



Merrimac Finance Committee Regular Meeting

Meeting Date: 01/13/26

I. Call to Order

Present: Marcia Zosack, Michael Marden, David Luoma, Ken Tingle, David Olds, Corey Cane
Absent: Thomas Ackerman, Michael Bevilacqua

II. Minutes Approval

1. Meeting Minutes- October 25th, 2025

to approve meeting minutes from October 25th, 2025.

RESULT:

MOVER: Michael Marden

SECONDER: David Luoma

AYES: Marcia Zosack, Michael Marden, David Luoma, David Olds, Corey Cane

ABSENT: Thomas Ackerman, Ken Tingle, Michael Bevilacqua

2. Meeting Minutes- January 7th, 2026

to approve meeting minutes from January 7th, 2026

RESULT:

MOVER: Corey Cane

SECONDER: Michael Marden

AYES: Marcia Zosack, Michael Marden, David Olds, Corey Cane

ABSENT: Thomas Ackerman, David Luoma, Ken Tingle, Michael Bevilacqua

III. New Business

Marcia has followed up with Select Board member Rob Gustison regarding the regional dispatch center. Janet has confirmed it is on the agenda for the Select Board meeting.

Pentucket Regional School District public hearing is set for February 24th. Will post joint meeting.

1. Planning Board
Denise McClure, Town Planner

No changes to the budget other than the cost of living increase. The budget is small, at the end of the fiscal year the funds are typically moved around to cover legal advertising for by-law changes that go to Town Meeting. If in the end there is a 20% cut overall the Planning Board would manage.

2. Wastewater- Department of Public Works
Bob Sinibaldi, DPW Director. Tina Journey, Administrative

Increases salaries, contract negotiations start next week.

Expenses 2.5% increase in electricity that was notified by the light department. Additional testing costs for PFAS per state requirements. Increase in billing due to postage, and a \$3,000 reduction in software cost. Cost increase for engineering of \$20,000, we are in the early stages of the engineering for the plant design. We can not get SRF funding until the project is completely designed. Sludge removal is also a large increase, per the state the sludge needs to be shipped by rail car to Ohio and we are actively working on a solution with Waste Management at their new facility in Maine. Increases in chemicals of \$2,000 and property liability of \$1,300. A rate increase is expected.

3. Water- Department of Public Works
Bob Sinibaldi, DPW Director. Tina Journey, Administrative

Increases salaries, contract negotiations start next week.

Expense increase of 2.5% for electricity at the plant, as well as building systems and repairs. Roadway/excavation increase for leak detection and hydrant replacement. There are approximately 40 hydrants that have aged out, it costs roughly \$10,000 per hydrant. A 5% increase in well cleaning, we have been saving as we relined the wells and did testing during that. Increase in legal expense for land taking near the Bear Hill water tank, there is currently not enough land where the tank is. All software contracts increased, totaling \$4,000. \$17,000 increase for engineering- current projects are funded through grants but engineering is not covered. Rate increase for water of 3%.

4. Highway- Department of Public Works
Bob Sinibaldi, DPW Director. Alyssa Sexton, Administrative

Increases salaries, contract negotiations start next week.

Expenses increase for vehicle maintenance, aging fleet with more costs to maintain. Asking for a new vehicle through free cash, can reduce the increase if a new vehicle is funded.

Snow and Ice

Increase of \$10,000 in line with what is typically spent. Will absolutely go over this year with the upcoming storm.

Parks and Rec

Increase of \$1,4000 for playground chips current chips have been disintegrating and causing the walkway to break down. Need budget to replace chips yearly to keep up with playground maintenance.

5. Inspectional Services

Bob Sinibaldi, Building Commissioner

No changes to the budget other than the cost of living increase. Like Planning, the Department survives on a minimal budget but will make do with reductions if necessary.

IV. Adjourn

to adjourn at 6:24PM.

RESULT:

MOVER: Michael Marden

SECONDER: Ken Tingle

AYES: Marcia Zosack, Michael Marden, David Luoma, Ken Tingle, David Olds,
Corey Cane

ABSENT: Thomas Ackerman, Michael Bevilacqua

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, Rober Sinibaldi, at least two business day in advance of the meeting:
<mailto:commissioner@townofmerrimac.com> or 978-346-0525