



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK  
Merrimac Town Hall  
2 School Street, Merrimac, MA  
Special Town Meeting October 21, 2024  
**MINUTES**

October 21, 2024

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 21, 2024. A quorum of 62 registered voters gathered at 7:30 pm. Moderator W. Earl Baumgardner welcomed the assembled citizens to the Special Town Meeting of the Town of Merrimac.

The Special Town Meeting was called to order at 7:33 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 David Vance. Motion to dispense with the reading of the warrant by Chris Manni and duly seconded, motion carried so declared the Moderator.

Motion by Chris Manni and duly seconded to extend the floor to Town Management, staff and non-voters to speak at the meeting when recognized by the Moderator. Motion carried so declared the Moderator.

Motion by Irina Gorzynski and duly seconded, to allow the Moderator, pursuant to G.L. c. 39 sec 39 & 15 to declare a two-thirds vote rather than taking a standing count, duly seconded, motion carried, so declared the moderator.

7:34 pm Moderator Baumgardner introduced the select board and town clerk to the assembled citizens.

**Article 1:** Motion by Chris Manni and duly seconded to make the following FY2025 budget adjustments:

Increase Finance Department Salaries	\$ 100
Reduce Highway Department Salaries	\$10,000
Reduce Health Insurance	\$10,000
Reduce Worker's Compensation Insurance	\$10,000
Increase Property & Liability Insurance	\$12,000

Article Passed unanimously by hand-count so declared the Moderator.



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**Article 2.** Motion by Janet Bruno and duly seconded to reduce the amount raised and appropriated by **\$10,000**, for Solid Waste Collection and Disposal, Recycling Collection.

Article Passed unanimously by hand-count so declared the Moderator.

**Article 3.** Motion by Irina Gorzynski and duly seconded to amend the Merrimac Zoning By-Laws with amendments and additions to the indicated Articles as written in the Warrant; or take any other action relative thereto.

**2/3 Vote Required**

Article Passed unanimously by hand-count so declared the Moderator.

**Article 4:** Motion by David Cressman and duly seconded to withdraw this article. Motion to withdraw carried by a hand count 60-2 so declared the Moderator.

**Article 5.** Motion by Wayne Adams and duly seconded to amend the Town's General By-Laws, Article XVIII, Water Use, as posted in the warrant.

Article Passed unanimously by a hand count so declared the Moderator.

Motion by Benjamin Beaulieu and duly seconded to hear Articles 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10 together, motion carried unanimously by hand count so declared the Moderator.

Motion by Chris Manni and duly seconded to approve Articles 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10;

**ARTICLE 6 thru 10:**

**(ARTICLE 6)** to affirm the acquisition of and transfer the care, custody, and control of the land located at 0 Town Forest Road, , Merrimac, Massachusetts and as shown on the Town of Merrimac Assessor's Map 70, Block 1, Lot 1, including 281 acres, more or less, whose deed is recorded at Book 2794, Page 503, Book 2981, Pages 432 and 435, Book 3129, Page 510, and Book 3143, Page 459 of the Southern Essex District Registry of Deeds, but excluding the former landfill area so marked and depicted on the survey titled "BATTIS LANDFILL PERIMETER PLAN IN MERRIMAC, MASSACHUSETTS ESSEX COUNTY," prepared by Hancock Associates, One Harris Street, Suite 3, Newburyport, MA , 01950, dated December 30, 2021, and recorded herewith, to the Conservation Commission for the exclusive purpose of conservation as the Town Forest in accordance with Article 97 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.



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**(Article 7)** to transfer the care, custody, and control of the land located at 0 Red Oak Hill Road, Merrimac, Massachusetts and as shown on the Town of Merrimac Assessor's Map 70, Block 1, Lot 7, including 7 acres, more or less, whose deed is recorded at Book 3322, Page 175 of the Southern Essex District Registry of Deeds, to the Conservation Commission for the exclusive purpose of conservation as the Town Forest in accordance with Article 97 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; or take any other action relative hereto.

**(Article 8)** to affirm the acquisition of and transfer the care, custody, and control of the land located at 0 Red Oak Hill Road, Merrimac, Massachusetts and as shown on the Town of Merrimac Assessor's Map 70, Block 1, Lot 6, including 11.8 acres, more or less, whose deed is recorded at Book 17402, Page 396 of the Southern Essex District Registry of Deeds, to the Conservation Commission for the exclusive purpose of conservation as the Town Forest in accordance with Article 97 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

**(Article 9)** to transfer the care, custody, and control of the land located at 0 Huse Road, Merrimac, Massachusetts and as shown on the Town of Merrimac Assessor's Map 70, Block 1, Lot 5, including 2.8 acres, more or less, whose deed is recorded at Book 6703, Page 373 of the Southern Essex District Registry of Deeds, to the Conservation Commission for the exclusive purpose of conservation as the Merrimac Town Forest in accordance with Article 97 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

**(Article 10)** to affirm the acquisition of the land located at 0 Red Oak Hill Road, Merrimac, Massachusetts and as shown on the Town of Merrimac Assessor's Map 70, Block 1, Lot 3, including 8 acres, more or less, whose deed is recorded at Book 6334, Page 556 of the Southern Essex District Registry of Deeds.

**ARTICLES 6-10 REQUIRED 2/3's Vote**

Articles Passed unanimously by hand-count so declared the Moderator.



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**ARTICLE 11.** Motion by Robert Gustison and duly seconded to authorize the Select Board to sell an easement in the properties along Federal Way, formerly known as Lots P-100 and P-101, as shown on a plan dated February 28, 1977, and recorded on September 14, 1979, in the Essex South Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 155, Plan 1, which is on file with the Town Clerk, for the purpose of vehicular access to and from an existing cell tower site, the proceeds for which will be used for Wastewater Infrastructure improvements, and further to authorize the Select Board to enter into any agreements in order to effectuate same.

Article Passed unanimously by hand-count so declared the Moderator.

Motion by Benjamin Beaulieu and duly seconded to adjourn, Motion carried unanimously so declared the Moderator.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Gwendolyn Lay Sabbagh

Town Clerk, Town of Merrimac