



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

Minutes Special Town Meeting
October 17, 2022

October 18, 2022

Pursuant to the foregoing Warrant, the legal voters of the Town of Merrimac met at the Fredrick N. Sweetsir School in the Town of Merrimac October 18, 2021. A quorum of 32 registered voters gathered at 7:30pm.

The Special Town Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm and Moderator Baumgardner led the assembled citizens in the Pledge of Allegiance. Moderator Baumgardner stated that having inspected the Warrant for the meeting, he deemed it proper and correct as posted by Constable Vance.

Motion made and duly seconded to dispense with the reading of the Warrant. Motion carried unanimously so declared the moderator.

Motion carried unanimously so declared the moderator.

Motion made and duly seconded to extend the floor to Town management and staff and other non-voters provided they must first be recognized by the Moderator.

Motion carried unanimously so declared the moderator.

Motion made and duly seconded to allow the Moderator, pursuant to G.L. c. 39 § 15 to declare a two-thirds vote rather than taking a standing count.

Motion carried unanimously so declared the moderator.

Moderator Baumgardner introduced myself, Town Clerk, Gwendolyn Lay Sabbagh, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Benjamin Beaulieu, Clerk of the Board of Selectmen Chris Manni, and Selectman Joel Breen.

Article 1:

Motion by Benjamin Beaulieu and duly seconded to decrease the amount raised and appropriated in Article 1, Line # 77, Health Insurance, of the April 25, 2022 Annual Town Meeting, by the sum of \$50,000; or take any other action relative thereto.

MODERATOR DECLARATION: MOTION PASSED Unanimously by hand vote.

Article 2:

Motion by Benjamin Beaulieu and duly seconded in accordance with G.L. c. 30B sec. 12(b) to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a contract for a term of Five-Year (5) years with Pitney Bowes for the lease of the postage machine at Town Hall for a sum of **\$8,743.80**.

MODERATOR DECLARATION: MOTION PASSED Unanimously by hand vote.

Article 3:

Motion by Benjamin Beaulieu and duly seconded to raise and appropriate, a sum of money to operate the Water Department Enterprise for FY2023.

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

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

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

MODERATOR DECLARATION: MOTION PASSED Unanimously by hand vote.

Article 4:

Motion by Chris Manni and duly seconded to reduce the amount appropriated from Wastewater Retained Earnings for FY2022 in Article 4 of the April 25, 2022 Annual Town Meeting, by the sum of **\$56,980.63**.

MODERATOR DECLARATION: MOTION PASSED Unanimously by hand vote.

Article 5:

Motion by Chris Manni and duly seconded to transfer the balance of Article 2 of the April 15, 2015 Special Town Meeting, Security Gate, a sum of **\$12,623.00**, for the purchase of a Kabota Mower.

MODERATOR DECLARATION: MOTION PASSED Unanimously by hand vote.

Article 6:

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

2/3 Vote Required

MODERATOR DECLARATION: MOTION PASSED Unanimously by hand vote.

Article 7:

Motion by Joel Breen and duly seconded to accept the provisions of M.G.L. c.64N, §3, to impose an excise tax on the retail sales of marijuana for adult use at the rate of three percent (3%).

MODERATOR DECLARATION: MOTION PASSED Unanimously by hand vote.

Article 8: Motion by Joel Breen and duly seconded to amend the Town of Merrimac General By-Laws by adding the following new Article 11

Article 11: OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

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


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

MODERATOR DECLARATION: MOTION PASSED Unanimously by hand vote.

Motion by Robert Sinibaldi and duly seconded to adjourn.

MODERATOR DECLARATION: MOTION PASSED Unanimously by hand vote.

Respectfully Submitted,


Gwendolyn Lay Sabbagh,
Town Clerk Town of Merrimac