



**Finance Committee**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**03/09/21**

- I. Call to Order
  - 1. Roll Call
- II. Appointments
  - A. Whittier Vo-Tech

Last year school spending was up 7%, the assessment to the communities were up just over 2%. Had layoffs during the summer and were able to re-hire all staff based on their ability to be flexible in their positions. Enrollment from Town of Merrimac has gone from 58 to 50 this year. Spending has increased 3.8% and aid was up 1.1%. Recommended budget is 2.8% increase over this last year- assessment would be 1.96%. Merrimac's assessment is \$77,000. The increase is the required minimum assessment based on the Department of Education, that is the primary increase this year. Capital projects stay the same, need to do exterior repairs and are in the eligibility stage of MSBA hoping to move to feasibility stage. The early childhood program has started, partnering with the YMCA.

**B. Pentucket Regional**

Pentucket was in the same boat, had to lay off but were able to bring all the staff back. The Federal stimulus money has been instrumental to get the technology up to date. Pentucket was one of the only districts in the State that was able to run all of their hybrid and remote classes the entire time, which brought the budget approximately 1 million in the hole come October. All three town's joined on through the CARES2 aid to ensure supplies for the safety of staff members. Chapter 70 funds were based on enrollment on October 1st (802 students), and this year's enrollment was significantly down, bringing Merrimac's assessment over 6%. The ESSR funds were able to offset that and reduce the budget by \$218,000.

**C. Voting- Omnibus**

- 1. Motion to restore Town Nurse salary to \$32,217

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>DEFEATED [2 TO 4]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	James Archibald
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mike Marden
<b>AYES:</b>	Archibald, Marden
<b>NAYS:</b>	Zosack, Gustison, Luoma, Manni
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Donahue

- 2. approve lines 50 + 51, Whittier Regional Tech & Pentucket Regional, +/- \$10,000

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Chris Manni
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Rob Gustison
<b>AYES:</b>	Archibald, Zosack, Marden, Gustison, Luoma, Manni
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Donahue

- 3. approve line 52 Essex-North Shore

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Mike Marden
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Rob Gustison
<b>AYES:</b>	Archibald, Zosack, Marden, Gustison, Luoma, Manni
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Donahue

- 4. approve lines 53 + 54 Highway

**RESULT:** APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]  
**MOVER:** Mike Marden  
**SECONDER:** Marcia Zosack  
**AYES:** Archibald, Zosack, Marden, Gustison, Luoma, Manni  
**ABSENT:** Donahue

5. approve line 55 Snow and Ice

**RESULT:** APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]  
**MOVER:** Marcia Zosack  
**SECONDER:** Mike Marden  
**AYES:** Archibald, Zosack, Marden, Gustison, Luoma, Manni  
**ABSENT:** Donahue

6. approve lines 57-58 Cemetery

**RESULT:** APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]  
**MOVER:** Rob Gustison  
**SECONDER:** Mike Marden  
**AYES:** Archibald, Zosack, Marden, Gustison, Luoma, Manni  
**ABSENT:** Donahue

7. approve lines 72-80 Unclassified

**RESULT:** APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]  
**MOVER:** Chris Manni  
**SECONDER:** Mike Marden  
**AYES:** Archibald, Zosack, Marden, Gustison, Luoma, Manni  
**ABSENT:** Donahue

D. Voting Water, Wastewater, Cable

1. approve total Water \$1,117,972

**RESULT:** APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]  
**MOVER:** Marcia Zosack  
**SECONDER:** Mike Marden  
**AYES:** Archibald, Zosack, Marden, Gustison, Luoma, Manni  
**ABSENT:** Donahue

2. approve total Wastewater

**RESULT:** APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]  
**MOVER:** Chris Manni  
**SECONDER:** Marcia Zosack  
**AYES:** Archibald, Zosack, Marden, Gustison, Luoma, Manni  
**ABSENT:** Donahue

3. approve total Cable \$144,049

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Mike Marden
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Marcia Zosack
<b>AYES:</b>	Archibald, Zosack, Marden, Gustison, Luoma, Manni
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Donahue

E. Voting- Special Articles

1. To appropriate \$ 405,152 from Free Cash for FY2021 for the following specific purposes:

To appropriate funds for the non-federal share for replacement of the Bear Hill Road Culvert. **\$96,741**  
To appropriate funds to purchase a new F450 Dump Truck with a plow and sander for the Highway Department. **\$80,000**  
To appropriate funds to replace the (2) HVAC Roof Compressor Units at the Library. **\$28,000**  
To appropriate funds for additional closure work at the Battis Road Landfill. **\$150,000**  
To appropriate funds required for the retirement costs of employees. **\$37,000**  
To appropriate funds to the OPEB Trust Fund. **\$13,411**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Mike Marden
<b>SECONDER:</b>	David Luoma
<b>AYES:</b>	Archibald, Zosack, Marden, Gustison, Luoma, Manni
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Donahue

2. To appropriate \$ 160,000 from Water Retained Earnings for FY2021 for the following specific Capital purposes:

To appropriate funds to purchase of new water meters throughout town **\$10,000**  
To appropriate funds for the repairs to the gravel pack wells **\$40,000**  
To appropriate funds for the replacement/upgrade of existing infrastructure to meet current DEP requirements **\$100,000**  
To appropriate funds for the exploration of solar development **\$10,000**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	David Luoma
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mike Marden
<b>AYES:</b>	Archibald, Zosack, Marden, Gustison, Luoma, Manni
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Donahue

3. To appropriate \$115,000 from the Wastewater Retained Earnings FY2021 for the following specific Capital purposes:

To appropriate funds for equipment replacement and upgrades at the Wastewater Facility **\$50,000**  
To appropriate funds for Engineering of Capital Improvement to Main Building, as approved by DEP and EPA **\$50,000**  
To appropriate funds to purchase of new water meters throughout town **\$15,000**

**RESULT:** APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]  
**MOVER:** Marcia Zosack  
**SECONDER:** Mike Marden  
**AYES:** Archibald, Zosack, Marden, Gustison, Luoma, Manni  
**ABSENT:** Donahue

4. To accept a sum of money from the Electric Light Department to be used by the Assessors to reduce the Tax Levy for FY2022.

**RESULT:** APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]  
**MOVER:** Rob Gustison  
**SECONDER:** Chris Manni  
**AYES:** Archibald, Zosack, Marden, Gustison, Luoma, Manni  
**ABSENT:** Donahue

5. To appropriate \$3,600 from "Sale of Cemetery Lots" for the "care, improvement and embellishment" of said cemeteries.

**RESULT:** APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]  
**MOVER:** Rob Gustison  
**SECONDER:** Mike Marden  
**AYES:** Archibald, Zosack, Marden, Gustison, Luoma, Manni  
**ABSENT:** Donahue

6. To raise and appropriate \$185,000 to be used to make necessary repairs to Town roadways.

**RESULT:** APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]  
**MOVER:** Mike Marden  
**SECONDER:** David Luoma  
**AYES:** Archibald, Zosack, Marden, Gustison, Luoma, Manni  
**ABSENT:** Donahue

7. To accept the State Grant of Chapter 90 Highway Funds.

**RESULT:** APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]  
**MOVER:** Marcia Zosack  
**SECONDER:** Mike Marden  
**AYES:** Archibald, Zosack, Marden, Gustison, Luoma, Manni  
**ABSENT:** Donahue

8. To raise & appropriate \$310,000 for Solid Waste, Recycling and Disposal.

**RESULT:** APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]  
**MOVER:** Rob Gustison  
**SECONDER:** James Archibald  
**AYES:** Archibald, Zosack, Marden, Gustison, Luoma, Manni  
**ABSENT:** Donahue

9. To appropriate \$1,200,000, to purchase a Fire Quint Vehicle and authorize the borrowing. 2/3 Vote Required

**RESULT:** APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]  
**MOVER:** Rob Gustison  
**SECONDER:** Marcia Zosack  
**AYES:** Archibald, Zosack, Marden, Gustison, Luoma, Manni  
**ABSENT:** Donahue

10. To change the name and purpose of the Ambulance Stabilization Fund to the Fire and Ambulance Apparatus Fund; and transfer \$100,000 from the Capital Stabilization Fund to the Fire and Ambulance Apparatus fund.

**RESULT:** APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]  
**MOVER:** Rob Gustison  
**SECONDER:** Mike Marden  
**AYES:** Archibald, Zosack, Marden, Gustison, Luoma, Manni  
**ABSENT:** Donahue