



Merrimac Finance Committee Regular Meeting

Meeting Date: 01/27/26

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

Absent: David Luoma, Ken Tingle

I. Call to Order

Call to order at 5:02PM.

II. Minutes Approval

1. Meeting Minutes - January 13th, 2026

approve meeting minutes from January 13th, 2026.

RESULT:

MOVER: Thomas Ackerman

SECONDER: Michael Bevilacqua

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

ABSENT: David Luoma, Ken Tingle

III. New Business

Marcia attended the Governance Committee meetings, they are looking at making changes to the structure of the staff- all changes made through by-laws and would not require a charter. The Finance Committee strongly urges them to come to a conclusion as soon as possible, as key staff members are retiring in the next year and a half. Marcia and Corey met with the Select Board that meeting and discussed the urgency of it, as well as the potential cost savings of regional dispatch. The Select Board decided to have a Dispatch Committee to do the research for this, with representation from Finance Committee and the Department Heads. Right now the regional dispatch center is not accepting new Town's. Would like the committee to focus on surrounding Town's to see what they like and dislike about it.

1. Select Board
Jennifer Penny, Executive Assistant

No changes to the budget for the Select Boards office other than the cost of living and an increase in the longevity for twenty years.

2. Council on Aging
Brienne Walsh, Director Senior Center

Salary increase for the outreach coordinator, the position went full time in July and would like the pay to get to the median level, about \$4,700 per year/about \$3/hr. The position works very closely with the Police and Fire departments.

No increase for expenses. The Merrimac Senior Center is one of the only in the area who has hot meals, the food is funded through the Council on Aging, the Town funds one full time and two part time employees. The meals are delivered sometimes through volunteers and some paid staff.

No increase for the Nurse expenses, cost of living increase for salaries.

3. Library
Aila Colburn, Library Director

Increase in the collections items and Merrimac Valley Consortium to match the increase in the budget to keep the certification. For library's in Town's under 10,000 you have to meet certain criteria, including 19% of the budget match and being open 25 hours a week. The Friends of the Library pay for many additional programs. There will be capital items to rebuild the circulators, as well as to repaint the walk way and additional rot repair and painting.

4. Board of Health
5. Town Clerk, Registrar, Census
Gwen Sabbagh, Town Clerk

Increase of cost of living in salaries.

Increase of postage and elections, next year there will be 3 elections vs the 1 election for this year. More mailing because of the state requirement of voting by mail. About 2,000 request mailed ballots and 2/3 will return- the Town has about 5,000 registered voters. Some money from the state will offset the cost. The Assistant Town Clerk has 30 hours a week, that is shared position between a few people spread out as needed but there is one person sworn in as Assistant to be able to do the duties in the office as necessary. The additional election workers coverage is covered in a separate line.

6. Cemetery
Rick Pinciario and Gwen Sabbagh, Cemetery Trustees

Increase in a stipend for the secretary. Have made progress in mapping the cemetery lots, in preparation of the anniversary coming up they are doing research on residents buried at Lower Corner. Have spent a significant amount of money out of the perpetual account on cemetery maintenance. There is one full time staff member, as well as a seasonal employee.

IV. Adjourn

Adjourn Tom 1st, Mike 2nd.

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