



Merrimac Finance Committee Regular Meeting

Meeting Date: 03/11/26

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

I. Call to Order

5:02PM

II. Minutes Approval

motion to approve meeting minutes from February 25th, 2026 with amended language "Committee had several questions about how the PILOT was calculated, and would like them to consider increasing the pilot for this fiscal year".

RESULT:

MOVER: Thomas Ackerman

SECONDER: Michael Marden

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

ABSENT: David Luoma

motion to approve meeting minutes from February 24th, 2026

RESULT:

MOVER: Thomas Ackerman

SECONDER: Michael Marden

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

ABSENT: David Luoma

III. New Business

Discussion and Voting

After meeting with the library, they would be accepting of 10% cuts to operating cost, not staff and cutting hours. After meeting with senior center, they are not going to be making any organizational changes and the chair feels we are not in that position to request at this time. Not sure how procedurally how they would be able to cut only meal service, as it is not a regulatory mandate.

Schools voted to cut the budget \$825,000. Their health insurance was budgeted 15-17% increase but it is only going up 8%. The allocation per student is also set to increase. If both of these come to fruition, the Town would be asking the schools to consider reducing our numbers. The schools are assuming there will be less funding in future years.

The omnibus \$344,000 deficit number includes the new school budget.

Recommendation page, 10% reduction less mandatory fees and a 2% COLA. Have not made additional changes to the revenue side, it has been very flat. With all the recommendations it creates a \$30,155 deficit. It is allowed to go to Town Meeting with that budget deficit because you have until Fall Town Meeting to make adjustments. Budget includes 15% increase for insurance, could be as high as 17% and it is also dependent on employees switching to plans. There are no overrides currently on the table.

Waiting for the legal opinion on the PILOT program, the formula that it should be calculated with. While the light department continues to refer to a mass general law that exempts them from paying taxes, it does not exempt them from paying their fair share to the town. In addition, the Light Department will be going back to Town Meeting for the sale of the building, the Select Board Chair had spoken to them in length regarding the process of getting information out there regarding the sale ahead of the meeting. Finance Department would like to work along side with the Select Board moving forward to ensure the PILOT program is working to its fullest extent.

Going to reschedule meeting from 3/12 to 3/16 to allow update to the budget sheet and the special articles.

motion to approve the budget per the Finance Directors Recommendation and adjustments to the budget, with the maximum COLA on its own or combined with merit being 2% total.

RESULT:

MOVER: Thomas Ackerman

SECONDER: Michael Marden

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

IV. Adjourn

motion to adjourn at 5:51PM

RESULT:

MOVER: Michael Marden

SECONDER: Thomas Ackerman

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

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: [emailto:commissioner@townofmerrimac.com](mailto:commissioner@townofmerrimac.com) or 978-346-0525