OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK
Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860

Special Town Meeting October 19, 2026

October 19, 2026

Pursuant to the foregoing Warrant, the legal voters of the Town of Merrimac met at the Fredrick N. Sweetsir School in the Town of Merrimac October 19, 2026. A quorum of 72 registered voters gathered at 6:30 pm. Moderator W. Earl Baumgardner welcomed the assembled citizens to the Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Merrimac.

The Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm and Moderator Baumgardner led the assembled citizens in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moderator Baumgardner stated that having inspected the Warrant for the meeting, he deemed it proper and correct as posted by Constable David Vance. Motion to dispense with the reading of the warrant by Janet Bruno and duly seconded, motion carried so declared the Moderator.

Motion by Janet Bruno and duly seconded to extend the floor to Town Management, staff and non-voters to speak at the meeting when recognized by the Moderator. Motion carried so declared the Moderator.

Motion by Janet Bruno and duly seconded, to allow the Moderator, pursuant to G.L. c. 39 sec 39 & 15 to declare a two-thirds vote rather than taking a standing count, duly seconded, motion carried unanimously, so declared the moderator.

6:32 pm Moderator Baumgardner introduced the town clerk and Select Board member, Gwen Sabbagh, Town Counsel Lisa Mead, Select Board Chairman Janet Bruno and Select Board members Rob Gustision, Wayne Adams and Matt Passeri. Moderator Baumgardner also introduced the members of the Finance Committee.

Moderator Baumgardner explained general procedures regarding Town Meeting.

Motion by Daniel Maccione to take article 7 first out of order, motion carried.

Article 7:
The Town voted table the authorization of the Select Board to purchase, take or otherwise acquire for Water purposes, all or any portion of, or interest in the land on Old Bear Hill Road known as the assessor's parcel 91-1-1 including 1.31 acres more or less as shown on the attached plan dated 02/03/26 and which is on file with the Town Clerk, and further to pay for said acquisition, to transfer the following balances in the following accounts:

A TRUE COPY ATTEST
Gwendolyn Lay
GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts

From: Article 12 of the Annual Town Meeting April 2008, E Main Station Repairs-4/08 a sum of **$18,754.50**
From: Article 6 of the Special Town Meeting October 15, 2018 Town Meeting, Repair and replacement of the Wells at the Bear Hill Well Field, a sum of
$3,901.30

From: Current Infrastructure of the FY2027 budget the amount of **$32,344.20**

And voted to table the authorization the Select Board to execute any and all documents and take any and all action necessary to effectuate the purpose of this article.

2/3 Vote Required

HAND VOTE:
Motion by Wayne Adams and duly seconded.

Motion to table Article 7 by Daniel Macione and duly seconded, motion to table carried so declared the Moderator.

Article 1: The Town voted to decrease the Health and Dental Insurance Line Item in the FY2027 budget by $40,000.

HAND VOTE:
Motion by Janet Bruno and duly seconded.

Motion carried unanimously, so declared the Moderator.

Article 2: The Town voted to make the following FY2027 budget adjustments for Wastewater:

Increase Superintendent Wage Expense	**$ 12,325**
Increase Regular Wage Expense	**$ 67,675**

HAND VOTE:
Motion by Janet Bruno and duly seconded.

Motion carried unanimously, so declared the Moderator.

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GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts

Article 3: The Town voted to make the following FY2027 budget adjustments for Water:

Increase Superintendent Wage Expense	**$ 2,215**
Increase Regular Wage Expense	**$11,250**

And that Departmental receipt estimates be increased by **$13,465**.

; or take any other action relative thereto.
HAND VOTE:
Motion by Janet Bruno and duly seconded.

Motion carried unanimously, so declared the Moderator.

Article 4: The Town voted to transfer **$4,890** from Article 1L of the April 27, 2026 Annual Town Meeting, Asbestos Tile Repairs at Pentucket Regional Elementary Schools, to Sewer Drainage Repairs at the Pentucket Regional Elementary Schools.

HAND VOTE:
Motion by Robert Gustison and duly seconded.

Motion carried unanimously, so declared the Moderator.

Article 5: The Town voted to transfer **$15,000** from Article 1H of the April 27, 2026 Annual Town Meeting, Employee Retirement Funding, to Consulting Services for recruitment for the Town Administrator and related services.
HAND VOTE:
Motion by Robert Gustison and duly seconded.

Motion carried unanimously, so declared the Moderator.

Article 6: The Town voted to transfer **$13,906** from Article 4 of the April 29, 2019 Special Town Meeting, Sewer land Purchase, to the existing article from Article 3A of the April 25, 2022 Annual Town Meeting, Sewer System Improvements.

HAND VOTE:
Motion by Robert Gustison and duly seconded.

Motion carried unanimously, so declared the Moderator.

Motion by Carol Traynor and duly seconded to amend Parks and Recs Summer Program to read Parks and Rec Program, motion carried.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST
Gwendolyn Lay
GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts

Article 8.
The Town approved the amendments to Town of Merrimac General Bylaws Section 48-9 entitled Authorized Revolving Funds, and add three new funds for Trash Sticker Costs, American Tower Road Maintenance and Parks and Rec Program to the table of Established Revolving Funds in section E as set forth in the Warrant.

HAND VOTE:
Motion by Wayne Adams and duly seconded.

Motion carried unanimously, so declared the Moderator.

Article 9. The Town voted to amend the Part II of the General Bylaws to adopt a new bylaw, Chapter 130 – Prohibition of Cryptocurrency Automated Teller Machines as set forth in the Warrant.
HAND VOTE:
Motion by Wayne Adams and duly seconded.

Motion carried unanimously, so declared the Moderator.

Article 10: The Town voted to authorize the Select Board to grant an easement to Ripple Fiber Massachusetts LLC, which Easement Area shall consist of two portions of Grantor's Land, the first portion (**"Easement Area 1"**) being approximately one hundred thirteen (113) feet in length either side of a point located at the furthest extent of the right-of-way on the West side of Locust St. approximately eighty-eight (92) feet from the intersection of Locust St. with Pleasant Street, approximately five (5) feet in width throughout its extent; the second portion (**"Easement Area 2"**) being a fourteen (14) foot by fourteen (14) foot area toward the northerly end of Easement Area 1. Each Easement Area is more particularly shown on the image below, and further that the Select Board shall be authorized to enter into any and all agreements to effectuate same as they find in the best interest of the Town.

2/3 Vote Required

HAND VOTE:
Motion by Matt Passeri and duly seconded.

Motion carried unanimously, so declared the Moderator.

Article 11: The Town voted to authorize the Select Board to submit the following home rule petition to the Great and General Court entitled AN ACT amending Chapter 76 of the Acts of 1997, An Act Establishing a Department of Finance, Budget and Personnel in the Town of Merrimac as set forth in the warrant and that the Select Board shall be authorized to make modifications thereto within the scope of this Article.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST
Gwendolyn Lay
GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts

HAND VOTE:
Motion by Matt Passeri and duly seconded.

Motion carried unanimously, so declared the Moderator.

Article 12: The Town voted to amend the General By-laws, ARTICLE IIIA THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, BUDGET AND PERSONNEL as set forth in the warrant and that the Town Clerk shall renumber said section to conform to the numerical system in the updated E-Code accordingly.
HAND VOTE:
Motion by Matt Passeri and duly seconded.

Motion carried unanimously, so declared the Moderator.

Article 13: The Town voted to amend the Town of Merrimac General Bylaws by adding a new chapter, Chapter IIA, Town Administrator as set forth in the Warrant and that the Town Clerk shall renumber said section to conform to the numerical system in the updated E-Code accordingly.

HAND VOTE:
Motion by Gwen Lay Sabbagh and duly seconded.

Motion carried unanimously, so declared the Moderator.

Article 14: The Town voted to amend the vote taken under Article 23 of the April 27, **2026** Annual Town Meeting, which authorized the Merrimac Municipal Light Department to convey the property located at 10 West Main Street subject to the conditions and restrictions stated therein, to revise the restrictions placed on the property to state as follows: "that the property shall not be used for multi-family purposes, meaning herein to prohibit the development of more than four dwelling units on said property; this restriction shall run with the land, shall bind the grantee and all successors and assigns, and shall be perpetual or continue for the longest period permitted by law", provided, however, that such conveyance is in compliance with the conditions set forth in said vote, including, without limitation, the condition that the foregoing restriction shall not be amended, waived, released, terminated, or otherwise modified except upon both a vote of the MMLD Board of Commissioners and a subsequent vote of the Town.

Motion carried with correction unanimously, so declared the Moderator.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST
Gwendolyn Lay
GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts

Motion by Janice Nelson and duly seconded to amend and correct this article to read:

Motion to adjourn by Ed Davis and duly seconded. Motion to adjourn carried so declared the moderator.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gwendolyn Lay Sabbagh
Town Clerk
Town of Merrimac

A TRUE COPY ATTEST
Gwendolyn Lay
GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts