

Town of Merrimac  
Finance Committee Meeting  
JANUARY 29, 2018

I. Call to Order

1. Roll Call

2. Approve Meeting Minutes

All in favor to accept meeting minutes of 1/8/18. James, first, Mike, second.

All in favor to accept meeting minutes for 1/23/18. Mike first, Marcia second.

II. DPW

Present: Robert Sinibaldi, DPW Director and Building Commissioner. Alyssa Mades, Administrative Assistant.

A. Cemetery

The DPW oversee' s Cemetery along with the Cemetery Trustees. Harold White is the primary DPW employee for the Cemetery. Last year revenue was \$21,000. In beginning of budget books you will see the revenue helps offset the tax rate. The sale of lot and burial expense is separate, the perpetual care is in a trust fund, only the interest can be used by the trustees.

Asking for increase in septic for \$300, the cost of pumping has gone up. Increase in fuel and equipment line item. Contractual line item was from contracts last year to balance the budget. No capital requests for Cemetery this year.

B. Highway

Two line items looking for an increase, looking for an additional \$5,000 under contract tree removal. This will get about two days of tree work. Other increase is for Machinery and Parts, the older equipment parts are becoming scarce and are increasing in price, the newer equipment is all computer based and once the warranty is over we are paying for shop time because we don't have the equipment on site to diagnose.

Ann- Any equipment additions we are going out for? Spreadsheet for Capital Planning showing all the equipment handed out. Wanted to enter a lease for a new loader and dump truck, we understand the financial cost of doing both and are just looking to lease a new dump truck.

Ann- What happens if one of the pieces of equipment goes down the tubes? You do what you have to do to get it back online.

Special article for \$150,000 is the roadway line item so that everything doesn't need to be done by the fiscal year, it will carry over.

Vacant spot in the personnel we would be interested in filling when the time comes, but won't do it just to fill a body.

Ann- Where does that group stand that was going to do fundraising for the ballpark (playground)? The Playground Committee is not part of the DPW. They are coming to Capital Planning and the Selectmen for additional funds. Fiance director suggests the Finance Committee asks the Playground Committee to come in and discuss where they are at.

C. Water

The salary has been revised to reflect the contracts.

Have Capital Equipment request that will come out of the retained earnings. Additional water main replacement project for \$125,000. \$30,000 for ongoing meter replacement project. Repeated lightning strikes and power

failures at Wallace Way, have a line item to put all the primary lines underground. This would be approximately \$33,000. Capital Planning requests are matching the retained earnings for this year.

Grant was received for comprehensive rate study for water and sewer since it had not been done for a while.

Money was borrowed from MWPAT for Water Booster Pump Stations which will be hitting the budget in the coming year.

#### **D. Sewer**

The pay increase reflects the contract agreements.

For Capital Planning we have two projects. Two pumps at the River Road lift station need to be replaced, \$8,000 each. If the rails are still adequate there will be no additional costs. Second is the last generator at the main wastewater treatment plant, the cost is \$200,000. The one in there currently has been there since the plant was put online 1982. The generator will be sized larger to be able to work with the eventual plant upgrade. All projects come out of retained earnings. Previous funds allocated for repairs at the plant and will not be used will be requested to be used for the generator.

Ann- You will be all set with the new construction? We are within the 80% flow limit. We are going to try to increase our license for acceptance for flows. That takes time and there is a procedure, they will want to see plant upgrades. The current plant would take about another 100-150 units. The plant takes dumping from private handlers and RV's for additional revenue but it is minimal.

#### **E. Inspectional Services**

Ann- I have noticed you are bumping the revolving accounts? No, you can spend up to \$80,000.

We will be giving back \$125,000-\$150,000 to free cash.

Would like to bring Alyssa to mid-range for salary.

Motion to Adjourn at 8:02. Ann, first. Christine, second.