



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK
Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac, MA
Annual Town Meeting October 20, 2025
MINUTES

October 20, 2025

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 20, 2025. A quorum of 86 registered voters gathered at 7:30 pm. Moderator W. Earl Baumgardner welcomed the assembled citizens to the Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Merrimac.

The Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 7:31 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 Janet Bruno 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 unanimously, so declared the moderator.

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

Article 1. The Town voted to make the following FY2026 budget adjustments:

Decrease Assessor's Assistant Wages	\$ 17,450
Increase Town Heat Expense	\$ 7,000
Increase Town Water/Sewer Expense	\$ 1,000
Increase Board of Health Expense	\$ 1,000
Decrease Inside Debt Prn - Roadways	\$260,000
Decrease Inside Debt Int – Roadways	\$175,000
Decrease Health and Dental Insurance	\$ 10,000
Increase Merit Increase Expense	\$ 10,000
Decrease Property & Liability Insurance	\$ 20,000



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HAND VOTE: Motion by Chris Manni and duly seconded. Motion carried unanimously, so declared the Moderator.

Article 2: The Town voted to increase the amount raised and appropriated in Article 17 in the Annual Town Meeting by **\$25,000** for Solid Waste Collection and Disposal, Recycling Collection.

HAND VOTE: Motion by Chris Manni and duly seconded. Motion carried unanimously, so declared the Moderator.

Article 3: The Town voted to the Town make the following FY2026 budget adjustments for Wastewater Enterprise Fund:

Increase Admin Asst Wage Expense	\$ 764
Decrease Prop/Liab/WC Insurance	\$ 1,800
Decrease F350 Lease Prn Expense	\$ 2,000

And that Departmental receipt estimates be reduced by **\$3,036**.

HAND VOTE: Motion by Chris Manni and duly seconded. Motion carried unanimously, so declared the Moderator.

Article 4: The Town voted to make the following FY2026 budget adjustments for Water Enterprise Fund:

Increase Admin Asst Wage Expense	\$ 764
Increase Benefit Reimbursements	\$ 2,335
Increase Supplies Expense	\$ 14,000
Decrease F350 Lease Prn Expense	\$ 13,500
Decrease F350 Lease Int Expense	\$ 3,500

And that Departmental receipt estimates be increased by **\$99.00**.

HAND VOTE: Motion by Janet Bruno and duly seconded. Motion carried unanimously, so declared the Moderator.

Article 5: The Town voted to appropriate a sum of money in the amount of **\$500,000**, for final engineering for the Wastewater Plant to include costs related to the bidding and design,



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engineering and including the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto; to determine whether this amount shall be raised by taxation, transfer from available funds, borrowing under MGL Chapter 44, Section 8(14) or any other enabling authority or otherwise.

HAND VOTE: Motion by Janet Bruno and duly seconded. Motion carried unanimously, so declared the Moderator.

Article 6: The Town voted to approve the Toshiba Copier Lease for a term to exceed 36 months.

HAND VOTE: Motion by Irina Gorzynski and duly seconded. Motion carried unanimously, so declared the Moderator.

Article 7. The Town voted to approve the Catalis (Patriots Property) Renewal contract to certify the values and the interim adjustments of the properties in Merrimac for a term to exceed 36 months.

HAND VOTE: Motion by Irina Gorzynski and duly seconded. Motion carried unanimously, so declared the Moderator.

Article 8: The Town voted not to authorize the Merrimac Municipal Light Department (MMLD) to sell land and buildings located at 10 West Main Street, acquired by MMLD by deed, Book 010716, Page 559 upon such price and terms and conditions as MMLD may deem appropriate, and to authorize the MMLD General Manager and Board of Commissioners to execute any and all agreements and other documents, and to take all other actions as MMLD determines to be necessary or appropriate to accomplish the foregoing sale, with all proceeds therefrom to be appropriated solely to MMLD for light plant purposes.

2/3 Vote Required

Motion by Robert Gustison and duly seconded.

Motion to table by Marcia Zosack and duly seconded, motion failed so declared the moderator.

Motion by Robert Sinibaldi, and duly seconded by Susan Searle to amend Article 8 to require that the MMLD include a deed restriction to require all future owners comply with existing zoning requirements for any re-use. carried so declared the Moderator.

Motion by Robert Bender to Call the Vote, Moderator ruled request out of order.



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After lengthy discussion and question and answer period the original motion failed by a hand vote so declared the moderator. Vote did not meet 2/3's requirement.

Hand Vote: Yes 49

No 25

Article 9: The Town voted to amend the Merrimac Zoning By-Laws with the Additions to the indicated Articles as posted in the warrant.

2/3 Vote Required

HAND VOTE: Motion by Robert Gustison and duly seconded. Motion carried Unanimously so declared the Moderator.

Article 10: The Town voted to add a new MBTA Communities Multi Family Overlay Zoning District as posted in the warrant and amend the zoning map accordingly.

2/3 Vote Required

HAND VOTE: Motion by Wayne Adams and duly seconded. Motion carried Unanimously so declared the Moderator.

Article 11: The Town voted to amend the Merrimac General By-Law with amendments and additions to the indicated Articles as posted in the warrant.

HAND VOTE: Motion by Wayne Adams and duly seconded. Motion carried Unanimously so declared the Moderator.



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Article 12: CITIZEN'S PETITION

MOTION: Motion by Early Baumgardner and duly seconded by Robert Sinibaldi to table article 12.

HAND VOTE: Motion carried with two (2) opposed, so declared the moderator.

Motion to adjourn by Robert Sinibaldi and duly seconded by Corey Cane, motion carried unanimously so declared the moderator.

Motion to adjourn Robert Bender and duly seconded, motion carries so declared the moderator.

Respectfully Submitted

Gwendolyn Lay Sabbagh,

Town Clerk, Town of Merrimac