

Town of Merrimac
Finance Committee Meeting
FEBRUARY 4, 2020

I. Call to Order

7:00 PM by James Archibald

1. Roll Call
2. Minutes Approval
 1. Finance Committee - Regular Meeting - Jan 27, 2020 7:00 PM

RESULT:	ACCEPTED AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Marcia Zosack
SECONDER:	Tracey Grazio
AYES:	Gustison, Grazio, Marden, Luoma, Zosack, Archibald
ABSENT:	Kelly, Bowie, Donaghue

II. Planning Board

Planning Board, Pat True, Sandy Venner

Salary- Regular increase, 15 hours are available bi-weekly, bills what is actually worked.

Expenses- No increases. Developers put money into escrow which pays the consultant for direct costs.

III. Nurse

Nurse, Eileen Stepanian

Salary- Regular increase. 19.5 hours weekly.

Expense- No changes. Flu Vaccines through the Senior Center have been declining since pharmacy's were making them readily available. The State provides a certain number of vaccines (one vile this year).

IV. Council on Aging

Council on Aging, Laura Dillingham Mailman, Anne Murphy, Colleen Ranshaw-Fiorello

Salary- Change: Had budgeted for \$25/hr for Social Worker, Selectmen has approved \$22/hr with the 3% increase on July 1. Request for increase hourly rate and title change for Anne Murphy, currently Administrative Assistant, would like to add Assistant Director.

Expense- The heating and HVAC situation from last year has been corrected. New line item is for a \$500/month lease for a satellite location for special programs. The rental space is fully handicap accessible, and the rent includes utilities. The committee has questions regarding if the function of the new space can be done in the existing space. The increase in Business Travel is for the cost of a conference that they traveled to.

V. Veterans

Veterans, Kevin Hunt & Jeremiah Murphy

Increases are people who meet certain financial qualifications to receive a state benefit Chapter 115 (19 in Merrimac). Low income Veterans and their surviving spouse's have the ability to collect through the municipalities which are reimbursed. The budget for FY21 is increasing Jeremiah's hours to 35 hours (starting in April, a \$341 cost). There are a few locations within the Town where you see more Veterans coming from. The benefits are

increasing, and are reimbursed by the state at 75% five quarters later. For each person on the annual renewal they review income, housing cost, bank statements and ensure they are eligible.

VI. Fire Department

Fire, Larry Fisher

Salary- Increase due to much needed growth on the employee side, had the only full-time employee retire this week. The proposed hiring rate moving forward is still on the lower end of hiring, but want to make it fit within the income generated from the ambulance service. Applying for a SAFER grant, that grant pays a percentage of the wages for staffing over time to help the Town offset the cost. The grant would cover 4 people and the Town's match would be 2 people. There is approximately a \$100,000 increase for the benefits for the four full time positions.

Expenses- For Capital Planning there has been a significant amount identified. The Town has a strong ambulance service in place, and has been supporting the surrounding area. Right now to date there is approximately a 30% increase in the revenue. The new ambulance came in at a cost lower than expected, which then enabled us to outfit it. Telecommunications increase is the phone system. Professional Development increase is for a training company to come in.

Meeting Close 9:10 PM Marcia, Mike Second.