	16,846,923	13% of all water pumped could not be accounted for. Causes: Fire protection, flushing, inaccurate meters, water theft and minor leaks not detectable and 7 water main breaks as well as flushing of our new water main being install through the downtown area by Newport Construction

**IN THE FUTURE:** Some parts of the distribution system have experienced low water pressures under various flow conditions that can create undesirable water quality. The addition of three water booster pump stations in several key locations of town are in the engineering stage and should help remedy most of these low water pressure issues. This project will be well underway by the end of this year.

The Town Square project started in the spring of 2014 and will include the replacement of water mains on Main Street from Liberty Street to Union Street as well as part of School Street and Lancaster Court, plus newly installed water mains on Fairfield Ave. and Littles Court. These upgrades include not only pipe improvements but also include valves and gates improvements. Firefighting capabilities will be improved via the installation of all new hydrants. As well as new services from the water main to the curb stop for years of worry free service.

The DPW would like to thank all the residents of the town for their patience during this project.

The governing rules of the EPA and DEP are always changing and to keep up we have to implement new rules and procedures to comply. Without the support of the employees of the

Water Department this would not be possible. My sincere thanks to all employees for their efforts and commitment to water quality throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted

Robert Sinibaldi  
Department of Public Works Director

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WATER DEPARTMENT  
FISCAL YEAR 2014**

Operating beginning balance	\$	161,226
<b>REVENUES</b>		
User fees		951,335
Liens		28,114
Miscellaneous		0
Interest income		1,533
Total revenues	\$	980,982
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
Salaries	\$	287,195
Expenditures		427,910
Debt service		35,035
Total expenditures	\$	750,140
Transfer to Other Post-Employment Benefits	\$	(9,000)
Transfer to projects reserve		(100,000)
Capital expenditures		(32,000)
Transfer from privilege fees		25,000
Capital project excess		4,850
Total transfers	\$	(111,150)
Retained earnings	\$	280,918
<b>CAPITAL PROJECTS</b>		
Beginning fund balance	\$	(837,218)
Project expenditures		(67,983)
Borrowing proceeds		1,048,624
Ending fund balance	\$	143,423
<b>WATER PRIVILEGE</b>		
Beginning fund balance	\$	30,240
Project excess		1,779
Privilege fees		4,800
Interest income		73
Reserved for projects		(25,000)
Ending fund balance	\$	11,892

OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Beginning fund balance	\$	-
Transfer from opertating		9,000
Interest income & changes in market		318
Ending fund balance	\$	<u>9,318</u>

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Sinibaldi  
DPW Director

## SEWER

Honorable Selectmen,

In 2014 we continued with the pump replacement program throughout the lift stations. We replaced two pumps at the Birch Meadows lift station, and two pumps at the West Shore Road lift station. There is still a big issue with inflow/infiltration so we are working with our engineering company, SGC Engineering (Mike Roy), to locate and repair the leaks.

There is a new development currently going in called Freedom Way; we had Mike Roy (SGC) review the plans for the sewer system to make sure that it will be installed according to our sewer bylaws. Cormier Way tied into the sewer system, and we inspected that installation to comply with our sewer bylaw.

The generator at the Long Pond lift station (1) was replaced, and the lift station at Orchard Acres was refurbished. The upgrade for the Attitash lift station was completed, and the punch list was completed, and is now fully operational

We have a disc aeration system which is thirty two years old and is costing a lot of money in maintenance. We are looking into replacing this system with a mechanical aeration system which will save a lot of money as it runs much more efficiently to maintain the DO level and mixing that we need.

We had to replace the VFD on side #1 because it went down, and we had no way of controlling the air level in the three ditches.

We had an operator retire, Robert Silva, who we wish well in retirement and we hired Pat Buzzell, who had a grade 3M license. Within a year Pat obtained his grade 5C license.

We dewatered 58.8 dry metric tons of sludge and sent it to Agresource in Ipswich to make compost, and did several Dig Safes throughout the year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Sinibaldi  
Department of Public Works Director

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SEWER DEPARTMENT  
FISCAL YEAR 2014**

Operating beginning balance	\$	633,398
REVENUES		
User fees		966,580
Liens		44,035
Fees		1,110
Licenses & permits		1,225
Inflow & infiltration fees		10,000
Interest income		3,789
Total revenues		1,026,739
EXPENDITURES		
Salaries		326,738
Expenditures		442,554
Debt service		208,584
Total expenditures		977,876
Transfer to Other Post-Employment Benefits		(30,000)
Transfer from betterment		50,000
Transfer to projects reserve		(52,900)
Total transfers		(32,900)
Retained earnings		649,361
BETTERMENT		
Beginning balance		81,194
Fees, interest, other		50,733
Reserved for expenditures		(50,000)
Ending fund balance		81,927
INFLOW & INFILTRATION		
Beginning balance		212,662
Fees		10,000
Ending fund balance		222,662
SEWER CAPITAL FUND		
Beginning balance		167,616
Connection fees		9,800
Interest income		330
Ending fund balance		177,746

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Beginning balance	(33,263)
Borrowing proceeds	604,301
Expenditures	(455,052)
Ending fund balance	<u>115,986</u>

OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Beginning balance	0
Transfers from operating	30,000
Interest income & changes in market	1,061
Ending fund balance	<u>31,061</u>

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Sinibaldi  
DPW Director

**MERRIMAC MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT  
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2014**

The Board of Light Commissioners and General Manager are pleased to submit the Annual Report of the Merrimac Municipal Light Department (“MMLD”) for the year 2014.

**NEW SERVICES**

During 2014 there were a total of 20 new electrical services added to the MMLD's electric distribution system. The total number of electric meters in service at year's end was 2,850.

**SYSTEM RELIABILITY**

The MMLD is committed to providing the best electric service to the Town of Merrimac residents. The MMLD strives to provide safe and reliable power by continuing capital improvements of the system, in turn, reducing the major industry accepted indexes used to track the reliability of electric systems.

During 2014 the MMLD’s system experienced a total of 25 outages, which affected a total of 9,165 customers. Quick response to these outages, by the MMLD’s crews, resulted in 92% of the total number of customers interrupted being restored in less than 60 minutes, 6% restored between 61 and 120 minutes and only 2% restored in more 2 hours. Additionally, 32% of the total number of outages were caused by animal interference and 16% caused by weather related events.

The System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI) measures the number of minutes, on average, a Merrimac customer is without power. The System Average Frequency Index (SAIFI) measures the average frequency of interruptions for a Merrimac customer. The Customer Average Interruption Duration Index (CAIDI) indentifies the average length of time, in minutes, that a customer who is interrupted can expect that interruption to last. All the indexes results, for both the combination of equipment and non-equipment related outages are found in Table 1 below.

<b>SAIDI</b>	<b>SAIFI</b>	<b>CAIDI</b>	<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF OUTAGES</b>
104.55	3.107	34	25

*Table 1*

One of the MMLD’s Capital projects during 2014 was the routing of the 23 kV supply line, from Emery Street to the Mill Street Substation, through East Main Street. The Mill Street Substation carries about 75% of the Town’s electrical load and was being fed by a 23 kV line coming down a wooded Right-Of-Way very difficult to access by our line trucks, if repairs were necessary. Now, there is a backup line that is easily accessible. This was a major reliability improvement and one that will reduce outages that would have lasted hours, to just minutes now.

## POWER SUPPLY

The MMLD continues to work with Energy New England, who manages the MMLD's energy portfolio, to ensure energy contracts are in place to cover the Town's energy needs for future years. This is a difficult task especially because of the congested energy load zone that the Town is part of. Power congestion in the Northeast Massachusetts ("NEMA") and old power plants coming offline have been driving energy, transmission and capacity costs up. This is a problem that is affecting both the municipal and Investor-owned electric utilities in this region and it will be getting worse before it gets better. As a result, electric rates have started going up in many communities. The MMLD's power costs, due to Transmission and Capacity expenses, are projected to increase from \$1,060,473, in 2014, to \$2,090,716 by 2019.

The department has been able to have a good portion of renewable energy in its energy portfolio, which includes the local 1.5 MW solar farm installation, hydro power from the Miller Hydro plant, and wind power from the Spruce Mountain and Saddleback Ridge projects.

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE TOWN

Based on preliminary results of year 2014, the Municipal Light Department will be providing the Town with the following contributions for Payment in Lieu of Taxes:

<b>Cash Payment:</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>
<b>Unbilled Streetlight Usage:</b>	<b><u>\$24,122.55</u></b>
<b>Total PILOT Payment</b>	<b>\$34,122.55</b>

## COMMUNITY

The Merrimac Municipal Light Department is a Public Utility, that means it is owned by its rate payers and not by a board of directors like the investor owned utilities. That means that when you call or come into the office you get to talk to a person, someone who will help you with questions that you may have about your bill or your electric service. We at the Municipal Light Department are here to serve the community.

During 2014 the MMLD conducted an electrical safety program at the Helen R. Donaghue School. These type of programs, conducted by our Public Safety Coordinator, have the objective of teaching the young population in our community about the possible electric hazards at home or outside and how to stay safe and make others safe when dangerous electrical situations are encountered.

The MMLD, in 2014, contributed \$3,005.00 to cover a portion of the cost of the Code RED system being used in Town. In addition, the MMLD continues to work in collaboration with other departments, assisting them with the use of some of our equipment and electrical expertise.

In December of 2014, the MMLD assisted the Santa Committee hanging reefs at the Town Hall building and strung the lights for the annual Christmas lighting event at the Kimball Park, which has become a family tradition well enjoyed and attended by hundreds in the community.

## GENERAL MANAGER, STAFF AND COMMISSIONERS

Both the MMLD's staff and Commissioners continue to be dedicated to having a municipal light department that provides safe and reliable electricity to the Town while managing to maintain rates stable in an energy market where costs are continually changing.

The MMLD's General Manager, together with the staff, has been able to cut down expenses in different areas of the operation and will continue to look for other areas where expenses can be reduced.

In 2014, the MMLD's General Manager and Commissioners came up with the organization's Mission Statement, which will serve as the department's guide in the day to day operations.

**"The Merrimac Municipal Light Department ("MMLD") exists to provide its owner, the Town of Merrimac's ratepayers, safe and reliable electricity at a reasonable and competitive rate that sustains the healthy operations of the department, and the maintenance, expansion and modernization of the electrical distribution system. This mission will be accomplished by a staff of responsible, dedicated and customer-oriented employees with superior work ethics, skills and professionalism."**

Respectfully submitted,

Francisco A. Frias, General Manager

Board of Light Commissioners

Norman Denault

Term Expires 2017

Larry Fisher

Term Expires 2015

Robert Handerson

Term Expires 2015

**MERRIMAC MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT  
STATEMENT OF INCOME FOR THE YEAR 2014**

	Current Year	Increase or (Decrease) from Preceding Year	
<b>OPERATING INCOME</b>			
400 Operating Revenue .....	4,495,989.62	(7,600.33)	4,503,589.95
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>			
401 Operation Expense .....	3,835,689.43	124,913.78	3,710,775.65
402 Maintenance Expense .....	177,521.87	3,344.55	174,177.32
403 Depreciation Expense.....	287,159.28	8,745.63	278,413.65
<b>Total Operating Expenses.....</b>	<b>4,300,370.58</b>	<b>137,003.96</b>	<b>4,163,366.62</b>
<b>Operating Income.....</b>	<b>195,619.04</b>	<b>(144,604.29)</b>	<b>340,223.33</b>
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>			
415 Income from Merchandising, Jobbing and Contract Work.....			
419 Interest Income.....	51,936.17	35,520.64	16,415.53
421 Miscellaneous Nonoperating Income.....			
<b>Total Income.....</b>	<b>247,555.21</b>	<b>(109,083.65)</b>	<b>356,638.86</b>
<b>INTEREST CHARGES</b>			
427 Interest on Bonds and Notes.....	40,950.00	(3,000.00)	43,950.00
431 Other Interest Expense.....			
<b>Total Interest Charges.....</b>	<b>40,950.00</b>	<b>(3,000.00)</b>	<b>43,950.00</b>
<b>NET INCOME.....</b>	<b><u>206,605.21</u></b>	<b><u>(106,083.65)</u></b>	<b>312,688.86</b>
	Debits	Credits	
208 Unappropriated Earned Surplus (at beginning of period).....		4,216,778.55	
433 Balance Transferred from Income.....		206,605.21	
434 Miscellaneous Credits to Surplus.....		60,730.62	
435 Miscellaneous Debits to Surplus.....	615,396.25		
436 Appropriations of Surplus.....	34,122.52		
437 Surplus Applied to Depreciation.....			
208 Unappropriated Earned Surplus (at end of period).....	<u>3,834,595.61</u>		
	<u>4,484,114.38</u>	<u>4,484,114.38</u>	

**MERRIMAC ELECTRIC LIGHT DEPARTMENT  
COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET 2014**

<b>ASSETS</b>	Balance Beginning of Year	Balance End of Year	Increase or (Decrease)
<b>UTILITY PLANT</b>			
101 Utility Plant - Electric	4,847,303.30	4,602,299.90	(245,003.40)
<b>FUND ACCOUNTS</b>			
125 Sinking Funds	719.17	719.17	-
126 Depreciation Fund	2,298,611.47	2,475,719.62	177,108.15
126 Rate Stabilization Fund	274,609.05	277,381.67	2,772.62
126 Bond Fund	-	-	-
127 OPEB Trust Fund	-	55,406.87	55,406.87
<b>CURRENT AND ACCRUED ASSETS</b>			
131 Cash	17,015.80	10,402.88	(6,612.92)
132 Special Deposits	74,399.28	78,198.90	3,799.62
132 Working Funds	200.00	200.00	-
142 Customer Accounts Receivable	198,742.66	165,512.00	(33,230.66)
143 Other Accounts Receivable			
146 Receivables from Municipality			
151 Materials and Supplies	15,001.94	15,001.94	-
165 Prepayments	22,321.31	32,187.31	9,866.00
165 Prepayments CTC charge	400,803.67	400,833.91	30.24
165 Employee Pension Prepayment	-	74,642.72	74,642.72
<b>DEFERRED DEBITS</b>			
183 Other Deferred Debits	<u>381.84</u>	<u>478.42</u>	<u>96.58</u>
<b>Total Assets and Other Debits</b>	<u><u>\$ 8,150,109.49</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 8,188,985.31</u></u>	<u><u>38,875.82</u></u>
 <b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>SURPLUS</b>			
206 Loans Repayments	1,591,707.96	1,741,707.96	150,000.00
207 Appropriations for Construction Repayments	8,889.05	8,889.05	-
208 Unappropriated Earned Surplus	4,216,778.55	3,834,595.61	(382,182.94)
<b>LONG TERM DEBT</b>			
221 Bonds	1,050,000.00	975,000.00	(75,000.00)
231 Notes Payable	-	-	-
<b>CURRENT AND ACCRUED LIABILITIES</b>			
232 Accounts Payable	294,309.70	216,409.26	(77,900.44)
235 Customer Deposits	74,399.28	78,198.90	3,799.62
242 Miscellaneous Current and Accrued Liabilities	381.84	478.42	96.58
<b>DEFERRED CREDITS</b>			
252 Customer Advances for Construction	1,220.67	1,220.67	-
253 OPEB Liability	-	420,063.00	420,063.00
<b>RESERVES</b>			
260 Reserves for Uncollectable Accounts	13,586.20	13,586.20	-
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS IN AID OF CONSTRUCTION</b>			
271 Contributions in Aid of Construction	<u>898,836.24</u>	<u>898,836.24</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total Liabilities and Other Credits</b>	<u><u>\$ 8,150,109.49</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 8,188,985.31</u></u>	<u><u>38,875.82</u></u>

## 2014 MERRIMAC PLANNING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

In calendar year 2014 development in the town under the authority of the Planning Board continued at a steady pace and the Board continued to attend to other aspects of its role of overseeing land use and development.

The end of year status of ongoing projects approved by the Board and subject to continued construction oversight is:

- Poplar Hill subdivision, an Open Space Residential Development off Middle Road, was sold and construction has begun.
- Merrimac Solar field on a parcel off of E. Main Street, a project of Con Edison in partnership with Merrimac Light Department, has been completed and is producing electricity.
- Madison Way, an Open Space Residential Development off Highland Road, is finished except for final paving with anticipated recommendation for acceptance of the road at the 2015 Annual Town Meeting.
- Quail Ridge sub-division off of Battis Road is three-quarters built out and in the process of being sold. The Board is ensuring that the surety bond has sufficient funds to cover any uncompleted infrastructure.

New development projects presented at a public hearing for a Special Permit in the past year include:

- Over 55 housing at 106-108 East Main Street was approved for a Special Permit and Site Plan Review and construction has begun.
- Public hearing opened in December for an Open Space Residential Development sub-division at 22 Bear Hill Road.

In other business, a request for Site Plan Review for 12 Bartlett Street was withdrawn after legal review. The Board granted three new Approval Not Required (ANRs) during the year. The Board collected \$1,450 in filing fees for its review activities in 2013.

The Board held a public hearing for zoning by-law amendments to make the following changes: (1) notification by regular mail of abutters for Site Plan Review; (2) zoning map correction for depicting the Rural Agriculture Preservation Overlay; and (3) provisions for the size and location of accessory structures. The latter was tabled at Town meeting and the remaining changes were approved.

The Board reorganized in May and voted John Thomas as MVPC Commissioner, Ron Barnes as Vice Chair, and Sandra Venner as Chair. Sandra Venner also continues to serve as chair of the Affordable Housing Board of Trustees.

As always, the Board is grateful for the professionalism and dedication of its secretary, Patricia True, who not only serves the Board well but the entire community.

Respectfully submitted by

Sandra Venner, Chairperson  
Merrimac Planning Board

Karol Flannery	Term expires 2015
Dennis Brodie	Term expires 2016
John Thomas	Term expires 2017
Ronald Barnes	Term expires 2018
Sandra Venner	Term expires 2019



**TOWN OF MERRIMAC  
FINANCE DIRECTOR**

4 School Street  
Merrimac, MA 01860  
Phone (978) 346-0524  
Fax (978) 346-8863

E-Mail: [cmcleod@townofmerrimac.com](mailto:cmcleod@townofmerrimac.com)

**Honorable Board of Selectmen  
Town of Merrimac  
Massachusetts, 01860**

Honorable Selectmen,

In accordance with the requirements of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Annual Financial Report of the Town Accountant for the Town of Merrimac, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014 is herewith submitted.

The data represents a fair and accurate presentation in all material aspects of the Town's financial position and the results of its operations. Disclosures necessary to enable the reader to gain an understanding of the Town's financial affairs have been presented. Included are schedules on debt issue and servicing, a detailed listing of revenues and expenditures, a balance sheet for all fund types and account groups, and a combined statement of cash flows.

The reports are based on information recorded using the Uniform Municipal Accounting System (UMAS) of the Massachusetts Department of Revenue. The same information is used to prepare the Schedule A.

An audit of the Town's financial records by Bill Fraher, C.P.A., has been completed and the results of this audit are available in my office for public inspection. The books of the Town are also open for public inspection during normal business hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. McLeod  
Finance Director

**TOWN OF MERRIMAC  
GENERAL LONG TERM DEBT ACTIVITY  
FISCAL YEAR 2014**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Issue Date</b>	<b>Interest Rate</b>	<b>Original Amount</b>	<b>Balance 7/1/13</b>	<b>Additions</b>	<b>Retired</b>	<b>Balance 6/30/14</b>	<b>Interest Paid 7/1/13-6/30/14</b>
Title V	4/29/1999	0%	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 44,401.60	\$ -	\$ 11,100.40	\$ 33,301.20	\$ -
River Road MWPAT	10/6/1999		\$ 149,856.00	\$ 70,000.00	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 1,233.05
Refunded	10/15/2002	2.5%-4.6%	\$ 4,820,000.00	\$ 150,000.00	\$ -	\$ 150,000.00	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00
Town Hall	10/15/2002	2.5%-4.6%	\$ 2,850,000.00	\$ 1,400,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,400,000.00	\$ -	\$ 54,379.47
Sewer	10/15/2002	2.5%-4.6%	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,942.57
Multi-Purpose Loan	11/15/2003	2%-4.5%	\$ 4,231,000.00	\$ 2,250,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,360,000.00	\$ 890,000.00	\$ 87,933.20
Multi-Purpose Loan	4/15/2007	4.95%	\$ 378,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 1,980.00
Multi-Purpose Loan	2/15/2008	3.56%	\$ 2,380,000.00	\$ 1,695,000.00	\$ -	\$ 165,000.00	\$ 1,530,000.00	\$ 63,025.00
Sewer Port Lift Station	6/3/2009	4.90%	\$ 183,000.00	\$ 36,600.00	\$ -	\$ 36,600.00	\$ -	\$ 1,793.40
Sewer - Ridgefield Rd.	8/23/2010	3.97%	\$ 132,080.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ -	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 85,000.00	\$ 3,650.00
Multi-Purpose Loan	12/3/2013	1.92%	\$ 3,971,000.00	\$ -	\$ 3,971,000.00	\$ -	\$ 3,971,000.00	\$ 23,257.67
<b>Total All</b>				<b>\$ 5,836,001.60</b>	<b>\$ 3,971,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,207,700.40</b>	<b>\$ 6,599,301.20</b>	<b>\$ 242,194.36</b>
<b>Less: Electric</b>	2/15/2008	3.60%	\$ 1,500,000.00	<b>\$ 1,125,000.00</b>		<b>\$ 75,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,050,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 42,450.00</b>
<b>Total Excluding Electric</b>				<b>\$ 4,711,001.60</b>	<b>\$ 3,971,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,132,700.40</b>	<b>\$ 5,549,301.20</b>	<b>\$ 199,744.36</b>

**TOWN OF MERRIMAC**  
**STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES**  
**BUDGETARY BASIS - GENERAL FUND**  
**FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2014**

	Original Budget	Final	Actual (Budgetary Basis)	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
<b>Revenues:</b>				
Property taxes	\$ 10,557,725	\$ 10,557,725	\$ 10,619,278	\$ 61,553
Excise taxes	700,500	700,500	816,980	116,480
Payments in lieu of tax	1,300	1,300	9,000	7,700
Departmental charges for services	439,000	439,000	456,332	17,332
Licenses and permits	60,000	60,000	65,557	5,557
Intergovernmental	937,903	937,903	939,684	1,781
Fines	55,000	55,000	81,242	26,242
Investment income	10,000	10,000	8,523	(1,477)
Other	8,500	8,500	47,712	(39,212)
Transfers from other funds				0
Total Revenue	12,769,928	12,769,928	13,044,308	195,956
<b>Expenditures:</b>				
General government	783,625	805,475	743,898	61,577
Public safety	1,558,339	1,625,939	1,612,404	13,535
Education	7,365,199	7,365,199	7,365,200	(1)
Public works	932,458	1,017,458	949,803	67,655
Human services	355,526	439,326	411,937	27,389
Culture and recreation	265,214	265,214	259,887	5,327
Debt service	637,770	637,770	587,820	49,950
Intergovernmental	156,147	156,147	156,152	(5)
Employee benefits	685,325	685,325	620,170	65,155
Insurance	95,000	95,000	74,244	20,756
Transfers to other funds				0
Total Expenditures	12,834,603	13,092,853	12,781,515	311,338
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	(64,675)	(322,925)	262,793	507,294
<b>Other financing sources (uses):</b>				
Operating transfers in	57,200	57,200	61,329	4,129
Operating transfers out		(146,278)	(146,278)	0
Total other financing sources (uses)	57,200	(89,078)	(84,949)	4,129
Net changes in fund balances	(7,475)	(412,003)	177,844	511,423
Fund balance, beginning of year			665,798	
Fund balance, end of year			843,642	

**TOWN OF MERRIMAC  
COMBINING BALANCE SHEET - NON-MAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
JUNE 30, 2014**

	Special Revenue		Capital Projects	Permanent	Totals
	Grants	Other			
<u>Assets</u>					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ (101,617)	\$ 957,434	\$ 375,856	\$ 78,088	\$ 1,309,761
Investments				354,909	354,909
Receivables:					0
Departmental		57,368			57,368
Due from other governments	157,822				157,822
Total assets	56,205	1,014,802	375,856	432,997	1,879,860
<u>Liabilities</u>					
Warrants and accounts payable	22,437	3,856	311,086		337,379
Accrued payroll	566	6,588			7,154
Notes payable					0
Total liabilities	23,003	10,444	311,086	0	344,533
<u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u>					
Unavailable revenue		28,776			28,776
	0	28,776	0	0	28,776
<u>Fund Balances</u>					
Nonspendable				325,717	325,717
Restricted	33,202	924,993	64,770	107,280	1,130,245
assigned		50,589			50,589
Unassigned					0
Total fund balances	33,202	1,033,134	64,770	432,997	1,564,103
Total liabilities and fund balances	\$ 56,205	\$ 1,014,802	\$ 375,856	\$ 432,997	\$ 1,879,860

**TOWN OF MERRIMAC  
COMBINING STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES  
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES  
NON-MAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2014**

	Special Revenue		Capital Projects	Permanent	Total
	Grants	Other			
<b>Revenues</b>					
Department charges for services		265,842		2,400	268,242
Intergovernmental	378,533				378,533
Investment Income	2	19		9,526	9,547
Other		316,118			316,118
Total revenues	378,535	581,979	0	11,926	972,440
<b>Expenditures</b>					
Current					
General government	7,725	235,792	7,275		250,792
Public safety	34,254	158,985			193,239
Public works	331,743		698,748	25,867	1,056,358
Human services	11,859	61,508			73,367
Recreation and culture	15,662	2,025		1,500	19,187
Total expenditures	401,243	458,310	706,023	27,367	1,592,943
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	(22,708)	123,669	(706,023)	(15,441)	(620,503)
<b>Other financing sources (uses)</b>					
Proceeds from bond issues			893,928		893,928
Operating transfers in					0
Operating transfers out		(11,200)			(11,200)
Total other financing sources (uses)	0	(11,200)	893,928	0	882,728
Net changes in fund balances	(22,708)	112,469	187,905	(15,441)	262,225
Fund balances, beginning of year	55,910	863,113	(123,135)	448,438	1,244,326

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS

The Board of Assessors have been busy this year with the flurry of new construction taking place and will continue as more of the buildings are completed. This means for the Town extra money as new construction can be billed from the time of their Occupancy Permits instead of waiting a year to pick them up. There are several projects in progress in town; Cormier Way apartment buildings, Poplar Hill Circle and Freedom Way condominiums. Another on West Main Street is just in the beginning of the planning stage as is one on Bear Hill Rd.

This coming fiscal year, 2016, is a recertification year for the Town and the Assessors have begun the work with the Department of Revenue to assure a timely tax rate setting.

The Assessor's clerk, Joyce Clohecy, is retiring this year after 24 years of service to the Town. We wish her the best in her retirement.

### FISCAL YEAR 2015 RECAPITULATION

1.	Tax Rate Summary		
	A. Total Amount to be Raised		\$16,029,245.80
	B. Total Estimated Receipts/Revenue		5,050,229.00
	C. Net Amount to be Raised by Taxation/(Levy)		10,979,016.80
	D. Classified Tax Levies		
	1. Residential	94.9863%	\$10,428,565.11
	2. Open Space	0	0
	3. Commercial	2.8944	317,772.02
	4. Industrial	1.0454	114,777.65
	5. Personal	1.0739	117,902.02
2.	Amounts to be Raised		
	A. Appropriation		\$15,829,719.00
	B. Total Cherry Sheet Offsets		9,448.00
	C. State & County Cherry Sheet Charges		83,926.00
	D. Allowance for Abatements/Exemptions		102,152.80
	Total Amount to be Raised		\$16,029,245.80

#### Estimated Receipts and other Revenue

A.	State	\$ 879,758.00
B.	Local	1,459,800.00
C.	Enterprise funds	2,288,543.00
D.	Free Cash	404,528.00
E.	Other available funds	7,600.00
F.	Municipal Light source	10,000.00
	Total Estimated Receipts	\$5,505,229.00

## ANNUAL REPORT - OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen

As the Town Clerk of the Town of Merrimac, I hereby submit my annual report for the year ending December 31, 2014

### BIRTHS

Number of Births Recorded	50
Males	25
Females	25
Father Native Born	43
Mother Native Born	47
Both Parents Native Born	42
Both Parents Foreign Born	1
Mixed Parentage	5

### MARRIAGES

Number of Marriages Recorded	15
First Marriage, Male	10
First Marriage, female	11
Male Native Born	15
Female Native Born	15
Average Age, Male	35 yrs.
Average Age, Female	33 yrs.

### DEATHS

Number of Deaths Recorded	53
Males	23
Females	30
Under 5 years	3
Males, Native Born	23
Females, Native Born	25
Parents, Native Born	38
Parents, Foreign Born	7
Mixed Parentage	7
Average Age	71 yrs.
Oldest Person	100 yrs.

### LICENSES

Total Dog Licenses	648
Male	26
Female	12
Spade	287
Neutered	323
Kennel Licenses	0

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia E. True  
Town Clerk

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL OFFICER

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen: Activities from January 2014 to December 2014.

### **Dogs:**

Seven hundred thirty-one dogs were licensed in 2014. Under Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 140 § 137 all dogs over six months of age are required to have rabies shot and be licensed.

Twenty-seven dogs were picked up or dropped off at police department. Ten of those dogs were promptly returned to owners. Fourteen dogs were kenneled at Bed and Biscuit and eleven of these dogs were released upon current vaccinations and payment of fines. Four dogs were never claimed they were fostered and placed in good homes. I took custody of a canine that was abandoned on Alnette Road and that dog was adopted out to a great home.

Six dog bites were reported. These dogs were all quarantined for ten days. All of the dogs were current on their vaccinations. Please remember that Rabies shots are required by Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 140 § 145 for the protection of pets and people. We responded to several barking complaints, nuisance and dogs running at large. We issued warnings and citations.

### **Cats:**

Twelve lost cats, only three found, three were hit by cars, two claimed. Keeping cats indoors is the best avenue in keeping your pet alive and well.

### **Wildlife:**

We received many calls about raccoons, skunks, squirrels, and other small wildlife that were found to be a nuisance. To avoid these animals, I suggest that residents remove any food in your yard and keep garbage cans covered. We responded to five calls for bats in the house. All of them were caught and sent to the lab for rabies testing. I am happy to report that they all were tested negative for the rabies virus. We removed one squirrel, six opossums, two porcupines, and one fox that was trapped in a cement sewer containment cylinder.

We responded to a horse that had broken its fence, run onto Rt. 110 and was struck by a car. Unfortunately, the horse died as a result of the crash. The owners were present and we were able to get the horse back on to the owner's property.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Young-Carey, ACCO

## 2014 ANNUAL REPORT OF CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

As in other years, departments were asked to submit forms documenting their capital requests for FY'15 and the next five years to the Capital Planning Committee (CPC). For consideration as a capital item the request must have an anticipated life duration of at least five years and an initial cost of \$10,000 or more. In February the committee met with the departments and reviewed supporting documents to determine its recommendations. The criteria applied for developing recommendations in order of priority are: a) necessary to respond to state or federal mandate; b) public health and/or safety consideration; and c) operational necessity.

At the Special Town Meeting on April 28, 2014, the CPC recommended that \$114,300 be expended from Free Cash for capital items for Town departments. It was also recommended that \$48,759 from Free Cash be appropriated for the Capital Stabilization Fund. The Committee recommended that the remaining Free Cash of \$97,519 be appropriated to the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund. The CPC also supported three articles related to repairs at the Pentucket Regional Middle and High Schools and the Sweetsir Elementary School. Other recommended expenditures were transfers from the Waste Water Treatment retained revenue account and the Water Departments' privilege fees for equipment purchases and systems upgrades for a total of \$177,900. At the Annual Town Meeting held on the same date, the Committee recommended entering into a lease agreement for the purchase of a backhoe. All recommendations were voted affirmatively.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Venner, Chairperson  
Janet Bruno, Vice Chairperson  
Richard LeSavoy, Representing the Finance Committee  
Rick Pinciario, Representing the Board of Selectman  
Carol Traynor

## MERRIMAC CONSERVATION COMMISSION 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

The primary function of the Conservation Commission is to protect and preserve wetland resource areas as defined in the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act (M.G.L Chapter 131, Section 40) and the Merrimac Wetland Protection Bylaw. Since Colonial times, Massachusetts has lost nearly one third of its wetlands to development. The loss of wetlands means the loss of the vital benefits they provide. These benefits include the protection of water quality for Merrimac's surface and ground waters, stormwater and flood damage protection, and the protection of wildlife and plant habitat.

The Commission works to protect the Town's natural resources in accordance with the Act and the Town Bylaw. The Conservation Commission is composed of seven members who serve as unpaid volunteers, who are assisted by a part-time Wetland Agent. The Commission generally meets once a month on the first Wednesday of the month to conduct regular business and public hearings on proposed projects under the Commission's jurisdiction. When necessary, the Commission schedules special meetings and site visits to review projects. During the course of this year 11 regular meetings were held, 8 site visits were conducted, and the Commission held 1 special meeting. There were 9 projects filed with the Commission, primarily involving construction of subdivision roads and utilities, new single-family homes, and additions to existing buildings throughout Merrimac. In addition to reviewing proposed projects submitted by property owners, the Commission addresses work that affects wetlands conducted without the required permits. In 2014, 2 enforcement orders were issued to property owners regarding work undertaken in violation of the Act and the Town Bylaw. A member of the Commission also participates in the Site Plan Review Committee under Merrimac's Zoning bylaw.

The Commission continues to implement the additional protection measures provided in the Merrimac Wetland Protection Bylaw and the Merrimac Wetland Protection Regulations when considering proposed projects in Town. The Bylaw was adopted at Town Meeting in the fall of 2003, and it became effective in late 2003. The regulations include a number of provisions to strengthen protection of Merrimac's wetlands beyond what is addressed in Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act including:

1. Provide added protection to wetlands with no or limited protection by state law such as isolated wetlands and vernal pools--wetlands that hold water in the spring long enough to provide critical breeding habitat for frogs, salamanders and other aquatic life and most dry up by mid-summer. Vernal pools are rare in the landscape. Many vernal pools are small, isolated wetlands that have little or no protection under the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act.
2. Establish a no-disturb zone surrounding wetlands to protect wetlands from new development and encroachment from existing development.
3. Allow the Commission to issue fines to irresponsible property owners who ignore Wetlands Protection regulations and orders issued by the Commission and damage wetland resources.

4. Allow the town to charge reasonable application fees to defray the cost of administering the Bylaw.

If you are contemplating any work within 100 feet of a wetland or within 200 feet of any river or stream that flows year-round (such as the Merrimack River and Cobblers Brook), you need to consult with the Commission prior to undertaking any work.

Wetlands are an important resource to the Town of Merrimac. They protect, filter, and provide the high quality of water in our water supply wells. They protect and support fish and wildlife in Lake Attitash, the Merrimack River, and other water bodies in town. They provide habitat and food sources for the birds, reptiles, amphibians and other animals that make Merrimac a unique place to live. They provide large tracts of open and undeveloped land that make up the quality of life we all enjoy in Merrimac. The Commission is eager to assist landowners in their decisions about whether and how to proceed with a project near wetlands. We encourage all residents to contact us regarding any questions or concerns related to the Towns wetland resources. The Commission is always looking for interested citizens that may want to become involved in working to protect the valuable wetland resources we all share in Merrimac. The Commission is currently looking for additional members, so if you have an interest or expertise in protecting wetlands please contact any of the Commission members, or just attend one of the meetings, to get involved.

Respectfully Submitted,

MERRIMAC CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Robert Prokop, Chairman

Mary Hess, Member

Gregory Hockmuth, Member

Jon Pearson, Member

Janet Terry, Member

Arthur Yarranton, Member

Jay Smith, Agent

## BOARD OF HEALTH, 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

The Board of Health meetings are held on an as-needed basis. We may be contacted at 978-346-4066 or at [boh@townofmerrimac.com](mailto:boh@townofmerrimac.com). The office is staffed fourteen hours per week, divided into two or three part-time days.

During 2014, the Board of Health has continued to participate in Homeland Security and the Emergency Preparedness Plan, and for these efforts we receive supplemental funding from the Regional Coalition. Deborah Ketchen, Health Agent, and Charlotte E. Stepanian, Public Health Nurse, are our primary representatives and contacts in this program.

**Deborah Ketchen** has been our Health Inspector since March 2006, and was a former board member from 1999 to February, 2006. In 2012 she received her Bachelor of Arts Degree, majoring in Homeland Security and Emergency Management. This accomplishment was achieved through Ashford University, Clinton, Iowa by enlisting in their distance learning program for a period of 2-plus years.

Debbie regularly attends meetings of the NE Region 3A Coalition where training plans are formulated. She also acts as our representative during hearings that are litigated at the Housing Court. She is responsible for the ultimate enforcement of the Code of Massachusetts Regulations as they pertain to the minimum standards of health and safety. Attributed to the health agent's periodic monitoring, conditions in restaurants and rental units continually improve.

**Russell S. Hussey, Jr.** was elected to a three-year term on the Board of Health in May 2012. He has an extensive background and knowledge in many facets of city boards and departments. He has over twenty years of municipal involvement. He recently has been MAHB Certified as a Board of Health member and is beginning testing for Certificates of Achievement in Incident Command Systems which is an essential requirement regarding Emergency Management and Environmental Health.

**Jason Sargent** was elected to a three-year term on the Board of Health in May 2013. Mr. Sargent is a firm believer in private well water testing at regular intervals to rule out arsenic content. There are some areas of naturally occurring arsenic, and arsenic levels in the private wells could potentially become affected, especially where artesian wells are drilled through bedrock. Mr. Sargent graduated from Oklahoma State University, receiving a Degree of Bachelor of Science in Agronomy from the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. His broad knowledge of many facets of our environment is an invaluable asset to the Board of Health and to the town.

**Eileen Hurley**, Chairperson, has served on the Board since 2000 and is also the Office Administrator since 1999. She is MAHB Certified, and assists contractors and the general public by responding to their questions and requirements. Several responsibilities include managing the Title V Program, updating records of well installations and water test results throughout the town, maintaining central records and transcribing minutes of meetings.

### Annual Licenses or Permits

Annual application forms and regulations may be obtained at the Board of Health office or on our web site at [www.merrimac01860.info](http://www.merrimac01860.info). Applications and notification of expiration are no longer mailed. Annual license fees are payable by December 31 each year.

Respectfully submitted,

Merrimac Board of Health

Eileen Hurley	Term expires 2017
Jason Sargent	Term expires 2016
Russell S. Hussey, Jr.	Term expires 2015

## MOSQUITO CONTROL PROGRAM INFORMATION

**PESTICIDE EXCLUSION INFORMATION:** To request an exclusion from spraying, supply the Town Clerk with a certified letter providing the name, address and telephone number of the person requesting the exclusion, the address of the property to be excluded, and a description of the types of pesticide application programs for which exclusion is requested. The desires of the owner of the property will take precedence over those of a tenant, according to 333 CMR 13:000. Designations must be made prior to March 1 of each year and shall be effective from April 1 of that year to March 31 of the following year. (333 CMR 13.03, paragraphs 1b & 1c)

For more information on the Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control and Wetlands Management District, call 978-463-6630.

**SURVEILLANCE** and **LARVICIDING** are of the utmost importance, and they comprise the greatest portion of the program cost. This is the regular testing of mosquitoes and birds for the virus, and the application of larvicides to mosquito breeding areas to kill or inhibit the growth of mosquito larvae (the early stage of the mosquito) from developing into the adult form. Continued annual surveillance is an early intervention or preemptive action to prevent a potential mosquito breeding site from becoming an actual mosquito breeding site.

**ADULTICIDING** is a term used by mosquito control to describe spraying for adult or flying mosquitoes. There are two kinds of adulticiding: Aerial, done by aircraft only in the event of a public health emergency; and Ground, sprayed from trucks selectively in accordance with the individual municipality's Best Management Practice Plan (BMP).

Ground Adulticiding is used in today's programs to control the mosquito populations in their aquatic or larval stages. This is accomplished by means of a truck-mounted Ultra Low Volume (ULV) aerosol sprayer. ULV sprays up to six ounces of insecticide per acre, creating a 300- to 400-foot swath. Depending on wind direction this swath will drift off the road; and tiny droplets will impinge on mosquitoes, effectively controlling the mosquitoes in the area.

**Insecticide:** The District uses Anvil (EPA Reg. No. 1021-1688-8329) for ULV applications. The active ingredient, Sumithrin, has a very low toxicity to mammals. This product is registered for use by the US EPA and the Mass. Pesticide Bureau. All District personnel are certified applicators and annually attend seminars to obtain recertification credits.

Most people are not expected to experience any adverse health effects after pesticide spraying for adult mosquito control. This includes pregnant women and unborn children. If a person has any concerns, the Board of Health may be contacted to request that spraying be excluded from the specific property.

Ground sprays do not pose an unreasonable risk to birds or mammals. Since spraying is done in the late evening, the bees and other flying insects are not foraging at that hour and will not be affected.

**West Nile Virus:** The primary mosquito carrier of WNV, *Culex Pipiens*, usually breeds in artificial containers such as catch basins, storm water structures, industrial parks and commercial or agricultural livestock facilities. Regularly empty any water-holding containers on your property such as garbage cans, flower pots, swimming pool covers, watering troughs and birdbaths, and dispose of old tires.

**Information about EEE** and reports of EEE activity in Massachusetts during 2008 can be found on the MDPH website at [www.mass.gov/dph/wnv/wnvl.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dph/wnv/wnvl.htm). Merrimac will continue to work closely with the MDPH Arbovirus Surveillance Program and the NE Massachusetts Mosquito Control Agency on mosquito control and surveillance efforts. Decisions regarding spraying will be made by the Board of Health in cooperation with the Mosquito Control Agency. As long as this program is continued annually, we remain protected from severe outbreaks.

## PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

Public health nursing services for Merrimac continued throughout the 2014 calendar year with the Senior Center serving as my home base. The accessibility and programming at the Senior Center is ideal for interacting with the community as a whole for the practice of population focused health and well-being.

Activities during the year have included but not limited to home visits for weekly medication management, blood pressure monitoring and other health concerns. Weekly public blood pressure clinics are held on Tuesdays at 12:30 PM at the Senior Center and on Wednesdays at the Merri Village activity hall at 1:00 PM.

I continue to serve as Merrimac's representative to the Northeast Public Health Preparedness Coalition. This group is comprised of the 14 communities in the northeast corner of Massachusetts and charged with responding to emerging public health threats and challenges. This past year has required numerous meetings as the Department of Public Health creates a more unified response entity that encompasses all aspects of the health care delivery system. This remains a work in progress at this writing.

Merrimac's Sharps Disposal project remains very active with good community participation. Since our disposal vendor no longer allows heavy duty detergent containers for Sharps disposal, regulation type Sharp's containers are available for a small cost at the Senior Center during regular business hours. Full containers are to be brought to the Senior Center for disposal.

A drug take-back kiosk was purchased during the summer in order to provide an on-going mechanism for the community to dispose of outdated or unused prescription medications. This purchase was triggered by the almost daily requests for how to get rid of meds since "down the toilet" presents an environmental hazard. The kiosk is located in the lobby of the Merrimac Police Department. All residents are urged to bring their unused or outdated medications there for safe disposal. Remove temptation for drug abuse from your homes!

Flu vaccine administration for the current season began on September 30<sup>th</sup> as part of a successful Health Fair at the Senior Center. Several public and by-appointment clinics were held after that date. The vaccine purchased had four subtypes included instead of the usual three found in the regular seasonal vaccine. Hopefully its effectiveness was worth the additional cost.

My monthly health column continues to appear in the Senior Center *Centerpiece* newsletter to provide up-to-date health information for the community. There is always something new to share with the readers. I can be reached by phone at 978-346-9549 for health related concerns.

Respectfully submitted by Charlotte E. Stepanian, MSN, RN-BC

**ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MERRIMAC HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2014**

To the Citizens of Merrimac:

Similar to other years, in 2014 there were numerous requests for historical information from residents, town officials, state agencies, and other historical affiliates.

A good deal of time and effort was devoted to providing more detailed information and photographs to McClure Planning, LLC of Georgetown, Massachusetts, as they prepared the paper work and documentation to nominate the Merrimac Town Hall, originally named Sargent Hall, for National Register status as a historic building. Unfortunately, information on the status of that application was not available at the time of preparing this report.

Old photographs of well-known Merrimac landmarks, and appropriate captions for each, were supplied again this year for the annual Seabrook Station 2015 emergency public information calendar.

In answering some of the more obscure questions this year, the commission wishes to thank resident genealogist David Grant for his valuable assistance in unearthing detailed information about several individuals that lived in Merrimac more than seventy-five years ago.

Supporting the effort begun last year, individual historical commission members met with local officials in an effort to save from sale or demolition the building at 28 School Street that was built in 1871 and used, originally, as Merrimac's central fire station and later as Merrimac's first Senior Center.

Historical Commission members continue to assist with showing the Merrimac Historical Museum to the general public on Sundays, May-October, from 2-4 P.M. and during the Old Home Day weekend. For Old Home Day this year, commission member Evelyn Calnan created an excellent exhibit of items to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Francis Scott Key composing the words to the National Anthem during the bombardment of Fort McHenry in the War of 1812.

Very regretfully we must report that the town of Merrimac has lost one of its most avid and loyal historical enthusiasts by the unexpected and sudden death of longtime Historical Commission member Evelyn M. Calnan on December 7, 2014, at the age of 91 years. Space here will not allow for a full account of Evelyn's tireless activity to preserve and protect the rich history of Merrimac. The best single example of her dynamic involvement would be the fact that Evelyn was the chairman of the Merrimac Centennial Commission that worked for four years to conduct a series of gala events in 1976 to celebrate the town's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of incorporation. Along with her keen interest in local history, Evelyn was a kind, generous, and caring individual with very many dear friends from all walks of life. She will be greatly missed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey W. Hoyt, *Chairman*

Evelyn M. Calnan

Yvonne D. Cosgrove

(deceased 12-7-14)

## MERRIMAC COUNCIL ON AGING ANNUAL REPORT FY14

When asked to describe what the Senior Center (Council on Aging) means to them, one senior said, "Without the center, I wouldn't survive. They give me rides, I get great meals and make new friends."

We are proud that for a small town we are able to provide a gamut of services, programs and activities, making us one of the best centers in the state. To that end, we work closely in partnership with other town departments and state departments to whom we would like to thank: the Merrimac Fire and Police Departments, the Merrimac Public Health Nurse, Merrimac Light Department, Merrimac Cultural Council, and the Merrimac DPW; Essex County Sheriff's Dept., Executive Office of Elder Affairs, Elder Services of Merrimack Valley, Community Action, Merrimac Housing Authority We are also grateful for the support from local residents and businesses including Northern Essex Elder Transport (NEET), Merrimack Valley Health Center, MA Commission for the Blind, the Merrimac Lions club, Steven St. Germain, DDS, and AARP.

We cannot stress enough the importance of volunteers, without whom the senior center would not be able to function. The Senior Center Staff consists of: Laura Dillingham-Mailman, Executive Director and Ann Murphy, Administrative Assistant both full time employees. In addition, we have Eileen Murray, Cook (PPT), Geraldine Morenski, Outreach Coordinator; Charlotte Eileen Stepanian, Public Health Nurse; Dorothy Spinney, Kitchen Aide; Sandy Blanchet, Volunteer Coordinator; Nicholas Fiorello, Transportation Coordinator and Van Driver, David Hall, Van Driver and Herbert Sayers. In January of 2014, Ann Murphy replaced long time Administrative Assistant Joyce Gariepy who retired in November, 2013. We would like to thank Joyce for her years of service and wish her a wonderful retirement.

Since most of the staff works part time, it is with special thanks to the volunteers who fill in the gaps, including all staffers who work many extra, unpaid hours. Volunteers lend their expertise and time as drivers, receptionists, dispatchers, kitchen assistants, food pantry organizers, trip leaders, group leaders, tax assistance, craft fair organizers and craft shop operators and handy men & women providing over **8,000 Volunteer hours** of service to the Senior Center. The Senior Center Crafters Showcase and annual Holiday Fair have provided local talented seniors with a way to sell their wares, and support the Senior Center by generously donating 10 per cent of their earnings.

The HVAC system that has plagued the Senior Center with problems was replaced this year and we are pleased to report that things are heating up and cooling down as they should be! We expect this to bring a cost savings to the town.

The Senior Center reception area has been redesigned, adding a much needed office and enclosing the reception area to allow for additional working space. Room dividers were also purchased that allow us to use the large activity room for more than one purpose.

The Council on Aging core programs offered through the Senior Center are: Nutrition (congregate meal site, food pantry); Transportation (COA van and NEET volunteer drivers);

Outreach (Identifies Needs, Case Management, Home Visits and Calls), Information and Referrals; and Health & Wellness (Intellectual, Social, Emotional, Vocational, Spiritual, and Physical); and Activities and Services offered at the Senior Center include (but are not limited to):

Bingo (M)	Free Birthday Lunch
Blood Pressure Clinic	Hearing Clinics
Breakfast with the Chiefs	Holiday Parties
Bridge (T)	Host site for AA groups (W/TH/F)
Book Club (3 <sup>rd</sup> F)	Intergenerational Program
Bowling at Leo's (F)	LGBT Social Connections (3 <sup>rd</sup> TH of month at 6:30)
Chair Yoga (W)	Line Dancing (F)
Congregate Meals (M-F)	Podiatry Clinic
Crafters Gift Shoppe (M-TH)	Poker (TH)
Cribbage	Pool (M-F)
Cross Stitch (T)	Powerful Tools for Caregivers Class
Cultural and Educational Events	Quilting
Crochet & Knitting (T)	Rug Hooking
Low Vision Support Group	Seasonal Events
Lunch Club (3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri of month)	Senior Tax Work Off
Medical Equipment Lending Program	Travel Club
Men's Group (2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday s)	Tai Chi
Movies at the Center	Tax Preparation (seasonal)
Newsletter Committee	Trips
<b>Our Neighbors' Table</b> Food Pantry Site	Volunteer Opportunities
Painting Classes	Yoga (W-4 pm)
Peggy's Senior Food Pantry a Partner of	Wii (T)
ONT Exercise (M/W/TH)	Zumba
Flu Clinics	(Host site for AA Meetings)
45's Card Game (T)	
Friends of COA	

**COA Board of Directors:**

Colleen Ranshaw-Fiorello, Chairwoman  
Nancy Bachelder, Food Pantry Coordinator  
Natalie Christie  
David Dutton  
Betty Elliott

Dorothy Lumsden  
James Murphy  
Carol Ranshaw  
Lucy St. Pierre  
Sgt. David Vance

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Dillingham-Mailman,  
C.O.A. Director

## TRUSTEES OF CEMETERIES 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

### To the Honorable Board of Selectmen:

The Trustees meet the third Tuesday of the month at the Cemetery Office, 2 Locust Grove Road.

We again extend our thanks and appreciation for the assistance provided to us by the Highway Department, and especially to Harold White III (Huey) for his invaluable help and his knowledge of all of Merrimac's Cemeteries.

Only five lots were sold in FY2014. We believe this is because so many more people are choosing cremation over full burials, so less space is required.

There were, however, twenty-one burials at Locust Grove.

By far, our largest expense was maintenance and in some cases, removal of trees and shrubs.

The cemeteries are in good condition. We are still concerned with the blight on the two spruce trees at the Veterans' lot, and the difficulty we've had getting grass to grow in Section K. We believe it is because of the water runoff from the hill; we will be looking into having berms installed along the edge of the road there.

We welcomed Sandra Brown to the board.

#### Members:

Patricia Casey	Term Expires 2015
Carol "Sue" Ranshaw	Term Expires 2016
Sandra Brown	Term Expires 2017

Respectfully submitted,

Carol S. Ranshaw, Clerk



# Merrimac Cultural Council

Annual Report - 2014

The Merrimac Cultural Council is a board of local volunteers with demonstrated interest in the cultural life here in Merrimac. Each year the Massachusetts Cultural Council allocates proportional grant amounts to the local cultural councils in cities and towns in Massachusetts. The purpose is to fund projects in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences to benefit the residents of each community. These funds are applied for by non-profit organizations, presenters, or members of the public every October through a grant application process. Financial awards are on a reimbursement basis following completion of the funded activity and submission of receipts.

The Merrimac Cultural Council favors local applicants with established venues or sponsors. We fund arts-related projects when feasible, and encourage new applicants or projects of particular interest to our local community. When reviewing applicants we also consider local needs, a balanced age range and scope of audiences, community involvement, and diversity.

Each year we fund many programs at the library, the Senior Center, and during Old Home Days, among other local venues. Input from the community is always welcome and we encourage new memberships, which are town board appointments approved by the Merrimac Selectmen. Each member is appointed for a three year term and can be reappointed for one additional three year term. At the end of the second term, there must be at least one full year before the member can be reappointed.

For more information, go to <https://www.facebook.com/merrimacculturalcouncil> or call Joyce Audy Zarins at 978-346-8994.

## MEMBERS

Eleanor Hope-McCarthy, Secretary  
*Appointed 12/27/10, 2<sup>nd</sup> Term Expires 6/30/16*

Gillian Corkery Hosman, Grants Coordinator  
*Appointed 12/01/14, 1<sup>st</sup> Term Expires 6/30/17*

Julia Bethmann, Treasurer  
*Appointed 10/20/14, 1<sup>st</sup> Term Expires 6/30/17*

Joyce Audy Zarins, Chairperson  
*Appointed 12/01/10- 2<sup>nd</sup> Term Expires 6/30/16*

Laura Champion

*Appointed 3/02/15, 1st Term Expires 6/30/18*

Christina Corkery

*Appointed 11/03/14, 1st Term Expires 6/30/17*

Aysim Dalmau

*Appointed 02/11/15, 1st Term Expires 6/30/18*

### **Non-Voting Members**

Mary Gage Cogswell

Thelma Gibbs

### **AWARDED APPLICATIONS FOR 2015:**

#### **Davis Bates/ Senior Center**

Celebrating New England: A Performance for Seniors - \$350

#### **Helen R. Donaghue School**

Plimoth Plantation and the Mayflower II - \$300

#### **Pentucket Regional High School**

The Paul Revere Bell - \$440

#### **Beverly Mitchell/Senior Center**

Drawing and Painting - \$400

#### **Merrimac Public Library**

The Fairy Tale Players - \$425

#### **Merrimac Public Library**

The Whalemobile - \$425

#### **Merrimack Valley Concert Band**

Concert in celebration of Merrimac Old Home Days - \$750

#### **Pentucket Arts Foundation**

Mayhem Poets 2 Day Workshops & Performances - \$400

#### **Newburyport Chamber Music Festival**

Summer Festival - \$500

#### **On Stage, Inc., d/b/a Theater in the Open**

Spring 2015 Panto Production - \$350

#### **Newburyport Literary Association, Inc.**

Newburyport Literary Festival - \$300

**Open Air Sculpture Group**

Outdoor Sculpture at Maudslay 2015 - \$250

**Merrimac Public Library**

Exhibits Coordinator - \$550

**Total awards granted in FY2015:      \$5,440**





**OFFICE OF TOWN CLERK, MERRIMAC, MASSACHUSETTS**

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING, APRIL 28, 2014**

**APRIL 28, 2014**

**COPY OF ARTICLE ON WARRANT**

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, 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, 2014 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 thereto.

**COPY OF THE VOTE**

**April 28, 2014**

Article 1. The Town voted to fix the salary and compensation of all elective officers of the Town as provided by Massachusetts General Laws, 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, 2014 and make appropriations for the same, said sums of money so raised, appropriated or transferred to be expended for specific purposes as follows:

Maturing Debt	\$	375,850
Interest on Debt		102,470
Unclassified		939,964
General Government		591,196
Public Safety	1,670,678	
Health & Sanitation		94,195
Highway		620,536
Public Assistance		339,071
Whittier		640,424
Pentucket	7,035,050	
Essex-North Shore		76,888
Library		269,495
Cemetery		48,277
Total Omnibus	12,804,094	

**Hand Vote: Unanimous Motion Approved**

**A True Copy:**

**Attest: Town Clerk**

**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 Enterprise; or take any other action relative thereto.

Salaries	\$	314,802
Expenses	\$	536,128
Debt Service:	\$	206,030
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 1,083,960</b>

And that \$1,083,960 to be raised as follows: Departmental Receipts: \$1,033,960 Wastewater  
Bettenent Fund \$ 50,000

**COPY OF THE VOTE**

**April 28, 2014**

**Article 2.** The Town voted to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to operate the Wastewater Enterprise.

Salaries	\$	314,802
Expenses	\$	536,128
Debt Service:	\$	206,030
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 1,083,960</b>

And that \$1,083,960 to be raised as follows:  
Departmental Receipts: \$ 1,033,960 Wastewater  
Bettenent Fund \$ 50,000

**Hand Vote: Unanimous Motion Approved**

**A True Copy:**

**Attest: Town Clerk**

**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 thereto.

Salaries	\$	296,106
Expenses	\$	429,805
Debt Service	\$	306,772
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,032,683</b>

And that \$ 1,032,683 be raised as follows:  
Departmental Receipts: \$1,032,683

**COPY OF THE VOTE**

**April 28, 2014**

Article 3. The Town voted to raise and appropriate, a sum of money to operate the Water Department Enterprise.

Salaries	\$ 296,106
Expenses	\$ 429,805
Debt Service	\$ 306,772
Total	\$1,032,683

And that \$ 1,032,683 be raised as follows:

Departmental Receipts: \$1,032,683

**Hand Vote: Unanimous Motion Approved**

**A True Copy:**

**Attest: Town Clerk**

**Article 4.** 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 2015; or take any other action relative thereto.

**COPY OF THE VOTE**

**April 28, 2014**

**Article 4.** The Town voted to transfer from available funds, a sum of money in the amount of \$10,000 (Ten thousand) from the Electric Light Operating Balance, said money to be used by the Assessors to reduce the Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2015.

**Hand Vote: Unanimous Motion Approved**

**A True Copy:**

**Attest: Town Clerk**

Article 5. 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 thereto

**COPY OF THE VOTE**

**April 28, 2014**

Article 5. The Town voted to raise and appropriate a sum of money in the amount of \$ 10,740 (Ten thousand seven hundred forty) to be expended by the Board of Assessors to hire a consultant to perform an independent revaluation.

**Hand Vote: Unanimous Motion Approved**

**A True Copy:**

**Attest: Town Clerk**

**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 \$2,600 from available funds known as "Sale of Cemetery Lots", such sum or part thereof, to be expended under the direction of the Cemetery Trustees for the care, improvement and embellishment of said cemeteries, in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 114, Section 15 and Section 25; or take any other action relative thereto.

**COPY OF THE VOTE**

**April 28, 2014**

**Article 6.** The Town voted to transfer from available funds known as "Sale of Cemetery Lots", a sum of money in the amount of \$2,600 (Two thousand six hundred) 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.

**Hand Vote: Unanimous Motion Approved**

**A True Copy:**

**Attest: Town Clerk**

**Article 7.** 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 grant; or take any other action relative thereto.

**COPY OF THE VOTE**

**April 28, 2014**

**Article 7.** The Town voted 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 grant.

**Hand Vote: Unanimous Motion Approved**

**A True Copy:**

**Attest: Town Clerk**

**Article 8.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money in the amount of \$185,000 for Solid Waste Collection and Disposal, Recycling Collection and Leaf Collection; or take any other action relative thereto.

And that \$185,000 be raised as follows:

Raise & Appropriate \$90,000  
Transfer from Trash Offset Receipts  
\$95,000

## COPY OF THE VOTE

April 28, 2014

**Article 8.** The Town voted to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money in the amount of \$185,000 (One hundred eighty five thousand) for Solid Waste Collection and Disposal, Recycling Collection and Leaf Collection.

And that \$185,000 be raised as follows:

Raise & Appropriate \$90,000  
Transfer from Trash Offset Receipts  
\$95,000

**Hand Vote: Unanimous Motion Approved**

**A True Copy:**

**Attest: Town Clerk**

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote pursuant to M.G.L., Chapter 44, Section 44 , Section 53E112, to establish revolving funds for the following departments for the specific purpose outlined below for the Fiscal Year 2015; or take any other action relative thereto.

a. Police Firearms Revolving Fund

Fees received for firearms licenses and permit fees to be used to pay the state share of such fees and similar departmental needs, said expenditures to be approved by the Police Chief; and no to exceed \$5,000 during the Fiscal Year 2015

b. Zoning Board of Appeals Revolving Fund

Fees received for applicants requesting appeal of zoning decisions to be used to pay advertising, mailings, legal and administrative costs, said expenditures to be approved by the Zoning Board of Appeals; not to exceed \$4,000 during Fiscal Year 2015.

c. Board of Health Town Nurse Revolving Fund

Fees received for nursing programs and services to be used by the Town Nurse to pay for materials and technical services for nursing programs and health promotion programs; said expenditures to be approved by the Board of Health; not to exceed \$10,000 during Fiscal Year 2015.

d. Parks and Recreation Revolving Fund

Fees received from Fundraising Events to be used to pay costs associated with the maintenance and enhancement of the Town's parks and fields, said expenditure to be approved by the Playground Commissioners, not to exceed \$10,000 during Fiscal Year 2015

e. Zoning Bylaw and Building Compliance Enforcement Revolving Fund

5% of all fees received from building, wiring, plumbing and gas permits plus 100% of all fines and monetary judgments received as a result of Inspectional Services Department compliance enforcement actions to be used by Inspectional Services

Department for legal fees and administrative costs relative to Zoning Bylaw and Building Code compliance enforcement actions; said expenditures to be approved by the Building Commissioner, not to exceed \$15,000 during Fiscal Year 2015.

f. **Board of Health Project Revolving Fund**

50% of all permit fees received for the Bear Hill Road and Quail Ridge/ Battis Road Subdivisions to be used by the Board of Health to pay for tests and inspections for these two projects; said expenditures to be approved by the Board of Health; not to exceed \$4,500 during Fiscal Year 2015.

g. **Assessor's Map Update Revolving Fund**

Fees received from the creation of new lots to be used by the Assessors to pay for updates of the Town maps, said expenditures to be approved by the Board of Assessors; not to exceed \$1,000 during Fiscal Year 2015

h. **Village of Merrimac Project Revolving Fund**

Fees received from developers for the Village of Merrimac applications to be used to pay for plan reviews, inspections and related legal and administrative costs, said expenditures to be approved by the Board of Selectmen; not to exceed \$50,000 during Fiscal 2015.

i. **Board of Health Revolving Fund**

80% of fees received from pre-rental inspections and re-inspections to be used to pay for the Health Agent's inspection, the remaining 20% of fees and 100% of all fines and monetary judgments received as a result of Board of Health compliance enforcement actions to be used by the Board of Health for legal fees and administrative costs relative to the Board of Health Regulations and Health Code compliance and enforcement actions; said expenditures are to be approved by the Board of Health and not to exceed \$4,000 during Fiscal Year 2015.

j. **Inspectional Services Inspection Revolving Fund**

70% of all fees received from the building, wiring, plumbing and gas to be used by Inspectional Services Department for costs relative to required inspections for the Inspectional Services Department; said expenditures to be approved by the Building Commissioner, not to exceed \$80,000 during Fiscal Year 2015

k. **Senior Center Meals Revolving Fund**

100% of all fees and charges received of the Amesbury and Merrimac Housing Authority for the "Weekend Meals Program" will be used by the Council on Aging to pay for expenditures related to the weekend meals provided by the Council on Aging; including food and supplies purchased, payment for extra work hours by the cook and a % of benefits incurred by the increase in hours, and administrative overhead fee; said expenditures are to be approved by the COA Director, not to exceed \$30,000 during Fiscal Year 2015

## **COPY OF THE VOTE**

**April 28, 2014**

Article 9. The Town Voted pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53E (12), to establish revolving funds for the departments for the specific purposes above for the Fiscal Year 2015.

**Hand Vote: Unanimous Motion Approved**

**A True Copy:**

**Attest: Town Clerk**

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 \$80,000, for additional closure activities at the Battis Road Landfill; or take any other action relative thereto.

**COPY OF THE VOTE**

**April 28, 2014**

Article 10. The Town voted to raise and appropriate a sum of money in the amount \$80,000 (Eighty thousand), for additional closure activities at the Battis Road Landfill.

**Hand Vote: Unanimous Motion Approved**

**A True Copy:**

**Attest: Town Clerk**

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds, a sum of money in the amount of \$104,180 for the purchase of a Case Backhoe with accessories for DPW Department, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a five year lease-to-purchase agreement; or take any other action relative thereto.

**COPY OF THE VOTE**

**April 28, 2014**

Article 11. The voted to raise and appropriate from available funds, a sum of money in the amount of \$104,180 (One hundred four thousand one hundred eighty), for the purchase of a Case Backhoe with accessories for DPW Department, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a five year lease-to-purchase agreement.

**Hand Vote: Unanimous Motion Approved**

**A True Copy:**

**Attest: Town Clerk**

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to transfer the care, custody, management and control of the real property described in this article from the Board of Selectmen for the purpose for which the property is now held to the Board of Selectmen for the purpose of conveyance, and will authorize the Selectmen to convey, pursuant to the requirements of General Laws Chapter 30B, Section 16, the parcel of surplus land with any buildings thereon, containing about 228 acres, located at 28 School St., shown on Assessors Map 13, Block I as Lot 18, on such terms and conditions and for such sum of money as the Selectmen may determine; or take any other action relative thereto.

**COPY OF THE VOTE**

**April 28, 2014**

Article 12. The Town voted to Table this Article.

**2/3 Vote Required Unanimous Motion Approved**

**A True Copy:**

**Attest: Town Clerk**

**Article 13.** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Merrimac Zoning By-laws, article 3, by adding the following new Section 3.11:

3.11.1 In any district, the maximum of ACCESSORY STRUCTURES permitted on a LOT shall be two (2) except as provided in subsection 3.11.2 below

3.11.2 The BOARD OF APPEALS may grant a Special Permit for one (1) additional ACCESSORY STRUCTURE on a LOT upon making the following FINDINGS:

3.11.2.1 The additional ACCESSORY STRUCTURE, on its own or together with other existing or proposed ACCESSORY STRUCTURES on the LOT, will not have an adverse impact on abutting properties or the view from the road;

3.11.2.2 The additional ACCESSORY STRUCTURE will conform to the minimum SETBACK requirements of the district in which it is located; and

3.11.2.3 The additional STRUCTURE can be accommodated on the LOT within the maximum building LOT COVERAGE requirements, as applicable, of the district in which it is located

3.11.3 Any ACCESSORY STRUCTURE exceeding 120 square feet of GROSS FLOOR AREA shall comply with the minimum SETBACK requirements of the district in which it located; or take any other action relative thereto.

**COPY OF THE VOTE**

**April 28, 2014**

Article 13. The Town voted to Table this Article.

**2/3 Vote Required Unanimous Motion Approved**

**A True Copy:**

**Attest: Town Clerk**

Article 14. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Merrimac General By-laws by adding a new Article XXXVI, Yard Sales, as follows:

Article XXXVI Yard Sales

Section 1. No person shall conduct a yard sale, tag sale, or garage sale without a permit issued by the Selectmen's Office at least seven (7) calendar days prior to the date of the sale. Indetermining whether to grant sale permit, the Selectmen's Office will consider, at minimum;

- a) Adequacy of on-site parking,
- b) Traffic and pedestrian safety,
- c) Safe entry and exit to and from the site,
- d) Traffic control,
- e) Hours of operation
- f) Conditions of approval, if any from the Merrimac Police Department, which shall review each yard sale permit request and recommend approval, approval with conditions, or disapproval.

Section 2. No person or site shall be issued more than two (2) YARD SALE PERMITS PER YEAR.No more than four (4) signs shall be placed advertising the sale. Signs shall not be put up more than 48 hours prior to the start of the sale, and shall be removed by 700 PM on the date of the sale.

Section 3. The Board of Selectmen shall establish the fee schedule for yard sale permits .The owner of the property shall be responsible for obtaining the permit and complying with this Bylaw.

Section 4. Whoever violates this by-law shall be punished by a fine of \$50.00 for the first offense and \$100.00 for each subsequent offense.;or take any other action relative thereto.

**COPY OF THE VOTE**

**April 28, 2014**

Article 14. The Town did not vote to amend the General By-law as above.

2/3 Vote Required

Yes	103
No	3

**Motion is Defeated**

**A True Copy:**

**Attest: Town Clerk**

Article 19. To see if the Town will vote, to accept M.G.L. c. 48 , Sec 42,43 and 44, establishing the fire department including the appointment of fire chief, compensation, removal and defining the powers and duties;or take any other action relative thereto.

**COPY OF THE VOTE**

**April 28, 2014**

Article 19. The Town voted to accept M.G.L. c. 48 , Sec 42,43 and 44, establishing the fire department including the appointment of fire chief, compensation, removal, and defining the powers and duties.

**Hand Vote Unanimous Motion Approved**

**A True Copy:**

**Attest: Town Clerk**

Article 20. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for the enactment of a special law to change the Elected Town Clerk to an Appointed Town Clerk; or take any other action relative thereto.

**APPOINTED TOWN cLERK**

Section 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the office of Town Clerk in the Town of Merrimac shall be appointed and may be removed by the Board of Selectmen. The Town Clerk shall have all the powers, perform the duties and be subject to the liabilities and penalties now or hereafter conferred and imposed by law on town clerks.

Section 2. The Town Clerk, provided that said clerk holds no other office involving the receipt or disbursement of funds, may be appointed by the Board of Selectmen to the position of Town Accountant; provided, however, that under such circumstances, service in both such capacities shall be deemed to constitute a single position within the Town.

Section 3. Notwithstanding Section 1, upon the effective date of this act, the position of elected Town Clerk shall be abolished and the term of the elected incumbent terminated. The elected incumbent shall thereupon become the first appointed Town Clerk, and shall serve in such capacity for a period of time equivalent to the remainder of the elected term or sooner resignation or retirement. Thereafter, appointments to the position of Town Clerk shall be made by the Board of Selectmen in accordance with said section 1

Section 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

**COPY OF THE VOTE**

**April 28, 2014**

Article 20. The Town did not vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for the enactment of a special law to change the Elected Clerk to an Appointed Clerk as described above.

2/3 Vote Required

Yes 97

No 25

**Motion is Defeated**

**A True Copy:**

**Attest: Town Clerk**

Article 21. To see if the Town will vote to amend Section XIII of the Pentucket Regional Agreement by adding at the end that following new section:

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.; or take any other action relative thereto.

### **COPY OF THE VOTE**

**April 28, 2014**

Article 21. The Town voted to amend Section XIII of the Pentucket Regional Agreement by adding at the end the new section, as above.

**Hand Vote: Unanimous Motion Approved**

**A True Copy:**

**Attest: Town Clerk**

**Article 22.** To see if the Town will vote to amend the fourth sentence of Section XIII of the Pentucket Regional Agreement, "Incurring of Debt" this currently reads as follows; Each member town 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.

Shall be amended to read as follows:

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.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

### **COPY OF THE VOTE**

**April 28, 2014**

**Article 22.** The Town voted to amend the fourth sentence of Section XIII of the Pentucket Regional Agreement, "Incurring Debt", as above.

**Hand Vote: Unanimous Motion Approved**

**A True Copy**

**Attest: Town Clerk**

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING, APRIL 28, 2014**  
**COPY OF ARTICLE ON WARRANT**  
**APRIL 28, 2014**

**Article 1.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Free Cash, a sum of money in the amount of \$404,528 for the following specific purposes outlined below; or take any other action relative thereto.

- a. -\$3,850 – To purchase the following:
    - \$1,000 – APS Smart-UPS to adequately protect three (3) servers
    - \$ 700 – Upgrade external hard drives compatible with Server 2008R2
    - \$ 600 – Reconfigure remote access to terminal server to provide greater security & improve accessibility
    - \$1,500 – implement & configure of MS Exchange to manage emails and ensure compliance with MA data retention laws.
  - b. \$1,500 – To purchase of 64 bit Cache License and a Taxlink Server Migration for the Tax Collector’s office
  - c. \$6,700 – To purchase a new set of cutters for the Jaws system
  - d. \$1,500 – To pay Merrimack Valley Planning Commission to set up and maintain the Standardized Town Maps for Fiscal 2015
  - e. \$10,000 – To hire Kopelman and Page to review and make recommendations of the Town-By-Laws
  - f. \$5,300 to purchase a room divider system for the Senior Center
  - g. \$6,500 – To purchase two cubicle workstations for the Senior Center
  - h. \$24,300 – To replace the two HVAC’s at the Senior Center
  - i. \$2,700 – To purchase and install a shed for the Senior Center
  - j. \$40,000 – To purchase a marked police cruiser and all necessary associated equipment
  - k. \$20,900 – To purchase (10) Taser X2 Conducted Electrical Weapons, all associated equipment and training costs necessary for successful deployment of this technology to our police officers
  - l. \$50,000 – To hire an outside consultant to complete a feasibility study to assess and determine the future building needs of the Police, Fire and DPW
  - m. \$10,000 – To hire World Tech Engineering for the construction oversight for the Town Center Project
  - n. \$75,000 – To transfer to the Snow and Ice Account
  - o. \$97,519 – To appropriate 2/3 of the balance remaining in Free Cash to the Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Liability Trust Fund
  - p. \$48,759 – To appropriate 1/3 of the balance remaining in Free Cash to the Capital Stabilization Fund
- 2/3 Vote Required for item p**

**COPY OF THE VOTE**

**April 28, 2014**

**Article 1.** The Town voted to appropriate from Free Cash, a sum of money in the amount of \$404,528 (Four hundred four thousand five hundred twenty eight) for the specific purposes outlined above.

**Items a-o**

**Hand Vote**

**Motion Approved**

**Item p**

**2/3 Vote Required**

**Unanimous**

**Motion Approved.**

**April 28, 2014**

**COPY OF ARTICLE ON WARRANT**

**Article 2.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Wastewater Retained Earnings a sum of money in the amount of \$82,900 for the following specific purposes outlined below; or take any other action relative thereto

- a. \$39,900 - To purchase a new  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton pick-up truck with a utility body.
- b. \$13,000 - To purchase 2 new hydromantic pumps.
- c. \$30,000 - To appropriate to the Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Liability Trust Fund.

**COPY OF THE VOTE**

**April 28, 2014**

**Article 2.** The Town voted to appropriate from Wastewater Retained Earnings a sum of money in the amount of \$82,900 (Eighty two thousand nine hundred) for the specific purposes listed below

- d. \$39,900 - To purchase a new  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton pick-up truck with a utility body.
- e. \$13,000 - To purchase 2 new hydromantic pumps.
- f. \$30,000 - To appropriate to the Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Liability Trust Fund.

**Hand Vote: Unanimous**

**Motion Approved**

**April 28, 2014**

**COPY OF ARTICLE ON WARRANT**

**Article 3.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Water Retained Earnings a sum of money in the amount of \$119,000 for the following specific purposes outlined below; or take any other action relative thereto.

- a. \$100,000 – To make necessary upgrades and repairs to sections of the Town’s water mains
- b. \$10,000 – To transfer to the Water Salaries for FY2014
- c. \$9,000 – To appropriate to the Other Post Employment benefits (OPEB) Liability Trust Fund

**COPY OF THE VOTE**

**April 28, 2014**

**Article 3.** The Town voted to appropriate from Water Retained Earnings a sum of money in the amount of \$119,000 (One hundred nineteen thousand) for the following specific purposes outlined below.

- d. \$100,000 – To make necessary upgrades and repairs to sections of the Town’s water mains
- e. \$10,000 – To transfer to the Water Salaries for FY2014
- f. \$9,000 – To appropriate to the Other Post Employment benefits (OPEB) Liability Trust Fund

**Hand Vote: Unanimous  
Motion Approved**

**April 28, 2014**

**COPY OF ARTICLE ON WARRANT**

**Article 4.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Water Privilege Fund, a sum of money in the amount of \$25,000 to purchase new water meters; or take any other action relative thereto.

**COPY OF THE VOTE**

**April 28, 2014**

**Article 4.** The Town Voted to appropriate from the Water Privilege Fund, a sum of money in the amount of \$25,000 (Twenty five thousand) to purchase new water meters.

**Hand Vote: Unanimous  
Motion Approved.**

**April 28, 2014**

**COPY OF ARTICLE ON WARRANT**

**Article 5.** To see if the Town will vote to approve the \$1,400,000 appropriation and borrowing authorized by a vote of the Pentucket Regional School District School Committee on March 18, 2014 for the purpose of paying costs of athletic field improvements, acquisition of land, and construction and development of the athletic plan, including all costs incidental or related thereto, which amount shall be in addition to the \$700,000 previously appropriated for such purpose; or take any other action relative thereto

**COPY OF THE VOTE**

**April 28, 2014**

**Article 5.** The Town voted to approve the \$1,400,000 (One million four hundred thousand) appropriation and borrowing authorized by a vote of the Pentucket Regional School District School Committee on March 18, 2014 for the purpose of paying costs of athletic field improvements, acquisition of land, and construction and development of the athletic plan, including all costs incidental or related thereto, which amount shall be in addition to the \$700,000 previously appropriated for such purpose.

**Hand Vote: Unanimous  
Motion Approved**

**April 28, 2014**

**COPY OF ARTICLE ON WARRANT**

**Article 6.** To see if the Town will vote to approve the amendment to the purposes of the \$800,000 borrowing originally authorized by vote of the Pentucket Regional School District School Committee on March 6, 2012, so that such appropriation may be used for the purpose of paying costs of projects for the repair of deficient building and grounds, including land acquisition and the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, as follows:

- Athletic field improvements, acquisition of land, and construction and development of the athletics plan (not to exceed \$700,000), and
- Upgrade or replace High School Theatre, rigging, lighting, choral risers and platforms instrument storage, and any other safety related items (not to exceed \$100,000); or take any other action relative thereto.

## COPY OF THE VOTE

April 28, 2014

**Article 6.** The Town voted to approve the amendment to the purposes of the \$800,000 (Eight hundred thousand) borrowing originally authorized by vote of the Pentucket Regional School District School Committee on March 6, 2012, so that such appropriation may be used for the purpose of paying costs of projects for the repair of deficient building and grounds, including land acquisition and the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, as follows:

- Athletic field improvements, acquisition of land, and construction and development of the athletics plan (not to exceed \$700,000), and
- Upgrade or replace High School Theatre, rigging, lighting, choral risers and platforms instrument storage, and any other safety related items (not to exceed \$100,000).

**Hand Vote: Unanimous  
Motion Approved**

April 28, 2014

## COPY OF ARTICLE ON WARRANT

**Article 7.** To see if the Town will vote to approve the appropriation and borrowing of One Million Six Hundred Sixty-Eight Thousand Three Hundred Eighty-Seven Dollars (\$1,668,387) for the purpose of a roof and boiler replacement project, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, at the District Middle School located at 20 Main Street, West Newbury, Massachusetts (the "Project"), authorized by vote of the Regional District School Committee on March 18, 2014. The proposed project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and the District may be eligible for a school construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA") for the Project. The amount appropriated by such vote shall 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 costs of the Project that 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; that any grant that the District may receive from the MSBA for the Project shall not exceed the lesser of (1) Fifty and Seventy-Nine Hundredths percent (50.79%) of eligible, approved Project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA; and that the amount of borrowing authorized for the Project pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the District and MSBA; or take any other action relative thereto

## COPY OF THE VOTE

April 28, 2014

**Article 7.** The Town voted to approve the appropriation and borrowing of One Million Six Hundred Sixty-Eight Thousand Three Hundred Eighty-Seven Dollars (\$1,668,387) for the purpose of a roof and boiler replacement project, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, at the District Middle School located at 20 Main Street, West Newbury, Massachusetts (the "Project"), authorized by vote of the Regional District School Committee on March 18, 2014. The proposed project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and the District may be eligible for a school construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA") for the Project. The amount appropriated by such vote shall 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 costs of the Project that 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; that any grant that the District may receive from the MSBA for the Project shall not exceed the lesser of (1) Fifty and Seventy-Nine Hundredths percent (50.79%) of eligible, approved Project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA; and that the amount of borrowing authorized for the Project pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the District and MSBA

**Hand Vote: Unanimous  
Motion Approved**

April 28, 2014

## COPY OF ARTICLE ON WARRANT

**Article 8.** To see if the Town will vote to approve the amendment passed on March 18, 2014, to the \$250,000 borrowing authorized by vote of the Pentucket Regional School District School Committee on April 3, 2012, for the purpose of paying the costs of replacement of kitchen equipment and related renovation to the District's Helen R. Donaghue Elementary School in Merrimac, Massachusetts, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Donaghue Project"), which amendment provides that to the extent any balance of the appropriation remains after completion of the Donaghue Project, such amount shall be applied to the remediation of flooring at the District's Dr. Frederick N. Sweetsir Elementary School in Merrimac, Massachusetts, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Sweetsir Project"), and to acknowledge that pursuant to the District Agreement, all costs of the Donaghue and Sweetsir Projects, including the debt service on the bonds or notes issued by the District to finance the Donaghue and Sweetsir Projects, shall be allocable solely to the Town of Merrimac.

## COPY OF THE VOTE

April 28, 2014

**Article 8.** The Town voted to approve the amendment passed on March 18, 2014, to the \$250,000 borrowing authorized by vote of the Pentucket Regional School District School Committee on April 3, 2012, for the purpose of paying the costs of replacement of kitchen equipment and related renovation to the District's Helen R. Donaghue Elementary School in Merrimac, Massachusetts, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Donaghue Project"), which amendment provides that to the extent any balance of the appropriation remains after completion of the Donaghue Project, such amount shall be applied to the remediation of flooring at the District's Dr. Frederick N. Sweetsir Elementary School in Merrimac, Massachusetts, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Sweetsir Project"), and to acknowledge that pursuant to the District Agreement, all costs of the Donaghue and Sweetsir Projects, including the debt service on the bonds or notes issued by the District to finance the Donaghue and Sweetsir Projects, shall be allocable solely to the Town of Merrimac.

**Hand Vote: Unanimous  
Motion Approved**

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING, OCTOBER 20, 2014  
OCTOBER 20, 2014**

**COPY OF ARTICLE ON WARRANT**

**Article 1.** To see if the Town will vote to increase the amount raised and appropriated in Article 1 of the April 28, 2014 Annual Town Meeting in the amount of \$28,052. and amend the following lines:

Line #8	Short Term Debt/Lease	\$10,000
Line #12	Merrimack Valley Planning Expense	\$ 52
Line #27	Selectmen Expense	\$ 5,000
Line #28	Finance Department Salaries	(\$ 3,700)
Line # 29	Finance Department Expense	\$ 3,700
Line #53	Police Department Salaries	\$ 3,000
Line #88	Essex North Tuition	\$10,000

Or take any other action relative thereto.

**COPY OF THE VOTE  
October 20, 2014**

**Article 1.** The Town voted to increase the amount raised and appropriated in Article 1 of the April 28, 2014 Annual Town Meeting in the amount of **\$28,052** (Twenty eight thousand fifty two dollars) and amend the following lines:

Line #8	Short Term Debt/Lease	\$10,000
Line #12	Merrimack Valley Planning Expense	\$ 52
Line #27	Selectmen Expense	\$ 5,000
Line #28	Finance Department Salaries	(\$ 3,700)
Line # 29	Finance Department Expense	\$ 3,700
Line #53	Police Department Salaries	\$ 3,000
Line #88	Essex North Tuition	\$10,000

**HAND VOTE  
UNANIMOUS  
MOTION APPROVED**

**A True Copy**

**Attest:  
Town Clerk**

**COPY OF ARTICLE ON WARRANT**

**Article 2.** To see if the Town will pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ to establish the PRSD Grounds Maintenance Revolving Fund, which funds received from the PRSD will be used to pay for grounds maintenance at the Sweetsir and Donaghue Schools; said expenditures to be approved by the Board of Selectmen; and not to exceed \$50,000 during the Fiscal Year 2015; or take any other action relative thereto.

**COPY OF THE VOTE**  
**October 20, 2014**

**Article 2.** The Town voted pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ to establish the PRSD Grounds Maintenance Revolving Fund, which funds received from the PRSD will be used to pay for grounds maintenance at the Sweetsir and Donaghue Schools; said expenditures to be approved by the Board of Selectmen; and not to exceed **\$50,000 (Fifty Thousand Dollars)** during the Fiscal Year 2015.

**HAND VOTE**  
**UNANIMOUS**  
**MOTION APPROVED**

**A True Copy**

**Attest:**  
**Town Clerk**

**COPY OF ARTICLE ON WARRANT**

**Article 3.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money in the amount of \$25,000 for Solid Waste Collection and Disposal, Recycling Collection and Leaf Collection, and to fund said appropriation, transfer from Trash Offset Receipts; or take any other action relative thereto.

**COPY OF THE VOTE**  
**October 20, 2014**

**Article 3.** The Town voted to raise and appropriate a sum of money in the amount of **\$25,000 (Twenty Five Thousand Dollars)** for Solid Waste Collection and Disposal, Recycling Collection and Leaf Collection, and to fund said appropriation, transfer from Trash Offset Receipts.

**HAND VOTE**  
**UNANIMOUS**  
**MOTION APPROVED**

**A True Copy**

**Attest:**  
**Town Clerk**

**COPY OF ARTICLE ON WARRANT**

**Article 4.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money in the amount of \$22,400 from Article 10 of the April 28, 2014 Annual Town Meeting, additional closure activities at the Battis Rd. Landfill, to Article 8 of the April 28, 2014 Annual Town Meeting, Solid Waste Collection and Disposal, Recycling Collection and Leaf Collection; or take any other action relative thereto.

**COPY OF THE VOTE  
October 20, 2014**

**Article 4.** The Town voted to transfer a sum of money in the amount of **\$22,400 (Twenty Two Thousand Four Hundred Dollars)** from Article 10 of the April 28, 2014 Annual Town Meeting, additional closure activities at the Battis Rd. Landfill, to Article 8 of the April 28, 2014 Annual Town Meeting, Solid Waste Collection and Disposal, Recycling Collection and Leaf Collection.

**HAND VOTE  
UNANIMOUS  
MOTION APPROVED**

**A True Copy**

**Attest:  
Town Clerk**

**COPY OF ARTICLE ON WARRANT**

**Article 5.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money in the amount of \$225,500, to be used to make necessary repairs to Town roadways, and to fund said appropriation, transfer from Article 1, Line item #75, Highway Expense, of the April 29, 2014 Annual Town Meeting; or take any other action relative thereto.

**COPY OF THE VOTE  
October 20, 2014**

**Article 5.** The Town voted to to raise and appropriate a sum of money in the amount of **\$125,500 (One Hundred Twenty Five Thousand Five Hundred Dollars)** to be used to make necessary repairs to Town roadways, and to fund said appropriation, transfer from Article 1, Line item #75, Highway Expense, of the April 29, 2014 Annual Town Meeting.

**HAND VOTE  
UNANIMOUS  
MOTION APPROVED**

**A True Copy**

**Attest:  
Town Clerk**

**COPY OF ARTICLE ON WARRANT**

**Article 6.** To see if the Town will vote to reduce the amount raised and appropriated in Article 3 of the April 28, 2014 Annual Town Meeting to operate the Water Department Enterprise a sum of money in the amount of \$55,000; or take any other action relative thereto.

Salaries:	(\$45,000)
<u>Expenses:</u>	<u>(\$10,000)</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>(\$ 55,000)</b>

**COPY OF THE VOTE  
October 20, 2014**

**Article 6.** The Town voted to reduce the amount raised and appropriated in Article 3 of the April 28, 2014 Annual Town Meeting to operate the Water Department Enterprise a sum of money in the amount of **\$55,000 (Fifty Five Thousand Dollars)**

Salaries:	(\$45,000)
Expenses:	(\$10,000)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(\$ 55,000)</b>

**HAND VOTE  
UNANIMOUS  
MOTION APPROVED**

**A True Copy**

**Attest:  
Town Clerk**

**COPY OF ARTICLE ON WARRANT**

**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 \$1,162.25, to be expended by the Board of Assessors to pay prior fiscal year expenses.

Salaries	\$ 940.00
Expense	<u>\$ 222.25</u>
Total	\$ 1,162.25

Or take any other action relative thereto.

**COPY OF THE VOTE  
October 20, 2014**

**Article 7.** The Town did not vote to raise and appropriate, a sum of money in the amount of **(One Thousand One Hundred Sixty Two Dollars & Twenty Five Cents)** to be expended by the Board of Assessors to pay prior fiscal year expenses.

Salaries	\$ 940.00
Expense	<u>\$ 222.25</u>
Total	\$ 1,162.25

**9/10 VOTE REQUIRED  
YES 26  
NO 5  
MOTION DEFEATED**

**A True Copy**

**Attest:  
Town Clerk**

**COPY OF ARTICLE ON WARRANT**

**Article 8.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the care, custody, management and control of the real property described in this article from the Board of Selectmen for the purpose for which the property is now held to the Board of Selectmen for general municipal purposes and the purpose of conveyance, and to authorize the Selectmen to maintain or convey, pursuant to the requirements of General Laws Chapter 30B, Section 16, the parcel of surplus land with any buildings thereon, containing about .228 acres located at 28 School St., shown on Assessors Map 13, Bock 1 as Lot 18, on such terms and conditions and for such sums of money as the Selectmen may determine; and further to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow a sum of money for the purpose of demolishing the buildings located upon the real property described herein; or take any other action relative hereto.

**COPY OF THE VOTE  
October 20, 2014**

**Article 8.** The Town voted to transfer the care, custody, management and control of the real property described in this article from the Board of Selectmen for the purpose for which the property is now held to the Board of Selectmen for general municipal purposes and the purpose of conveyance, and to authorize the Selectmen to maintain or convey, pursuant to the requirements of General Laws Chapter 30B, Section 16, the parcel of surplus land with any buildings thereon, containing about .228 acres located at 28 School St., shown on Assessors Map 13, Bock 1 as Lot 18, on such terms and conditions and for such sums of money as the Selectmen may determine.

**YES 31  
NO 3  
MOTION APPROVED**

**A True Copy**

**Attest:  
Town Clerk**

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