



Joint Town Council / School Board Meeting Agenda



Thursday, September 20, 2018 at 7:00 PM, in the Matthew Thornton Room

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Comments from the Press and Public

Items of Discussion

1. School Resource Officer (SRO) Discussion

Submitted by Town Council Chairman Finlay Rothhaus and Vice Chair Tom Koenig

Town Council to discuss their desires pertaining to the Merrimack Middle School's SRO due to the expiration of the grant funding.

2. Merrimack Skateboard Park

Submitted by Town Council Chairman Finlay Rothhaus and Vice Chair Tom Koenig

A discussion will be held between the School Board and the Town Council to define the maintenance roles pertaining to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Merrimack Skateboard Park.

3. Cable Television Franchise Renewal

Submitted by Town Council Chairman Finlay Rothhaus and Vice Chair Tom Koenig

The Town Council to receive input from the School District on their cable television future needs and expectations.

4. Upcoming Budget Considerations

Submitted by Town Council Chairman Finlay Rothhaus and Vice Chair Tom Koenig

A discussion will be held between the School Board and the Town Council regarding the following upcoming budgetary considerations.

- Capital Projects
- Collective Bargaining Agreements

5. Athletic Fields Discussion

Submitted by Town Council Chairman Finlay Rothhaus and Vice Chair Tom Koenig

A discussion will be held between the School Board and the Town Council to consider potential District-owned land that can be used as new athletic fields.

Approval of Joint Town Council and School Board Minutes

- November 14, 2017

Comments from the Press

Comments from the Public

Comments from the Council

Comments from the School Board

Adjourn

Posted: September 17, 2018



TOWN COUNCIL – AGENDA REQUEST FORM

THIS FORM WILL BECOME PART OF THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION USED BY THE COUNCIL AND PUBLIC

Please submit Agenda Request Form, **including back up information**, 8 days prior to the requested meeting date. **Public Hearing requests must be submitted 20 days prior to requested meeting date to meet publication deadlines** (exceptions may be authorized by the Town Manager, Chairman/Vice Chair).

MEETING INFORMATION

Date Submitted: September 17, 2018
Submitted by: Town Council Chairman Finlay
Rothhaus and Vice Chair Tom Koenig
Department:
Speakers:

Date of Meeting: September 20, 2018

Time Required:
Background Info. Yes: ☒ No: ☐
Supplied:

CATEGORY OF BUSINESS (PLEASE PLACE AN "X" IN THE APPROPRIATE BOX)

| | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Appointment: | <input type="checkbox"/> | Recognition/Resignation/Retirement: | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Public Hearing: | <input type="checkbox"/> | Old Business: | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New Business: | <input type="checkbox"/> | Consent Agenda: | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Nonpublic: | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

TITLE OF ITEM

School Resource Officer (SRO) Discussion

DESCRIPTION OF ITEM

Town Council to discuss their desires pertaining to the Merrimack Middle School's SRO due to the expiration of the grant funding.

REFERENCE (IF KNOWN)

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| RSA: | Warrant Article: |
| Charter Article: | Town Meeting: |
| Other: | N/A |

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED (PLEASE PLACE AN "X" IN THE APPROPRIATE BOX)

| | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Projector: | <input type="checkbox"/> | Grant Requirements: | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Easel: | <input type="checkbox"/> | Joint Meeting: | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Special Seating: | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other: | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Laptop: | <input type="checkbox"/> | None: | <input type="checkbox"/> |

CONTACT INFORMATION

| | | | |
|---------------|------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Name: | Finlay Rothhaus | Address: | |
| Phone Number: | | Email Address: | frothhaus@merrimacknh.gov |

APPROVAL

| | | | |
|---------------|---|-------------------|--|
| Town Manager: | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/> | Chair/Vice Chair: | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---------------|---|-------------------|--|

Memo



TO: Town Council
ATTN: Town Manager Eileen Cabanel
FROM: Finance Director Paul T. Micali
DATE: September 17, 2018

RE: School Resource Officer

As many of you know the School Resource Officer (SRO) grant is expiring on September 30, 2019. Over the last ten years this grant has been invaluable to both the School District and the Town. We have garnered over \$1,250,000 from this grant. In an effort to continue with the SRO in the Middle School, the Town is willing to absorb 100% of the SRO's salary, benefits and training associated with the position. The position will continue to report to the Police Chief, but be assigned to the Middle School. If the school would like to continue The Merrimack Safeguard Group, the Town will be a willing participant; however, we ask the school to absorb the cost for this.

The cost for the SRO to include benefits is \$110,790 for the period ending June 30, 2018. The estimated cost for the period ending June 30, 2019 is \$113,613.



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Recognition/Resignation/

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Retirement:

Public Hearing:

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Old Business:

☐

New Business:

☐

Consent Agenda:

☐

Nonpublic:

☐

Other:

☒

TITLE OF ITEM

Merrimack Skateboard Park

DESCRIPTION OF ITEM

A discussion will be held between the School Board and the Town Council to define the maintenance roles pertaining to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Merrimack Skateboard Park.

REFERENCE (IF KNOWN)

RSA:

Warrant Article:

Charter Article:

Town Meeting:

Other:

N/A

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED (PLEASE PLACE AN "X" IN THE APPROPRIATE BOX)

Projector:

☐

Grant Requirements:

☐

Easel:

☐

Joint Meeting:

☐

Special Seating:

☐

Other:

☐

Laptop:

☐

None:

☐

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name:

Finlay Rothhaus

Address

Phone Number

Email Address

frothhaus@merrimacknh.gov

APPROVAL

Town Manager:

Yes ☐

No: ☐

Chair/Vice Chair:

Yes ☒

No: ☐

Memo



TO: Town Council
ATTN: Town Manager Eileen Cabanel
FROM: Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Paul T. Micali
DATE: September 18, 2018

RE: Merrimack Skateboard Park

The Skateboard Park originally opened in 1999 on O’Gara Drive. The Parks & Recreation Department has been overseeing the management of the Park and the Town has been responsible for the maintenance and repair on an as needed basis, to include replacing the Skatelite material used on the ramps. The chart below shows the maintenance cost of the park for the last five years totaling \$9,583:

| | | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|----------------|---------|
| June 2014 | Skatelite replacement | Ramps | \$2,103 |
| November 2015 | Skatelite replacement | Ramps | \$2,136 |
| August 2018 | Fence | Fencing repair | \$ 295 |
| August 2018 | Skatelite replacement | Ramps | \$5,049 |

The Skateboard Park is also monitored by the Merrimack Police Department. Over the last three years there have been a total of 13 reports taken by the Police Department shown below:

| Year | Number of calls | Type of calls |
|------|-----------------|---|
| 2018 | 3 | 1 criminal mischief, 2 found property |
| 2017 | 5 | 1 ambulance, 4 police service calls |
| 2016 | 5 | 1 simple assault, 1 Fire – smoke investigation, 2 police service, 1 suspicious person |

As you can see from the information above the Town has become very familiar with the operation of the Skateboard Park. Since Primex’s report dated June 26, 2018 (attached) the Town has completed the following:

1. **2018 Wear and Tear/All Structures – Repair as Needed:**
2. **2018 Middle Structure – Repair/Assess Structural Integrity:**
4. **2018 Miscellaneous: New signage**

In addition, the Town is willing to do the following:

3. 2018- Establish Skateboard Park Inspection/Maintenance Plan and Document

- a. Maintain the apparatus to include replacing the Skate Lite on the ramps when needed
- b. Have Primex come out to inspect the Park years in the spring to provide recommendations
- c. Removing the trash
- d. Fencing repairs
- e. Graffiti clean up

The Town will also be looking to install a standalone camera as mentioned under **2018-04 Miscellaneous:** Coordinate appropriate surveillance with the Police Department. This footage will be able to be reviewed by the Police Department.

In order to complete a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) the following questions need to be answered:

- Land ownership (I assume still the District, but just making sure)
- Equipment ownership
- Maintenance
- An outline of responsibilities for both parties
- Timeframe for the agreement
- Termination provisions
- Any other pertinent information you might have

I have checked with Primex, the Town and School's insurer, in regards to the liability of the Skateboard Park. Primex has mentioned it will be difficult to give a clear answer on liability without having the above information to determine who is at fault.



Mr. Matthew Shevenell
Assistant Superintendent
SAU #26
36 McElwain Street
Merrimack, NH 03054-3693

Dear Matt,

This letter will confirm the O'Gara Drive Recreation Area skateboard park audit conducted on June 25, 2018. Many thanks to you and Paul Micali for taking time out of your busy schedules to accompany me on the audit. And thank you for being proactive in your efforts to manage the district's exposure to risk.

Currently, the park is located on district owned land, however the Town of Merrimack owns and maintains the equipment. At the end of the lease (7/31/2018) the equipment ownership will be transferred from the town to the district and you requested the audit to better assess the risks involved in taking over and maintaining the park going forward.

Attached, you will find recommendations generated as a result of the audit. In addition to the recommendations, resources regarding skateboard parks are also included in the report for your review and use.

Please establish a plan to correct the deficiencies noted on the attached pages and keep me apprised of what progress is made by completing the response boxes and returning a copy to my attention no later than September 30, 2018.

If you have any questions regarding the recommendations or have additional risk management needs, please do not hesitate to contact me at (800) 698-2364 ext. 147 or mpanait@nhprimex.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Monica Panait". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Monica Panait
Sr. Risk Management Consultant
Primex³
1-800-698-2364 ext. 147

Cc: Marjorie Chiafery, Superintendent

Enclosures: Recommendations, Resources

Recommendations

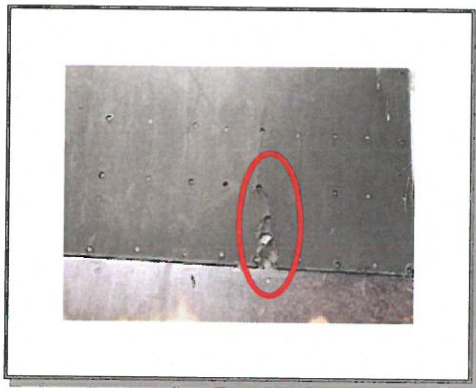
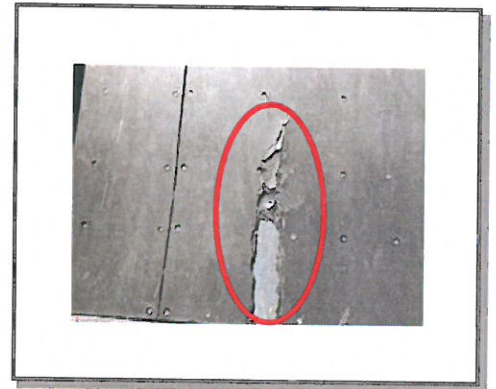
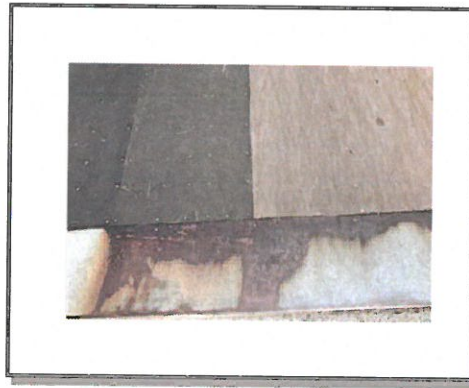
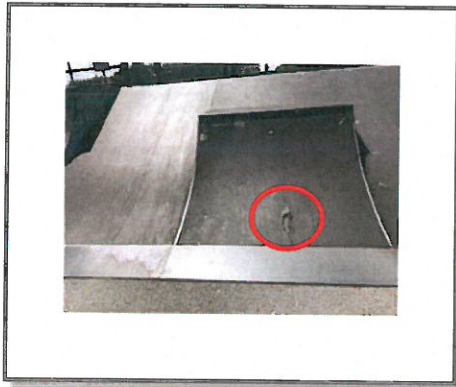
O'Gara Drive Recreation Area Skateboard Park

2018-01 Wear and Tear/All Structures – Repair as Needed:

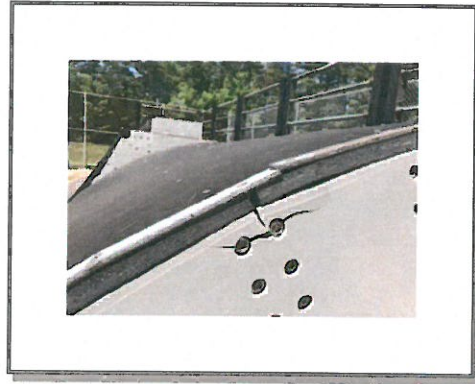
All structures are showing signs of wear and tear as the protective coating/Skatelite surface was observed to be worn in places – cracks are present in the Skatelite surface and, in some spots, there are missing pieces in the Skatelite surface.

Structures should be inspected regularly and repaired as needed.

Additionally, the metal is showing signs of wear and tear and it should be inspected periodically to make sure that sharp edges are not exposed. Any exposed edges should be repaired.



The tree line structure also shows signs of wear and tear and the side of the support structure is cracked and it should be repaired.



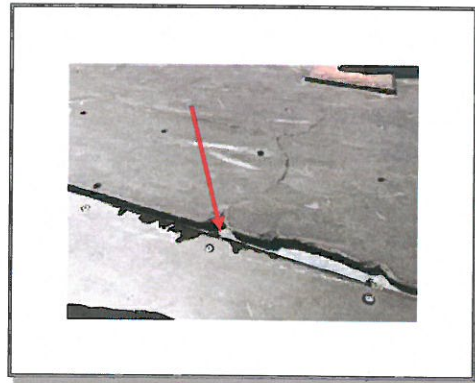
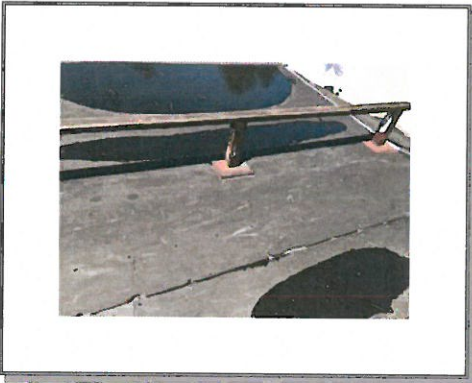
Date Completed: _____ Or Estimated Date of Completion: _____

Actions Taken (or to be taken): _____

2018-02

Middle Structure – Repair/Assess Structural Integrity:

The middle structure is showing signs of wear and tear and the platforms on this structure should be assessed as they move when stepped on and there is a gap in between platforms that might have allowed water to seep inside the structure which could have potentially compromised the structural integrity of the structure.



Date Completed: _____ Or Estimated Date of Completion: _____

Actions Taken (or to be taken): _____

2018-03

Establish Skateboard Park Inspection/Maintenance Plan and Document:

A maintenance program should be developed for the skateboard park. All areas and equipment should be inspected for excessive wear, deterioration, and any potential hazards such as cracks/holes/splits in the skating surface, sharp edges, protruding objects, missing or damaged components, etc.

Any problems found during the inspection should be noted and fixed.

At a minimum, structures should be inspected on a monthly basis for any structural problems.

Records of all maintenance inspections and repairs should be retained.

Date Completed: _____ Or Estimated Date of Completion: _____

Actions Taken (or to be taken): _____

2018-04

Miscellaneous:

- Consider limiting access to the park after hours by locking the gates, especially given the fact that the park does not have lighting in place
- Continue maintaining appropriate signage even with the change in park ownership
- Coordinate appropriate surveillance with the Police Department

Date Completed: _____ Or Estimated Date of Completion: _____

Actions Taken (or to be taken): _____

Resources:

Skate Park Association International: www.spausa.org

Skaters for Public Skateparks: www.skatepark.org

Skatepark Guide www.skateparkguide.com

Becky Thompson

From: Paul Micali
Sent: Thursday, September 20, 2018 1:20 PM
To: Becky Thompson
Subject: signs

Warning: Use of this facility
is AT YOUR OWN RISK.
The Town of Merrimack and the
Merrimack School District assume
no responsibility for your safety
while using this facility.
New Hampshire RSA 507B:11,
New Hampshire RSA 212:34.
(Picture: Town Seal)

Paul T Micali

Finance Director/Assistant Town Manager
(603) 424-7075



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Speakers:

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Background Info. Supplied: Yes: ☒ No: ☐

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| New Business: | <input type="checkbox"/> | Consent Agenda: | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Nonpublic: | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

TITLE OF ITEM

Cable Television Franchise Renewal

DESCRIPTION OF ITEM

The Town Council to receive input from the School District on their cable television future needs and expectations.

REFERENCE (IF KNOWN)

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| RSA: | Warrant Article: |
| Charter Article: | Town Meeting: |
| Other: | N/A |

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED (PLEASE PLACE AN "X" IN THE APPROPRIATE BOX)

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| Easel: | <input type="checkbox"/> | Joint Meeting: | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Special Seating: | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other: | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Laptop: | <input type="checkbox"/> | None: | <input type="checkbox"/> |

CONTACT INFORMATION

| | | | |
|--------------|------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| Name: | Finlay Rothhaus | Address | |
| Phone Number | | Email Address | frothhaus@merrimacknh.gov |

APPROVAL

| | | | |
|---------------|---|-------------------|--|
| Town Manager: | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/> | Chair/Vice Chair: | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---------------|---|-------------------|--|



TOWN OF MERRIMACK, NEW HAMPSHIRE

6 BABOOSIC LAKE ROAD • MERRIMACK, NH 03054 • WWW.MERRIMACKNH.GOV

September 17, 2018

The Town of Merrimack is in the process of a traditional Cable Television Franchise renewal as our current agreement expires January 2019. Highlights from the current agreement, that we would like to retain in the renewal, include:

- Free basic traditional cable television for school and municipal buildings
- Any Merrimack resident may request cable television services brought to their home
- Three Merrimack TV channels: public, education, and government (PEG TV)

This is the time for the district to suggest any enhancements they want to see. The Town Council is seeking comments until October 10, 2018. Suggestions that have already been brought forward include:

- An additional 4th Merrimack TV channel in the high definition tier
- Senior citizen discount
- Service availability for future school and municipal facilities

We look forward to continued collaborations between School District staff and the Town of Merrimack's Media Division.

Nicholas Lavallee
Media Services Coordinator

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|--|
| Assessing P: 603-424-5136 F: 603-424-0461 | Community Development P: 603-424-3531 F: 603-424-1408 | Finance P: 603-424-7075 F: 603-423-8539 | Human Resources P: 603-424-2331 F: 603-424-0461 | Media Services P: 603-423-8561 F: 603-424-0461 |
| Public Assistance P: 603-423-8535 F: 603-423-8539 | Public Works Administration P: 603-424-5137 F: 603-424-3890 | Town Council P: 603-424-2331 F: 603-424-0461 | Town Manager P: 603-424-2331 F: 603-424-0461 | |



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Recognition/Resignation/

☐

Retirement:

Public Hearing:

☐

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☐

New Business:

☐

Consent Agenda:

☐

Nonpublic:

☐

Other:

☒

TITLE OF ITEM

Upcoming Budget Considerations

DESCRIPTION OF ITEM

A discussion will be held between the School Board and the Town Council regarding the following upcoming budgetary considerations: Capital Projects & Collective Bargaining Agreements

REFERENCE (IF KNOWN)

RSA:

Warrant Article:

Charter Article:

Town Meeting:

Other:

N/A

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED (PLEASE PLACE AN "X" IN THE APPROPRIATE BOX)

Projector:

☐

Grant Requirements:

☐

Easel:

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Joint Meeting:

☐

Special Seating:

☐

Other:

☐

Laptop:

☐

None:

☐

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name:

Finlay Rothhaus

Address

Phone Number

Email Address: **frothhaus@merrimacknh.gov**

APPROVAL

Town Manager:

Yes ☐ No ☐

Chair/Vice Chair:

Yes ☒ No ☐



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TITLE OF ITEM

Athletic Fields Discussion

DESCRIPTION OF ITEM

A discussion will be held between the School Board and the Town Council to consider potential District-owned land that can be used as new athletic fields.

REFERENCE (IF KNOWN)

| | |
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| RSA: | Warrant Article: |
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| Town Manager: | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/> | Chair/Vice Chair: | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---------------|---|-------------------|--|

**Joint Meeting
of the
Merrimack School Board and Merrimack Town Council
November 14, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.
Matthew Thornton Room – Merrimack Town Hall
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

Present: School Board Chair Barnes, School Board Vice Chair Schneider, School Board Members Guagliumi and Thompson, Superintendent Chiafery, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum McLaughlin, Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell, Student Representative Puzzo, Town Council Chair Harrington, Vice Chairman Mahon, Councilors Dwyer, Koenig, Boyd, Vaillancourt, Town Manager Cabanel, and Town Finance Director Paul Micali

School Board Member Schoenfeld was excused from the meeting.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

School Board Chair Barnes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Public Comments

Nicole Tomaselli of 11 Knollwood Drive thanked the groups for the joint meeting and expressed her appreciation for the attention being given to the water in the schools. Her concerns were for the children's health and property values. The past eighteen months with no action have been very frustrating for her.

Kathy Stack of 7 Knollwood Drive stated that her well is contaminated and she has been unable to get answers or help when she has reached out to the state and local agencies. She wants to see action by the members of the joint meeting in regards to the water contamination. This is a serious health concern.

3. Update on Water Conditions in Merrimack, Review of School District's Vested Concern and Town Council's Efforts on Quality Improvements

Chair Barnes invited Merrimack Village District (MVD) Executive Director Ron Minor and Commissioners to the table. She thanked them for their participation and noted that the school district is a large consumer of MVD water and very interested in hearing the MVD's report on their long-term goals and potential solutions to the water contamination. Chair Barnes noted the school board is very concerned about student safety and solutions.

Town Council Chair Harrington stated that the Town Council has been carefully following this issue for a long time. The contaminated wells are not connected to the MVD but those with contaminated wells should contact Town Manager Cabanel and supply their names and addresses.

47 Town Manager Cabanel stated that the Town Council, out of necessity, has taken a more active
48 place at the table; however, they have no jurisdiction over the MVD, Department of
49 Environmental Services or Saint Gobain. The Town Council is actively pursuing the problems
50 with contaminated wells that lie just outside the plume area and has begun a process that
51 involves conversations with an attorney. At this time these conversations cannot be made public.

52
53 Water Commissioner Lon Woods thanked Chair Barnes for the invitation to attend the meeting.

54
55 He noted his agreement with the sentiment expressed earlier and stated the MVD's concerns
56 about water quality for its rate payers. Their perspective is to look at the aggregate water use and
57 monitor it for a variety of contaminants.

58
59 He cited the example of MVD and Town Council cooperation several years ago when the issue
60 of road salt became a concern. In regards to this most recent problem, the MVD is in
61 conversations with a large cooperation in town and the MVD attorneys have given the cautious
62 sense that progress is being made.

63
64 The MVD was first alerted to the PFOA problem on February 29, 2016; approximately nineteen
65 months ago. This problem has been foremost in the minds of the MVD commissioners since its
66 inception. At this time there are no long-range plans or suggested solutions being discussed.
67 The engineering outfit has been made aware that they need to be mindful of the larger group of
68 PFOA contaminants that might be in the water. Until the MVD has a better sense of the extent
69 of contamination, there will be not solutions put in place.

70
71 Town Councilor Peter Albert stated that he and Town Councilor Boyd will be liaisons for the
72 Concerned Citizens Water Board and he asked that the MVD also have someone represent them
73 on this board.

74
75 Town Councilor Albert asked if the MVD has a list of the houses on Joppa Road that Saint
76 Gobain is fighting against paying for these homeowners to connect to the MVD water supply and
77 was told yes.

78
79 Town Councilor Albert thanked the MVD commissioners for attending the meeting and noted
80 the importance of continued communications from them with the Town Council and the
81 community.

82
83 Town Councilor Albert asked if the MVD is considering lowering the standard of PFOA's from 70 ppt.

84
85 Water Commissioner Woods responded that the MVD is not allowed to access private property
86 without the homeowners consent. The Environmental Protection Agency, Department of
87 Environmental Services and the State set the PFOA ppt. guidelines.

88
89 In regards to the Concerned Citizens group; they have not yet invited the MVD to their meetings.

90
91 The MVD was asked at the last board of commissioners meeting to work harder at keeping the
92 community informed. It has been put up as an agenda item.

94 There have been no discussions involving the MVD lowering the ppt. acceptable levels.
95 Currently the aggregate ppt. levels in Merrimack are in the low twenties. This does not include
96 wells four and five. These wells have not been tested since they were taken off-line. The MVD
97 does not have permission to turn them on as the state is now overseeing these wells.
98
99 Town Councilor Boyd asked if there were any constraints on community members putting forth
100 a warrant article for consideration at the next water district meeting to provide a specific PFOA
101 level or standard.
102
103 Water Commissioner Woods responded that the only constraint is that a warrant article must be
104 put forth by a Merrimack citizen.
105
106 School Board Member Thompson reminded Water Commissioner Woods that at a previous
107 school board meeting he had asked if the MVD had polled their users as to what they want for an
108 acceptable level of PFOA's. He would prefer a number closer to zero.
109
110 School Board Member Thompson then noted that the meeting time of 4:00 pm is inconvenient to
111 most people and a good faith move would be to change the meeting time to later in the day.
112
113 Water Commissioner Jack Balcom stated that the issues are the water quality and the
114 contamination of it by a local company. The MVD lawyers are actively engaged in addressing
115 the problem. The 70 ppt. is not the focus of talks; overall water safety is.
116
117 Water Commissioner Balcom expressed concern that some residents are worried that the water is
118 not safe to drink and this is not true.
119
120 Board Member Thompson asked that the water aquifer be looked at as a whole. He does not
121 think that man-made elements should be in the water at all.
122
123 Board Member Guagliumi stated that the 70 ppt. is not as relevant to her as the fact that the man-
124 made contaminants are in the water and the impact on the students' safety is still unknown. With
125 the school district such a large customer, the minimum she expects is that water filters be
126 installed in the schools and the polluter be approached to make reimbursements towards this.
127
128 Town Councilor Jackie Flood asked who tests the MVD water and how often. She sees no
129 action with the exception of the distribution of bottled water. She asked if the MVD is able to
130 represent the residents whose wells have been contaminated.
131
132 MVD representatives responded that MVD employees test the water monthly.
133
134 The MVD has been compiling lists of affected wells and provided them to the DES.
135
136 Water Commissioner Woods stated that they are as equally frustrated with the slow progress
137 towards resolution as are the residents of the community of Merrimack.
138
139 School Board Vice Chair Andy Schneider noted that after testing the water in the schools, the
140 School Board is in discussions on what tangible solutions might be put in place. He welcomed
141 the MVD to attend future school board meetings with updates.

142
143 Water Commissioner Woods responded that, while this is a problem that is important to be
144 addressed, the amounts of contamination have not changed their way of doing business.
145
146 School Board Vice Chair Schneider suggested that the MVD take a pro-active approach and ask
147 the residents if they want to spend a large sum of money to address the problem.
148
149 Town Councilor Nancy Harrington proposed having a questionnaire asking residents their
150 opinions on the issue. She expressed high regard for the MVD commissioners; but noted their
151 lack of communication with the community.
152
153 Town Manager Cabanel stated that the question should only be asked of MVD customers.
154
155 School Chair Barnes responded that private well owners still send their children to the schools,
156 eat at local establishments and so consume the water anyway.
157
158 Board Member Guagliumi disagreed with waiting for the election to get community input as the
159 information would be too late for the budget season.
160
161 Town Councilor Tom Koenig brought up the bigger picture of all of the possible pollutants in
162 water and advised caution while the MVD completes their review.
163
164 School Board Chair Barnes commented that the communications piece is very important. If the
165 MVD were to move their meetings to the Town Hall and allow them to be shown on the closed
166 circuit cable that it would help the residents to stay abreast of the progress.
167
168 Water Commissioner Woods responded that the time change was made in order to have certain
169 MVD employees, such as biologists, in attendance during their work day.
170
171 School Board Chair Barnes reiterated her comment that the MVD meetings be moved to the
172 Town Hall for broadcast purposes.
173
174 School Board Chair Barnes suggested that a central filtration system might be a more valuable
175 purchase.
176
177 School Board Chair Barnes questioned if the MVD decision was to purchase a water filtration
178 system for just the two contaminated wells what was the timeline for design and installation.
179
180 Water Commissioner Woods responded that the timeline as he understands it is approximately
181 two and a half years for wells seven and eight.
182
183 Town Councilor Finlay Rothhaus suggested that the School Board move ahead and purchase
184 water filters for the schools and write a warrant article.
185
186 Town Councilor Boyd asked Water Commissioner Balcom when they decided that this was a
187 crisis situation.
188

189 MVD commissioner Jack Balcom responded that as soon as they were made aware of the
190 problem, that MVD put their engineers to work on the problem. The process moves slower than
191 one might expect.
192
193 Town Councilor Boyd suggested that this was a great opportunity for the MVD to communicate
194 what they have done to the Merrimack residents.
195
196 Water Commissioner Balcom responded that the commission would be agreeable to having
197 occasional meetings on the closed circuit television.
198
199 Town Councilor Albert asked if the MVD has a plan in place once all legal proceedings are
200 finalized and approvals are given.
201
202 Water Commissioner Woods responded that a plan is in progress and declined to speak about
203 what it might cost.
204
205 School Board member Thompson made a clarification. The water filtration system that the
206 school board is looking into is not just to eliminate PFOA's, but all contaminants possible to
207 filter.
208
209 Town Councilor Flood asked if the DES and Attorney General are involved in negotiations with
210 Saint Gobain in regards to wells four and five and was told no.
211
212 Town Councilor Flood expressed serious concern about the strong handed approach taken by
213 Saint Gobain on the impact their actions have had on the local water supply.
214
215 Water Commissioner Woods stated that despite their reluctance early on, Saint Gobain did
216 accept responsibility for the contamination.
217
218 Board Member Guagliumi reiterated her request for reimbursement for the water filtration in the
219 schools by Saint Gobain.
220
221 School Board Chair thanked the MVD representatives for their time and noted that there is a
222 common goal between the MVD and the Town.
223
224 The MVD commissioners promised to continue to work with the Town Council and School Board.
225
226 **4. Merrimack Safeguard Update Including Long-Term Commitment to Merrimack**
227 **Middle School (MMS) Student Resource Officer (SRO)**
228
229 School Chair Barnes invited Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Mark McLaughlin,
230 Safeguard Chair and Police Chief Denise Roy, Merrimack Police Detective Tom Prentice and
231 Nashua Youth Council Executive Director Betsy House to the table.
232
233 Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin opened the presentation by noting the power of
234 partnership. The drug-free grant was written over ten years ago. Its purpose was to support the
235 implementation of the School Resource Officer (SRO). The grant will expire in 2019 and new
236 funding is needed to maintain this much needed position.

Police Officer Prentice and Director Houde attended a national coalition academy in 2009 that was very helpful in defining the steps they needed to take to create an action plan and logic model. The local problems with prescription drugs and alcohol were identified through youth surveys and addressed with support from community businesses in how they displayed some of their products. Drug take-back days have been very successful. There is now a permanent take-back box in the police station.

The intent of the grant was to shift the community's perception. Data collecting supported the value and need for the SRO as did a parent survey. Long-term data results reveal that teens are making healthier decisions.

Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin lauded the Town Council and the school board for their early support of having a middle school SRO. Their continued support is an important sign to the grantors and appreciated.

Assistant Superintendent McLaughlin stressed the importance of the partnership between the school district and the police department. The second part of the grant contained a requirement that the district demonstrate how they would continue to support the SRO position. Merrimack did this by showing a sliding scale of monetary support between the town and the school district budgets.

As more of the grant funds are freed up, other initiatives can be considered. They include the New Hampshire Teen Institute Leadership Team, Mental Health Committee, and the Patricia Conrad, PhD Provencher Training.

The Provencher Program would fill the void when Merrimack Safeguard is disbanded. It provides training in specialized coping skills to high risk seventh grade students who have been identified through substance risk profile scales. These trainings are delivered by trained school staff.

School Board Chair Barnes noted that Town Manager Cabanel had emailed the School Board members with a document on potential funding resources in order to continue the SRO position.

Vice Chair Schneider stated that he has enjoyed the privilege the past five years of being a School Board liaison to Merrimack Safeguard. He noted that the entire community has gotten behind this initiative.

Vice Chair Schneider expressed his complete support for a move to transitional funding of the SRO. He would like to see some of the other initiatives explored.

Town Councilor Rothhaus would like to see the SRO program continue and would vote to continue to participate in its funding. He would like to see the school district also participate in the funding.

Town Councilor Boyd asked Ms. Houde to elaborate on a point she made about the grant amounting to one million dollars.

284
285 Ms. Houde responded that the grant is in its eighth year and the annual amount the town receives
286 is \$125,000.

287
288 Town Councilor Boyd expressed his support for Project Safeguard and the continued funding for
289 the SRO.

290
291 Town Council Chair Harrington asked Police Chief Roy if the high school SRO has noticed a
292 difference in the students who have had exposure to the middle school SRO.

293
294 Police Chief Roy has heard broad anecdotal comments throughout town on the positive tone set
295 in middle school by the SRO.

296
297 Town Council Chair Harrington expressed her support for the SRO and would vote to continue
298 to fund the position going forward.

299
300 Town Councilor Albert has observed some very positive situations with the middle school SRO
301 and prefers the role of the SRO in the school instead of pulling officers from the street to deal
302 with complaints.

303
304 Police Chief Roy added that Detective Prentice in his role as the SRO is completely invested in
305 the students and has established lines of communication with students that have been invaluable.

306
307 Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum McLaughlin stated that Merrimack Safeguard is not an
308 arm of the school district. It is a community grant comprised of twelve sectors of the
309 community; one of which is the school board. The community must decide on the continuation
310 of Merrimack Safeguard.

311
312 Town Councilor Albert asked if there is a mechanism in place that addresses physical, domestic
313 or sexual violence impacts on students.

314
315 Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum McLaughlin responded that often, substance abuse
316 stems from an earlier situation students struggle with. Merrimack Safeguard is almost morphing
317 into a prevention program. An example of this is the creation of the Mental Health Committee.

318
319 School Board Member Thompson stated this appreciation for the police department and the town
320 for their involvement in having the SRO in the district.

321
322 Chair Barnes thanked everyone for their work.

323 324 **5. Election Facilities Review**

325
326 Chair Barnes noted the inability of Town Moderator Lynn Christensen to attend the meeting and
327 tabled this agenda item.

6. Fields Needs Review

Chair Barnes invited Director of Parks and Recreation Matt Casparius, Planning and Building Committee Chair Rich Hendricks, Merrimack Youth Association (MYA) President Tom Thornton, and Merrimack High School Athletic Director Mike Soucy to the table.

The field study begun in 2010 and all agree that there are not enough fields or viable field options in the town. There is a possibility that one rectangular field could be situated at the Thorntons Ferry Elementary School. A turf field at the high school is also a possibility and has been investigated.

The Timmons Property can accommodate one field but it was discounted due to its accessibility. It would create a very dangerous traffic situation as it exists now.

MYA President Thornton stated that his organization always prefers rectangular fields. The lacrosse program is still growing and the soccer program numbers over 800 participants in both the spring and fall. The MYA and the high school share a field at Reeds Ferry Elementary School. Volunteers have kept the field watered at Wasserman Park.

This past year the town pulled out of its involvement at Anheuser Busch. It was not cost effective.

There is a strong need for fields across multiple sports.

Newly hired Merrimack High School Athletic Director Mike Soucy added that eighteen home soccer games had to be played outside of Merrimack and cost about \$6,000. This also resulted in a decrease in fan attendance. There are also transportation issues for younger students when games and practices are off-site.

Board Member Thompson noted his involvement with the MYA as a soccer coach and would like to pursue surveying the Timmons Property as to its feasibility for two utility fields and parking. The School Board has given its approval for the Parks and Recreation Committee to survey the land, with no cost to the school district.

Board Member Thompson noted that the 2010 Field Study called out for 23 fields. This was before Merrimack had a lacrosse program and the second largest soccer program in the state. He encouraged the town to re-visit its efforts to conserve land and move more towards multi-purpose use land.

Town Councilor Albert asked about the possibility of selling the Timmons property and using the proceeds to purchase a more suitable piece of property.

Discussion ensued on the pros and cons of using but not owning various field sites in Merrimack.

Town Councilor Rothhaus expressed criticism of the YMCA for allowing its property to deteriorate. He would be in favor of the town acquiring this site for field use.

Town Councilor Rothhaus noted that there was about a \$25,000 cost difference between the standard and turf fields annually. Paying out \$6,000 to use outside fields reduces this difference.

Town Councilor Rothhaus named several sites where fields might go. They include an area near Atherton, John Lane, Chamberlain Road and the Horse Hill Nature Preserve.

Town Councilor Albert asked if the school district would be interested in selling the Timmons property.

Planning and Building Chair Hendricks noted that area towns host events that bring in people and they raise substantial amounts of money. Merrimack has the hotels and restaurants but not the number or quality of fields available to participate in such events.

Chair Barnes commented that the selling of the Timmons property has never been brought up. The school board has given permission to the Parks and Recreation committee to survey the site for field use.

Board Member Thompson spoke as a Parks and Recreation sub-committee member. They have reviewed various plots of land and has discussed the selling of the land, however selling was never raised to the School Board.

Town Councilor Rothhaus noted the liability of students transporting other students to off-site locations.

Chair Barnes asked Board Member Thompson if the sub-committee has reviewed the entire 2010 field study and investigated the viability of all of the properties.

Board Member Thompson replied that the Flatley site is an area of interest. No action has been taken. The DES has asked Flatley to look at remediating the property due to the water contamination issue.

Town Councilor Boyd suggested exploring the potential of developing the Mass River Road and State of New Hampshire parcels off Back River Road.

Chair Barnes asked if the 2010 Field Study will be formally updated.

Board Member Thompson responded that the current document is a viable working document and he would rather move forward chipping away at it instead of taking the time to update the existing document.

Chair Barnes disagreed and suggested that there should be regular joint board meetings and the field study should be a regular agenda item. What is currently missing is the action items agreed upon by the joint board.

Director of Public Works Casparius agreed that the field study should be updated, but the sub-committee is still investigating the properties and not yet ready to make the updates.

Town Manager Cabanel shared that the town has \$124,000 in the Capital Reserve Fund set aside for athletic fields.

Town Councilor Boyd added that there is another \$4,000 in an account titled Land Bank.

Chair Barnes thanked everyone for their participation.

7. O’Gara Drive Transition Plan including Update on Skate Park Relocation

Chair Barnes invited Town Manager Cabanel and Director of Parks and Recreation Casparius to the table.

Town Manager Cabanel shared that the town had received grants in 1973 for the cost of construction for four tennis courts and a natural ice skating rink; and in 1988 a grant to rehab the tennis courts and add lights. An “In Perpetuity” clause went unnoticed for several years.

The Town has a long-term lease agreement with the school district to use this property for recreational uses. Problems occurred when the town added the skate park and basketball courts. Everything became wrapped into the In Perpetuity clause.

Unravelling the clause took several years.

The Town Council approached the school board on how the land should be returned. The response was to return the parcel to its natural state.

Two deadlines are now looming. The lease the town has with the school district expires in July 2018. A site visit by a federal government representative in 2016 resulted in permission for the Town to demolish the tennis courts, as they are now considered obsolete. This left the ice skating rink, skateboard park and basketball court standing. These cannot be demolished until the lease agreement with the school district expires.

Chair Barnes asked if the lights on the tennis courts would also be removed and was told yes.

Town Manager Cabanel presented three options for the relocation of the ice skating rink. The Town Council will be selecting from these options.

A proposal to overlay the ice rink with sand volleyball courts is also being considered.

The cost to remove the basketball courts would be minimal. An estimate to demolish both the tennis and basketball courts would be about \$20,000. The estimated cost for a full-sized basketball court is about \$45,000. The MYA has set aside \$10,000 towards funding this and has agreed to have the basketball court at its location.

The skateboard park will be demolished after the lease expires in July 2018. The Town boards would have to decide on spending about \$150,000 to build a new one in a different location. This would need to go on a warrant article.

Board Member Thompson asked if the cost of demolishing the tennis and basketball courts separately is more expensive than both at the same time.

Town Manager Cabanel responded no. The person doing this work has been very generous to the Town in the past with his time and equipment.

Board Member Thompson asked about the School Board allowing the Town to extend the lease.

Town Manager Cabanel and Town Council Chair Harrington both expressed concern about the "In Perpetuity" clause and do not want to extend the lease or establish a new one.

Once the lease has expired the town could enter into a new agreement with the School Board that covers liability for the skateboard park. This would be considered a management agreement.

As of this date, the School Board has not voted to use this land for any other purpose.

Board Member Thompson stated he is in favor of the Town continuing their use of the parcel for the skateboard park until the School Board needs it.

Town Councilor Boyd asked the School Board to consider short-term arrangements with the Town to continue the use of the skateboard park.

Board Member Guagliumi would like to see the Town Council return to the School Board with a specific question as to how they would like to use the parcel.

Town Councilor Koenig stated that the town is not interested in extending the lease. New arrangements after the lease expires can be then considered.

Town Manager Cabanel stated that there are specific questions that can be asked before the lease expires.

Vice Chair Schneider stated the skateboard park has been a hotly discussed item on social media. It is currently on school district owned land and per the RSA's it is located in a drug free zone. The RSA requires it be monitored, something not currently done.

Discussion ensued in regards to the future existence and location of the skate park; if it is to stay in existence.

Chair Barnes asked if the basketball court construction at MYA could begin before the existing one is demolished.

Town Manager Cabanel responded that she would rather not go this route and jeopardize the terms of the existing lease or create a new problem situation with the federal government.

Chair Barnes withdrew the question.

517 School Board Member Thompson stated his observation that the community appears to be in
518 favor of having a skateboard park.

519
520 Chair Barnes asked how the tennis court demolition would impact school traffic and safety.

521
522 Town Manager Cabanel would coordinate with Superintendent Chiafery and come up with a
523 time for their demolition.

524
525 School Board Member Thompson acknowledged the donations of equipment to the skateboard
526 park from the Flerra family.

527
528 **5. Election Facilities Review**

529
530 Chair Barnes re-opened this agenda item.

531
532 Town Councilor Chair Harrington stated that at a presentation given by Town Moderator
533 Christensen to the Town Council that the new procedures using the schools yielded no problems.
534 It was noted that new voting booths are needed.

535
536 Superintendent Chiafery agreed that pre-planning was crucial to a smooth voting process. She
537 stressed the importance of strong partnerships in doing business.

538
539 **7. Approval of Joint Town Council and School Board Minutes**

- 540
541
 - December 10, 2015 Minutes
 - June 14, 2016 Minutes

542
543
544 Town Councilor Boyd moved (seconded by School Board Member Guagliumi) to approve the
545 minutes of the December 10, 2015 joint meeting.

546
547 The motion passed 8-0-2. Town Councilor Albert and School Board Member Thompson
548 abstained.

549
550 Town Councilor Boyd moved (seconded by School Board Vice Chair Schneider) to approve the
551 minutes of the June 14, 2016 joint meeting.

552
553 The motion passed 7-0-3.

554
555 **9. Public Comments**

556
557 Merrimack resident Corie LeBel 26 Beebe Lane spoke about the recent School Board ruling that
558 school bus drivers are no longer allowed to bring their older children with them on their routes.

559
560 Assistant Superintendent for Business Shevenell responded that bus drivers are allowed to bring
561 their own children of the same age level with them.

562

563 Ms. LeBel noted that there is currently a severe shortage of bus drivers and this creates
564 difficulties for many bus drivers.

565

566 Chair Barnes responded that this will be addressed the next morning and that Assistant
567 Superintendent for Business Shevenell will be directly involved in the discussion with the bus
568 company management.

569

570 Chair Barnes added as a point of clarification that no vote was taken on this issue by the school
571 board.

572

573 **10. Motion to Adjourn**

574

575 Town Councilor Boyd moved (seconded by Town Councilor Albert) to adjourn the meeting.

576

577 The motion passed 10-0-0.

578

