



Merrimac Finance Committee Regular Meeting

Meeting Date: 02/25/26

Present: Marcia Zosack, Thomas Ackerman, Michael Marden, Michael Bevilacqua, David Olds, Corey Cane

Absent: David Luoma, Ken Tingle

I. Call to Order

5:05 P.M.

II. Minutes Approval

III. New Business

1. Garden Club
Not able to attend. Asking for increase of \$300.
2. Commission on Disabilities

Chris Gaudet, Commission on Disabilities

Have a \$45k article for Capital Planning for continuing ADA sidewalk improvements. As always when feasible would like to eventually become a line item in the omnibus.

3. Light Department

Mary Usovich, Light Department Manager. Norm Denault, Light Commissioner

The Light Department budget is completely separate from the Town. The Light Department allocates a certain amount of funds to the Town each year through the PILOT program. This year the amount able to provide is lower than previous years. The Light Department is not able to provide any additional funds to the town. The cost of doing business has risen, and there is only a 2.5% increase to the rate payers to cover this. The Light Department feels they have had expenses they didn't anticipate directly related to legal costs that they feel the town forced them to incur. The next Commissioner meeting on March 18th will be when the Light Department reviews their budget for the year. The Light Departments primary mission is to ensure the community is able to afford their light bills. They feel they are doing significant work throughout town assisting other departments, boards and committees. Merrimac Light is the lowest paying Municipal Light Department in the State through the PILOT program. The MLD employees received a 4% cost of living increase this year, in addition to a 70/30 split for health insurance. The Finance Committee as a whole would like to stress to the Light

Department to take into consideration the constraints of the town budget for future negotiations, as the Town is unable to match the benefits and increase that the Light Department was able to provide their employees. The Light Department will be back at Town Meeting for the sale of 10 West Main Street to continue with the renovation project of the Federal Way building to accommodate moving the office there.

Discussion and Voting

David was able to talk to the Senior Center more in depth about their services, and how while the food for the hot meal service is a great service the cost of employees is roughly \$75k-\$100k.

The Pentucket school meeting was last night. Gave three options to work with, with Option 2- cut 825k, the most likely. The school department will vote on their budget next week before the Fin Com's next meeting.

David also met with the library regarding the requirements that they need to be open in order to meet with the consortium.

The Town's health insurance split is 55% town and 45% employee. Right now the deficit is approximately \$158,000 which includes a 2% cost of living.

Marcia is to contact additional departments to return on the March 11th meeting.

IV. Adjourn

to adjourn at 6:51 P.M.

RESULT:

MOVER: Thomas Ackerman

SECONDER: Michael Marden

AYES: Marcia Zosack, Thomas Ackerman, Michael Marden, Michael Bevilacqua,
David Olds, Corey Cane

ABSENT: David Luoma

The location of this meeting is wheelchair accessible and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons with disabilities requiring assistance. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please contact the Town of Merrimac's ADA Coordinator, Robert Sinibaldi, at least two business day in advance of the meeting:
<mailto:commissioner@townofmerrimac.com> or 978-346-0525