



Merrimac Finance Committee Regular Meeting

Meeting Date: 01/07/26

Call to Order

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

I. Minutes Approval

II. New Business

1. Finance Committee Member Updates

The Finance Committee is looking for the Select Board to investigate a regional dispatch. On the phone: Janet Bruno, Select Board Member, who will follow up with the liaison's for the Police & Fire Department. Going to add it to the next Select Board meeting, January 20th. Will post a joint SB and FinCom meeting for 1/20 as many FinCom members expressed interest in attending.

What the Select Board plans are for the Finance Department retiree's in the coming year? The Governance Committee is going to come up with the organization of the Town, to restructure or not. There is no time line for the committee to issue a report, the Collins Center contract expires January 30th and on the agenda for the next Select Board meeting is to request an extension. At the next Select Board meeting Janet will discuss a timeline with them.

Thoughts when meeting with departments would be letting everyone know there is about a 20% budget deficit. Looking for cost savings all around with potential cuts of department employees, the use of AI, looking for any potential town owned land for sale. Potential decrease of services from departments- library, council on aging. Reducing the COLA to 2% town wide, with the union negotiations following suit, would reduce the deficit, along with cutting expenses. Would like department heads to look into what is mandatory and regulatory cost increase, versus increases that can wait.

2. Town Accountant

Anne Jim, Town Accountant

Increase of 3.5% cola for salaries.

Reallocating funds from postage to office supplies. Decrease for software of \$625.

The new assistant accountant is working out great, starting with the accounts payable and being able to have a backup person for the position.

IT

Increase of 3.5% cola for salaries.

Increase of \$1,898 for Town Hall IT Subscriptions. Per the insurance companies requirements the cost of the MFA, EDR and backups.

3. Tax Collector

Michelle Barry, Tax Collector

Increase of 3.5% cola for salaries.

Increase of \$2,380 for Billing, Collection and Printing. That is an increase in postage, and the lockbox from the provider.

4. Assessors

Heather Roche, Principle Assessor

Increase of 3.5% in salaries. Decreased the position from Assistant Assessor to Administrative Assistant, from 35 hours a week to 30 hours.

Increase of \$722 for the Catalist software. The Patriot Properties contract has just renewed for 5 years, the software side is great, they have recently been sold and the customer service side has changed.

5. Finance Director, Assistant Treasurer

Carol McLeod, Finance Director, Town Administrator, Treasurer

Increase of 3.5% cost of living in salaries.

Increase of \$300 in expenses for Dues and Memberships based on the actuals last year that was short.

III. Adjourn

motion to adjourn at 6:50PM

RESULT:

MOVER: Ken Tingle

SECONDER: Thomas Ackerman

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

ABSENT: David Luoma, 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