

Town of Merrimac
Finance Committee Meeting
MARCH 3, 2020

- I. Call to Order
 - 1. Roll Call
- II. Discussion

All Expense Changes - will not vote tonight, requesting Finance Director make the following changes to reflect in the budget for next meeting.

General Government Summary

Assistant Treasurer/Collector- Reduce request 50% (half the requested hours)

Assessors Salaries- Reduce request 50% (half the requested increase)

Town Clerk- Level Fund Professional Development, Business Travel and Town Clerk Assistant (remove requested 5 assistant hours)

Elections- Move part of request to special article for one time cost.

*Committee to request more information from Town Clerk to review request for FY21 with the actual spent in the last Presidential Election Year FY17 and verify the increase are needed.

Emergency Services Summary

Police- Remove additional 2 officers in Salary and Police Uniform costs to Override. Reduce fuel request increase 50%, level fund educational supplies.

Fire- Remove Salary and Uniform costs to Grant. Vehicle Maintenance and Equipment and Repairs reduce request 5%. Level fund professional development, reduce Grant Management request 50%. (Voting for a total cut of \$29,000 for Fire and Ambulance, allowing Fire Chief to make adjustments).

Highway Summary

Highway- Remove shared position with Cemetery and reduce wages accordingly. Level fund Vehicle/Equip Maintenance, Police Details and Tree Removal.

Snow & Ice- Level fund this year, goal is to add again next year to keep increasing it in the regular budget.

Cemetery Summary

Removed shared position with Highway and reduce wages accordingly. Reduce assistant wages 50%, recommend using Special Article for updating. Level fund Grounds Upkeep, recommend using Sale of Lots funds.

Board of Health Summary

Finance Director Recommendation- Level Fund Admin Position, look into regional BOH with surrounding Towns.

Finance Committee Discussion- Remove Admin Position completely, has not been filled and the Committee does not feel the Board has shown that the position is needed.

Council on Aging

Reduce Wages request by 50%, Do not fund Rental Expense this year- prioritize usage at COA and reevaluate with new COA Director. Level fund Professional Development, Kitchen Supplies, SW Licensing and Business Travel.

Town Nurse

Finance Committee Discussion- Reduce Town Nurse Position to 5 hours per week. Committee discussed that over the years the duties of the position have been decreasing, and continuing with 19.5 hours per week may not be in best interest of the Town.

Library

Finance Director Recommendation- Reducing 50% of Repairs and Maintenance, and Custodial.

Finance Committee Discussion- Agree with reducing 50% Repairs and Maintenance, want to fund requested increase of \$500 for custodial services.

Unclassified

Health & Dental- Reduce \$85,000 from requested new positions.

Meeting End: 9:09 PM Marcia Zosac, first. Rob Gustison, second.