

Office of the Town Clerk
2 School Street, Town Hall
Merrimac, MA 01860

**Town Meeting Minutes
April 25, 2022**

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Pursuant to the foregoing Warrant, the legal voters of the Town of Merrimac met at the Dr. Frederick N. Sweetsir School, Merrimac MA, on April 25, 2022 at 7:30 pm. A quorum of 375 registered voters gathered at 7:30 pm. The Annual Town Meeting was held in the cafeteria with an overflow area outside which was equipped with lights and sound system. This overflow area was put into place for any capacity issues and in an effort to ease concerns of the citizens who may want to practice social distancing.

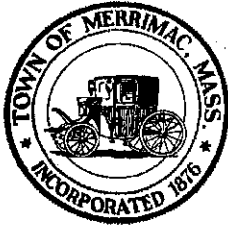
The Town Meeting was called to order by Moderator John Santagate. Moderator Santagate led the assembled citizens in the Pledge of Allegiance. Moderator Santagate stated upon his inspections of the Warrant for the meeting, he deemed it proper and correct as posted by Constable Keith Pollman.

Moderator Santagate introduced myself, Town Clerk, Gwendolyn Lay Sabbagh, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Benjamin Beaulieu and Selectman Chris Manni and Selectman Joel Breen.
Motion to dispense with the reading of the Warrant by Benjamin Beaulieu, second by Chris Manni, Motion carried by hand count so declared the Moderator.

Article 1:

Motion by Benjamin Beaulieu and duly seconded to appropriate from Free Cash for FY2022, a sum of money in the amount of \$809,363 for the following specific purposes outlined below; or take any other action relative hereto.

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| a. Battis Road Landfill Closure Activities | \$100,000 |
| b. Former Coastal Metals Site Testing | \$ 75,000 |
| c. Tax Title Revolving Account | \$ 10,000 |
| d. OPEB Actuarial Study | \$ 5,000 |
| e. Employee Retirement Funding | \$ 2,500 |
| f. Open Space Committee for Tree Removal | \$ 3,000 |
| g. Lake Attitash Invasive Weeds | \$ 5,000 |
| h. Town Planner | \$ 10,000 |
| i. Town Health Insurance | \$ 50,000 |
| j. Snow and Ice Projected Deficit | \$ 28,000 |
| k. Mill St. Culvert | \$100,000 |
| l. (4) Election Ballot Tabulator Machine | \$ 22,300 |
| m. COA Parking Lot and Building Repairs | \$ 40,000 |
| n. Boiler and Hot Water Replacement at the Elementary Schools | \$150,000 |
| o. Repair of the Roof Awning at the Sweetsir School | \$ 25,000 |
| p. ADA Compliance for the Town Sidewalks | \$ 45,000 |
| q. Police Patrol Vehicle | \$ 57,000 |



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After much discussion and participation by the citizens of Merrimac the
Motion Passed by a Majority, so declared the Moderator.

Motion from the floor
and duly seconded to take Article 17 out of order.
Motion Passed by a Majority, so declared the Moderator.

Article 17: Motion by Joel Breen, and duly seconded to amend the Town of Merrimac Zoning By-Laws, as printed in the warrant.
Motion Passed by a Majority, so declared the Moderator.

Article 3: Motion by Benjamin Beaulieu and duly seconded to transfer from the Wastewater Retained Earnings for FY2022, a sum of money in the amount of \$ 210,000 for the following specific capital purposes outlined below; or take any other action relative hereto.

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|----------------------------------|-----------|
| a. Wastewater Plant Improvements | \$150,000 |
| b. Wastewater Pumps | \$ 60,000 |

Motion Passed by a Majority, so declared the Moderator.

Article 4. Motion by Benjamin Beaulieu and duly seconded to appropriate from Wastewater Retained Earnings for FY2022 a sum of money in the amount of \$157,736.63 for I & I repairs throughout town; or take any other action hereto.
Motion Passed by Unanimously, so declared the Moderator.

Article 5: Motion by Benjamin Beaulieu and duly seconded pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. c. 44, Section 53E½, as most recently amended, to establish FY2023 limitations on expenditures from the revolving funds established by the General Bylaw entitled, "Departmental Revolving Funds", with such limitations to remain applicable from fiscal year to fiscal year until such time as they are later amended as identified in the Warrant.
Motion Passed by a Majority, so declared the Moderator.

Article 6: Motion by James Archibald and duly seconded to fix the salary and compensation of all elective officers of the Town as provided by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 41, Section 108 as amended: Town Clerk, three Assessors, three Commissioners of Municipal Light,



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Article 8: Motion by Chris Manni and duly seconded to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to operate the Water Department Enterprise for FY2023; or take any other action relative hereto.

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|----------------------|--------------------|
| Salaries: | \$ 505,986 |
| Expenses: | \$ 457,196 |
| <u>Debt Service:</u> | <u>\$ 200,838</u> |
| Total | \$1,164,020 |

Article Passed by a Majority, so declared the Moderator.

Article 9: Motion by Chris Manni and duly seconded to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money from the Electric Light Operating Balance, said money to be used by the Assessors to reduce the Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2023; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article Passed Unanimously, so declared the Moderator.

Article 10: Motion by Chris Manni and duly seconded to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money in the amount of \$ 1,000 from available funds known as "Sale of Cemetery Lots", such sum or part thereof, to be expended under the direction of the Cemetery Trustees for the care, improvement and embellishment of said cemeteries, in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 114, Section 15 and Section 25; or take any other action relative thereto.

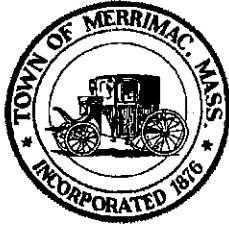
Article Passed by a Majority, so declared the Moderator.

Article 11: Motion by Chris Manni and duly seconded to raise and appropriate a sum of money in the amount of \$185,000, to be used to make necessary repairs to Town roadways; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article Passed by a Majority, so declared the Moderator.

Article 12: Motion by Chris Manni and duly seconded to accept the State Grant of Chapter 90 Highway Funds and authorize the Board of Selectmen to expend said funds for Highway purposes in accordance with the terms of said grants; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article Passed Unanimously, so declared the Moderator.



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