



TOWN CLERK

TOWN OF BECKET
557 Main Street, Becket, MA 01223
TOWN HALL – (413) 623-8934
FAX – (413) 623-6036

CERTIFIED COPY OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 10, 2014 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF THE TOWN OF BECKET

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, the Annual Town Meeting was called on May 10, 2014, 7:00 p.m. at Becket Washington School, 12 Maple Street, Becket, MA 01223 . There being a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by the Moderator. There were 74 registered voters present (5.43 % of 1,362 registered voters) and a total of 96 people attended the meeting. Town Officials Present: Bruce Garlow, Moderator; Jeanne Pryor, Bill Elovirta, and Angela Hilton, Selectmen; Ann Spadafora, Maria Wallington; Finance Committee Members; George E. Roberts, Town Clerk; Edward Gibson, Town Administrator; Joel Bard, Esq., Town Counsel.

The Moderator opened the meeting stating the rules to be followed. He welcomed all non-voters and noted that while they could address the meeting, they could not vote. The Moderator noted measures he would take to speed up the meeting, including paraphrasing each article (as the articles are available in written form) and not having the Town Clerk read the call of the meeting and officer's return of service. The Moderator reviewed the warrant and declared it to have been duly posted as evidenced by the attestation of the posting constable.

Ann Spadafora gave a brief opening statement on behalf of the Finance Committee.

The following articles were voted on:

Article 1: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to Chapter 41, Section 108 of General Laws, to fix the compensation of the Board of Selectmen at \$2,000 each and pursuant to Chapter 41, Section 4A of General Laws, to allow the following boards to employ their members for pay members at the listed hourly rates.

- 1.) Board of Health at the rate of \$13.99 per hour for the performance of their duties as Board of Health members.
- 2.) Cemetery Commission at the rate of \$13.99 per hour for the performance of their duties as Cemetery Commission members in maintaining the cemeteries.

Majority Vote Required

Article 1 Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 1 Passed Unanimously**

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money as may be needed to defray the expense of the Town for the 2015 fiscal year as set forth in the following line items:

	BUDGET	DEPARTMENT	FIN COMM	Percent
TOWN of BECKET	APPROVED	REQUEST	SELECTMEN	INCREASE

	FY2015	FY2014	FY2015	RECOMMENDED	(DECREASE)
GENERAL GOVERNMENT					
1. TOWN COUNSEL		\$13,500	\$13,500	\$13,500	0.00%
2. LEGAL EXPENSE		\$100,000	\$0	\$0	-100.00%
3. TOWN MEETING EXPENSES		\$0	\$3,500	\$3,500	#DIV/0!
4. SELECTMEN'S SALARIES		\$6,000	\$6,000	6,000	0.00%
5. SELECTMEN'S EXPENSES		\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	0.00%
6. ADVERTISING		\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500	0.00%
7. TOWN SECRETARY		\$42,617	\$43,469	\$43,469	2.00%
8. TOWN ADMIN. SALARY		\$60,000	\$61,200	\$61,200	2.00%
9. TOWN ADMIN. EXPENSE		\$1,700	\$1,700	\$1,700	0.00%
10. FINANCE COMMITTEE		\$400	\$400	\$400	0.00%
11. ASSESSORS SALARIES		\$119,168	\$122,431	\$122,431	2.74%
12. ASSESSORS EXPENSE		\$12,500	\$10,505	\$10,505	-15.96%
13. TOWN TREASURER SALARY		\$38,505	\$39,275	\$39,275	2.00%
14. TOWN TREASURER EXP.		\$5,605	\$5,481	\$5,481	-2.20%
15. TAX COLLECTOR SALARY		\$54,848	\$55,945	\$55,945	2.00%
16. TAX COLLECTOR EXPENSE		\$5,200	\$6,985	\$6,985	34.33%
17. ASSIST. TAX COLLECTOR		\$41,238	\$42,063	\$42,063	2.00%
18. TOWN CLERK SALARY		\$26,096	\$26,618	\$26,618	2.00%
19. TOWN CLERK EXPENSE		\$2,295	\$2,845	\$2,845	23.97%
20. ELECTION-REGISTRATION		\$7,743	\$9,075	\$9,075	17.20%
21. CONSERVATION COMM.		\$7,555	\$8,619	\$8,619	14.08%
22. PLANNING BOARD EXPENSE		\$6,500	\$6,706	\$6,706	3.17%
23. REGIONAL PLAN COM.		\$1,223	\$1,253	\$1,253	2.44%
24. BOARD of APPEALS		\$2,500	\$3,350	\$3,350	34.00%
25. RESERVE FUND		\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	0.00%
GENERAL GOVERNMENT TOTAL		\$599,693	\$515,421	\$515,421	-14.05%
HIGHWAY					
26. SUMMER LABOR		\$185,312	\$208,319	\$195,344	5.41%
27. TRANSFER STATION LABOR		\$22,754	\$28,084.72	\$28,085	23.43%
LABOR SUBTOTAL		\$208,066	\$236,404	\$223,429	7.38%
28. WINTER ROAD SALARIES		\$122,146	\$140,041	\$132,236	8.26%
29. SAND		\$0	\$7,850	\$7,850	
30. STONE CHIPS		\$0	\$12,610	\$12,610	
31. SALT		\$0	\$44,125	\$44,125	
32. PLOW BLADES		\$0	\$4,000	\$4,000	
33. MISC.		\$0	\$0	\$0	
34. COLD PATCH		\$0	\$1,100	\$1,100	
35. PARTS		\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000	
36. SANDER CHAINS		\$0	\$4,000	\$4,000	
37. BAGGED DEICER		\$0	\$0	\$0	
38. WINTER ROADS TOTAL OF 29 TO 37 (\$76,685)		\$67,800	\$0	\$0	13.10%
WINTER ROADS SUBTOTAL		\$189,946	\$216,726	\$208,921	9.99%
39.INSPECTIONS		\$0	\$760	\$760	
40. TIRES		\$0	\$8,000	\$8,000	
41. OIL/LUBRICANTS		\$0	\$3,245	\$3,245	
42. REPAIRS/EQUIPMENT		\$0	\$22,785	\$22,785	
43. PARTS/SUPPLIES		\$0	\$18,540	\$18,540	
44. WELDING SUPPLIES		\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000	
45. RADIOS		\$0	\$500	\$500	
46. TOOLS/SAFETY		\$0	\$1,500	\$1,500	
47. PURCHASE VEHICLE SCAN EQUIPMENT		\$0	\$3,600	\$3,600	
48. MACHINERY ACCOUNT Total of 39 to 47		\$41,500	\$0	\$0	46.82%

(\$60,930)

49. RECONST. of GRAVEL ROADS	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	-100.00%
50. FUEL	\$0	\$92,300	\$92,300	
51. OPERATOR CONTRACT	\$0	\$1,800	\$1,800	
52. MAINTENANCE/REPAIR	\$0	\$2,500	\$2,500	
53. FUEL ACCOUNT TOTAL OF 50 TO 52 (\$96,600)	\$90,000	\$0	\$0	7.33%
54. MOWING	\$0	\$2,500	\$2,500	
55. LINE PAINTING	\$0	\$9,638	\$9,638	
56. GRAVEL/STONE	\$0	\$16,000	\$16,000	
57. HOT MIX PATCH	\$0	\$14,000	\$14,000	
58. RENTAL EQUIPMENT	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,500	
59. SIGNS	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000	
60. CULVERTS	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000	
61. BEAVER MAINTENANCE	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000	
62. GUARDRAIL	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,500	
63. CRACK SEAL	\$0	\$14,250	\$14,250	
64. CATCH BASIN CLEANING	\$0	\$4,374	\$4,374	
65. SWEEPING	\$0	\$6,900	\$6,900	
66. HAND TOOLS	\$0	\$700	\$700	
67. MISC.	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,500	
68. ROAD IMPROVEMENT (FORMELY RECON GRAVEL)	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000	
69. GEN. MAINT MAT. & EQUIP. TOTAL OF 54 TO 68 (\$133,862)	\$70,500	\$0	\$0	89.88%
70. LEGAL ADS	\$0	\$900	\$900	
71. DRUG TESTING	\$0	\$250	\$250	
72. LICENSE REIMBURSEMENT	\$0	\$420	\$420	
73. REPAIRS/SUPPLIES	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000	
74. BERKSHIRE COUNTY PURCHASING GROUP	\$0	\$600	\$600	
75. OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$0	\$600	\$600	
76. EDUCATION & TRAINING	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,500	
77. MEETING/DUES EXPENSES	\$0	\$600	\$600	
78. SAFETY GEAR	\$0	\$2,400	\$2,400	
79. HIGHWAY GARAGE TOTAL OF 70 TO 78 (\$10,270)	\$0	\$0.00	\$0	#DIV/0!
80. RENTAL COMPACTOR	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000	
81. RENTAL OPEN CONTAINERS (2)	\$0	\$1,200	\$1,200	
82. TRUCKING COMPACTOR	\$0	\$6,300	\$6,300	
83. TRUCKING OPEN CONTAINER	\$0	\$5,400	\$5,400	
84. TRUCKING CANS & BOTTLES	\$0	\$4,200	\$4,200	
85. TRUCKING SCRAP METAL	\$0	\$2,520	\$2,520	
86. TRUCKING PAPER CARDBOARD	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000	
87. TRUCKING FUEL SURCHARGE	\$0	\$1,400	\$1,400	
88. DISPOSAL SOLID WASTE	\$0	\$22,800	\$22,800	
89. DISPOSAL BULKY WASTE	\$0	\$14,440	\$14,440	
90. DISPOSAL HAZ MAT	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000	
91. CHEMICALS	\$0	\$300	\$300	
92. PERMITS	\$0	\$1,300	\$1,300	
93. MRF EDUCATION	\$0	\$100	\$100	
94. MAINTENANCE	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000	
95. TRANSFER STATION COSTS TOTAL OF 80 TO 94 (\$69,960)	\$70,317	\$0	\$0	-0.51%
MATERIALS AND SERVICES SUBTOTAL	\$322,317	\$371,622	\$371,622	15.30%
HIGHWAY TOTAL	\$720,329	\$824,751	\$803,972	11.61%
96. CENTER CEMETERY	\$3,570	\$3,570	\$3,641	2.00%
97. NORTH CEMETERY	\$6,120	\$6,120	\$6,242	2.00%
98. WEST CEMETERY	\$1,224	\$1,224	\$1,224	0.00%

CEMETERIES TOTAL	\$10,914	\$10,914	\$11,108	1.78%
FORESTRY				
99. MOTH ACCOUNT	\$100	\$100	\$1	-99.00%
100. TREE ACCOUNT	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	0.00%
FORESTRY TOTAL	\$10,100	\$10,100	\$10,001	-0.98%
EDUCATION				
101. CBRSD OPERATING ASSESSMENT	\$1,782,413	\$1,861,519	\$1,817,535	1.97%
102. VOCATIONAL TUITION	\$225,000	\$195,000	\$195,000	-13.33%
103. VOCATIONAL TRANSPORT.	\$90,000	\$110,000	\$90,000	0.00%
EDUCATION TOTAL	\$2,097,413	\$2,166,519	\$2,102,535	0.24%
PROTECT. PERSON & PROP				
104. POLICE DEPT. SALARIES	\$227,333	\$231,880	\$231,880	2.00%
105. POLICE DEPT. EXPENSE	\$17,270	\$17,270	\$17,270	0.00%
106. HARBOR MASTER	\$1,390	\$1,390	\$1,390	0.00%
107. OUTREACH	\$500	\$0	\$500	0.00%
108. CONSTABLE EXPENSE	\$300	\$300	\$300	0.00%
109. FIRE CHIEF STIPEND	\$3,848	\$3,925	\$3,925	2.00%
110. FIRE DEPT. EXPENSES	\$27,000	\$27,000	\$27,000	0.00%
111. FIRE CALL STIPEND	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	0.00%
112. DRY HYDRANTS	\$0	\$7,500	\$2,000	#DIV/0!
113. FORESTRY FIRE DEPT. TOOLS & EQUIPMENT	\$300	\$300	\$300	0.00%
114. BUILDING INSP. SALARY	\$48,201	\$49,165	\$49,165	2.00%
115. BUILDING & CODE INSP. EXP	\$2,275	\$3,065	\$3,065	34.73%
116. DEMOLITION FUND	\$12,200	\$13,420	\$13,420	10.00%
117. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	0.00%
118. EMERGENCY TRAINING	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$1,000	-80.00%
119. ANIMAL CONTROL SALARIES	\$7,548	\$7,699	\$7,699	2.00%
120. ANIMAL CONTROL EXPENSES	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	0.00%
PERSON & PROP. TOTAL	\$366,665	\$381,414	\$372,414	1.57%
HEALTH & SANITATION				
121. E911 COMMUNICATION	\$10,941	\$10,941	\$10,941	0.00%
122. INSPECTOR of ANIMALS	\$306	\$312	\$312	2.00%
123. SOUTH BERK. SOLID WASTE	\$5,960	\$5,960	\$5,960	0.00%
124. BOARD of HEALTH SALARIES	\$12,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	-41.67%
125. BOARD of HEALTH EXPENSES	\$6,000	\$19,550	\$19,500	225.00%
126. VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION	\$4,962	\$4,962	\$4,962	0.00%
127. MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES	\$550	\$550	\$550	0.00%
128. VETERANS AGENT SALARY	\$1,938	\$1,977	\$1,977	2.00%
129. VETERANS AGENT EXPENSE	\$100	\$100	\$100	0.00%
130. VETERANS BENEFITS	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	0.00%
HEALTH & SANITATION TOTAL	\$62,757	\$71,352	\$71,302	13.62%
UNCLASSIFIED EXPENSES				
131. OUTSIDE PAYROLL SERVICES	\$3,500	\$4,500	\$4,500	28.57%
132. TOWN ACCOUNTANT SALARIES	\$14,712	\$22,509	\$22,509	53.00%
133. TOWN ACCOUNTANT EXPENSES	\$0	\$200	\$200	#DIV/0!
134. GENERAL INSURANCE	\$90,000	\$99,900	\$99,900	11.00%
135. STAFF COVERAGE	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500	0.00%
136. MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS LABOR	\$43,598	\$44,470	\$44,470	2.00%
137. MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS EXPENSES	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$63,000	5.00%
138. MUNICIPAL BUILDING REPAIRS	\$0	\$15,500	\$15,500	#DIV/0!

139. SOFTWARE MAINT. AGREEMENT	\$17,089	\$20,391	\$20,391	19.32%
140. MUNICIPAL UTILITIES	\$65,000	\$65,000	\$67,900	4.46%
141. STREET LIGHTS	\$7,500	\$8,000	\$8,000	6.67%
142. WIRED WEST MEMBERSHIP	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000	#DIV/0!
143. TOWN REPORTS	\$3,200	\$3,500	\$3,500	9.38%
144. POSTAGE	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$12,000	-7.69%
145. COUNCIL on AGING	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	0.00%
146. PARKS & RECREATION	\$18,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	11.11%
147. WEED SURVEYS CENTER POND	\$1,500		\$1,500	0.00%
148. HISTORICAL COMMISSION	\$700	\$700	\$700	0.00%
149. INTEREST on SHORT-TERM DEBT	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	0.00%
150. COUNTY RETIREMENT	\$187,633	\$219,155	\$219,155	16.80%
151. HEALTH INSURANCE	\$385,000	\$402,000	\$399,750	3.83%
152. PAYROLL TAX ACCOUNT	\$21,000	\$22,050	\$22,050	5.00%
153. LIBRARY	\$43,000	\$44,540	\$44,540	3.58%
154. MEMORIAL DAY	\$750	\$750	\$750	0.00%
155. ARTS CENTER	\$1,800	\$2,000	\$2,000	11.11%
156. CHILDRENS HOLIDAY PTY	\$500	\$500	\$500	0.00%
157. UNEMPLOYMENT EXPENSE	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000	#DIV/0!
UNCLASSIFIED EXPENSES TOTAL	\$991,482	\$1,093,665	\$1,097,815	10.72%
OPERATING TOTAL	\$ 4,859,353	\$ 5,074,136	\$4,984,567	2.58%

Majority Vote Required

Article 2 was moved seconded from the floor. The Moderator stated that he would not read each line item but rather, if there were to be any questions or discussion of any item, a “Hold” would be asked to be placed on that item. At the end of the process for any line items to be held, all items not having a “Hold” put on them would be voted on. The Moderator stated that in the non-held line items, the figure being voted on would be the Finance Committee/ Selectmen recommended amount. Following this, all line items having a “Hold” would then be voted on separately. “Holds” were placed on the following line items:

- 16. TAX COLLECTOR EXPENSE
- 26. SUMMER LABOR
- 27. TRANSFER STATION LABOR
- 28. WINTER ROAD SALARIES
- 99. MOTH ACCOUNT
- 117. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
- 118. EMERGENCY TRAINING
- 125. BOARD OF HEALTH EXPENSES
- 157. UNEMPLOYMENT EXPENSES

After placing holds on the above referenced line items, a vote was taken. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen recommended amounts that were not held above, **Passed Unanimously**.

Line Item 16. TAX COLLECTOR EXPENSE: Colleen O’Connor questioned why there was a 34% increase in these expenses. Town Administrator Edward Gibson explained that the increase of \$1,700.00 was due to both collectors attending training at U. Mass in the spring instead of just one, coupled with vendor contract costs increases. **Line Item 16** was moved and seconded. A vote was taken. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 2** **Passed Unanimously**.

Line Item 26. SUMMER LABOR: There was a question from the floor for a more detailed explanation of increases in the Highway Department and salary and expenses. Edward Gibson explained that these increases were driven by Highway Superintendent request for and Administrator agreement that the Highway Dept. needed some part time clerical help for bill payment, computer work and the like to free up the Highway Superintendent to be out operating equipment.

Line Item 26 was moved and seconded. A vote was taken. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 26** **Passed**.

Line Item 27. TRANSFER STATION LABOR: Mr. Gibson explained that Transfer Station labor also increased due to the requirement of adding an additional part time person to clean up per DEP evaluation. **Line Item 27** was moved and seconded. A vote was taken. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 27 Passed.**

Line Item 28. WINTER ROAD SALARIES: Highway Superintendent Chris Bouchard explained that the budget for overtime needed to be increased to be more in line with actual annual overtime needs. **Line Item 28** was moved and seconded. A vote was taken. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 28 Passed.**

Line Item 99. MOTH ACCOUNT: Christine O'Mally-Levy questioned what the Moth Account was for. Mr. Gibson explained that Moth Account was a State mandated line item, and while we haven't needed to use it for some time, funding it with one dollar would keep the account open and allow money to be moved into it if needed. **Line Item 99** was moved and seconded. A vote was taken. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 99 Passed Unanimously.**

Line Item 101. CBRSD OPERATING ASSESSMENT: Robert Putnam, Assistant Superintendent of the Central Berkshire Regional School District gave a review of the CBRSD budget. This Line Item had been voted on and passed unanimously as part of the non-held line items, and was broken out to allow for Mr. Putnam's presentation to the Town Meeting. Other than Mr. Putnam's presentation, there was no discussion.

Line Item 117. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Dave Devane noted no increase in the Emergency Management budget, and a significant decrease in the Emergency Training budget, and questioned, why, in light of recent weather related emergencies, there was no increase in these budget items. Mr. Gibson explained that the Emergency Management budget was for paper, batteries and other consumable supplies for the Emergency Management Director. He explained that this line item is what the Emergency Management Director requested and that the Town Administrator felt that the funding request was adequate for the EMD's needs.

Line Item 117 was moved and seconded. A vote was taken. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 117 Passed.**

Line Item 118. EMERGENCY TRAINING: Mr. Gibson explained that the funding for this line item was sufficient to address training needs to keep relevant personnel compliant with MEMA's current system. Mr. Gibson explained that training was done in Agawam in Region 3 and 4. Mrs. O'Mally-Levy questioned whether training for Tasers would be an expense under Emergency Training or under Article 21, *infra*. Mr. Gibson stated that Tasers would not fall under the Emergency Management line item, and that monies were available under the Taser Article or other department's budgets for Taser training.

Line Item 118 was moved and seconded. A vote was taken. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 118 Passed.**

Line Item 125. BOARD OF HEALTH EXPENSES: Linda Bacon questioned what the cost to educate our current Board of Health to get their certifications, and why the enormous increase in fees does not pay for our present board to handle their function in house, and why there was a need to outsource some of the board's functions. Mr. Gibson explained that there were some items that our current Board of Health was not certified to meet. He noted that he felt personally that in the long run, outsourcing some of the Board of Health functions made financial sense in that Board members might only serve for three years (or less) and that there would be repetitive training costs and lapses in certifications. Mr. Gibson noted that Board of Health fees come very close to funding these budget increases. Barbara Roberts asked if we could have a single board member responsible for calling in experts. Mr. Gibson responded that he didn't believe that you could have a one member board. He noted that it might be time to evaluate whether the Board of Health remain an elected board, or should it be appointed or even administrative. Ms. O'Connor questions whether the fees collected by the Board of Health go into the General Fund or does the Board of Health retain control of the funds. Mr. Gibson confirmed that the fee revenue collected by the Board of Health went into the General Fund. A question was raised from the floor as to who we were outsourcing Board of Health functions to, and whether doing so changed the "tax landscape." Mr. Gibson noted that the Board of Health was contracting with the Berkshire Health Alliance as their Health Agent on call, and noted that the Towns using the BHA were pleased with BHA, noting that by using them the Towns were getting professionalism and experience.

Line Item 125 was moved and seconded. A vote was taken. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 125 Passed.**

Line Item 157. UNEMPLOYMENT EXPENSES: Ms. Toomey made a request from the floor for an explanation of what this line item was for, and why was it new for this year. Mr. Gibson noted that the Interim Town Administrator last year missed Unemployment Expenses as a separate budget line item last year. He noted that Towns and Cities paid unemployment directly, and that it didn't come out as a percentage. He noted that \$10,000.00 a reasonable estimate for next year's unemployment.

Line Item 157 was moved and seconded. A vote was taken. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 157 Passed Unanimously.**

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$361,228 to fund the bond payments due in fiscal year 2015 for the following previously approved debt items:

Becket Washington School	\$103,497
Nessacus Regional Middle School	11,253
Fire Pumper and Truck Bodies	159,790
Wahconah Regional High School	5,445
Kittredge School	230
Kittredge MSBA Windows	21
FY14 Craneville Air Handler	1
FY14 District Security BAN interest	33
Dump Truck and Tractor	80,958

Majority Vote Required

Article 3 Was moved and seconded from the floor.

Mr. Gibson responded to a question from the floor as to why the bond payment for FY14 Craneville Air Handler was only one dollar, explained that this was a project that was approved in last year's budget and that he does not believe that the bond has been totally sold yet so the one dollar was Becket's share of the annual interest for the Bond Anticipation Note until the bond was fully sold. A vote was taken and the motion on

Article 3 Passed Unanimously.

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$98,157 to fund the Stabilization Fund for fiscal year 2015.

2/3 Vote Required

Article 4 Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 4 Passed Unanimously.**

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to accept any monies appropriated by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation for Chapter 90 use. These funds to be used for maintenance and reconstruction of Town roads and to fund the appropriations by transferring said amounts from available funds with any unspent funds to carry over from year to year until spent by the Town. These sums will be reimbursed to the Town by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in accordance with Chapter 90 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Majority Vote Required

Article 5 Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 5 Passed Unanimously.**

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$323,166.50 for the salaries (\$296,466.50) and expenses (26,700.00) of the Ambulance Enterprise Fund and to fund said appropriation: To raise and appropriate \$234,166.50 and to appropriate from Fiscal Year 2015 Ambulance Receipts \$89,000.

Majority Vote Required

Article 6 Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 6 Passed Unanimously.**

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$18,500 for an audit of FY2013 financial records.

Majority Vote Required

Article 7 Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 7 Passed Unanimously.**

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$63,400 to reduce the amount of the FY2014 Snow and Ice deficit.

Majority Vote Required

Article 8 Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 8 Passed Unanimously.**

Article 9: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 for legal, advertising and related costs to process tax delinquent accounts.

Majority Vote Required

Article 9 Was moved and seconded from the floor. Steven Rosenthal questioned whether this was more or less than last year's funding. Mr. Gibson noted that this was level funded. A vote was taken and the motion on

Article 9 Passed Unanimously.

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 44, Section 53I of the General Laws to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 for the expenses of the 250th Anniversary Committee to be spent on design and printing of an update of the Bicentennial History Book, fireworks and miscellaneous expenses for the town's 250th anniversary celebration, that all proceeds of book sales and any other income be returned to the general fund, and that said appropriation carries over to succeeding fiscal years as needed.

Sponsored by the 250th Anniversary Committee

Majority Vote Required

The Moderator recused himself and stepped down for this Article, noting that he was a member of the 250th Anniversary Committee. The Town Clerk solicited the Meeting for nominations for a Temporary Moderator. Selectman Jeanne Pryor nominated Ethan Klepetar. Colleen O'Connor nominated Town Clerk, George Roberts. Mr. Roberts respectfully declined the nomination. There were no other nominations. A motion to close nominations was made and seconded. A vote was taken and the motion to close nominations passed unanimously. The Town Clerk solicited a motion from the Meeting to allow the

Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Ethan Klepetar for Temporary Moderator. The motion was moved and seconded. A vote was taken and the motion to allow the Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Ethan Klepetar as Temporary Moderator passed unanimously. The Town Clerk cast a single ballot for Ethan Klepetar as Temporary Moderator. The Town Clerk declared Ethan Klepetar as Temporary Moderator. The Town Clerk administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Klepetar. The Temporary Moderator read the Article to the Meeting.

Article 10 Was moved and seconded from the floor. Ms. O'Mally – Levy questioned how the designer and printer of the book will be chosen. Mr. Garlow explained that the cost of the project was low enough that it didn't have to be put out to competitive bid, and that the Committee had been working with a seasonal resident. Colleen O'Connor questioned as to the carry over language of the Article. Mr. Garlow explained that the project would likely incur bills that would come over the course of more than one fiscal year, and that the Committee would use these funds to pay the bills as they came in, and once the bills stopped coming in, any funds left over would revert to the General Fund. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 10 Passed Unanimously.**

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,262 for the Crystal Pond Homeowners Association dues owed for property owned by the Town.

Majority Vote Required

Article 11 Was moved and seconded from the floor. Mr. Gibson responded to a question from the floor asking why the Town owns land a Chrystal Pond explaining that the property was taken for taxes, sold at auction, purchased, and after several years donated back to the Town. At the time it was accepted as a donation, the property had accrued Association dues that had not been paid. An attorney for Crystal Pond Homeowner's Association contacted the Town Administrator to inform him that Crystal Pond was going to foreclose on the property. Town Counsel has opined that the Town is liable for the money due. Barbara Roberts asked is the property could be sold or does the Town wish to keep it. Mr. Gibson observed that he hoped that Crystal Pond would foreclose on the property and take it back. He noted that even if Crystal Pond foreclosed on the property, the Town would be liable for the \$10,262.00. It was questioned from the floor that if the Town paid the dues owed, would Town residents be able to avail themselves of Crystal Pond amenities. Town Counsel, Joel Bard stated he was not prepared to answer that question. Town counsel opined that it would be unlikely for a possible foreclosure on this property would have any effect on the Town's credit rating. Ann Spadafora questioned as to whether the parcel was up for sale. Mr. Gibson said that if the Town continues to own the property the Town will try to sell it. Ms. Dorothy Lerner, a Board member of the Chrystal Pond Homeowners Association stated that the Association had obtained an injunction from the Court on this property and the owner, instead of paying the money that he owed, turned the property over to the Town. Eva Birkett asked if we paid the dues would Town still own the property. Mr. Gibson indicated that Town Counsel was working Crystal Pond's attorneys. Meredyth Babcock suggested that it would make sense for Crystal Pond to agree to buy back the property for the amount they are seeking. Steve Rosenthal moved to call the question, the motion was seconded. A vote was taken. The motion to call the question passed by 2/3 majority.

A vote was taken and the motion on

Article 11 Failed.

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,692 for the replacement of the front and rear double doors at Town Hall.

Majority Vote Required

Article 12 Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion on

Article 12 Passed Unanimously.

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$14,500 to make the Town Hall front entrance ramps and handrails ADA Compliant.

Majority Vote Required

Article 13 Was moved and seconded from the floor. Linda Bacon inquired as to why the renovation was so expensive. Mr. Gibson explained that the existing steps were not code compliant and would have to be re-done, the ramps would have to be re-done, hand rails would have to be added, and that an architect would have to draft the plans in order for the plan to be approved. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 13 Passed Unanimously.**

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,500 for carpet replacement in areas where the carpet is buckled or worn at Town Hall.

Majority Vote Required

Article 14 Was moved and seconded from the floor. Chris Massini questioned whether it made more sense to use something more durable than carpet. Mr. Gibson observed that hard flooring or linoleum might be used in the kitchen area, but carpet was good for noise control, and the carpet in the Town Hall had lasted over 20 years.

A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 14 Passed Unanimously.**

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$11,900 for a Zero Turn Lawn Mower for use on municipal grounds and parks by the Building and Grounds Technician.

Majority Vote Required

Article 15 Was moved and seconded from the floor. In response to a question from the floor, Mr. Gibson explained that while a commercial mower was more expensive than a home version, the mowers used to mow Town properties were in use about 3 days per week during mowing season, and a commercial mower was expected to last 10 years. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 15 Passed.**

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for the purchase of two Mobile Data Terminals to provide Police Officers with timely criminal history, drivers history, license and registration information, etc. for use in the police cruisers.

Majority Vote Required

Article 16 Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 16 Passed Unanimously.**

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$39,000 to purchase a new Four Wheel Drive Police Cruiser Ford Explorer Utility SUV for the Police Department and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell or otherwise dispose of the 2008 Ford Expedition.

Majority Vote Required

Article 17 Was moved and seconded from the floor. In response to questions from the floor, Mr. Gibson explained that Ford Explorers were the 4 wheel drive police vehicle of choice, and that keeping all the vehicles from the same manufactures simplified maintenance. He also explained that we did trade in a Crown Victoria cruiser last year, however we also added an additional patrol shift, increasing patrols by 50%. Mr. Gibson also noted that with only two cruisers in rotation we would likely have to replace them every 3 years, whereas we could expect to replace a cruiser every 5 years with 3 vehicles in rotation. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 17 Passed Unanimously.**

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,500 for the purchase of a sander for Truck #5 for the Highway Department.

Majority Vote Required

Article 18 Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 18 Passed Unanimously.**

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$17,000 for the purchase of Ground Speed Computer Controllers for Material Spreaders for Trucks #2 and #6 for the Highway Department.

Majority Vote Required

Article 19 Was moved and seconded from the floor. In response to questions from the floor, Mr. Gibson explained that these controllers provide significant advantages and cost savings. He noted that towns that use these devices achieve 30% savings in salt used which benefits the budget and the environment. He noted that the projected break-even point on the purchase was 1.2 years. A vote was taken and the motion on

Article 19 Passed Unanimously.

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 for capital repairs and improvements at the Becket Athenaeum in order for Library Services to be provided to Town residents.

Majority Vote Required

Article 20 Was moved and seconded from the floor. In answer to questions from the floor, Athenaeum Director Cathy DeFoe explained that the renovations were mandated by the ADA in conjunction with earlier renovations and would be entail the front steps and landing. Ms. Roberts noted that previously plans had been drafted for ramps to the front of the building. Ms. DeFoe explained that ramps had already been added to the building, that the proposed renovations were to the steps and to provide a handicapped person a safe way to exit the front of the building and to await assistance. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 20 Passed Unanimously.**

Article 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,000 for the purchase of two Tasers to improve community safety for use by the Police Department.

Majority Vote Required

Article 21 Was moved and seconded from the floor. James Levy asked whether Tasers would have effect the Town's liability because there are issues with Tasers, and what is driving the need for these. Mr. Gibson responded that it would not. Chief Of Police Kristopher McDonough noted Tasers were being purchased by police departments all over the united states. He assured the Meeting that Becket Police Officers would receive training in the proper use of Tasers. Chief McDonough also explained that Tasers were a tool to reduce officer injury claims as well as suspect injury claims. Chief McDonough explained that Tasers would be used in situations where a baton might be used to subdue and immobilize a suspect. He noted that if a baton was used correctly, the suspect might very well suffer a broken leg, whereas Taser use would just incapacitate the suspect long enough for the suspect to be restrained. He stated that there were probably 3 incidents in the last year where Tasers could have been used, one subject had a knife, a couple subjects were combative, one being 6'5" tall and 320 lbs. Ms. O'mally-Levy noted the Becket Police seem to have handled challenging encounters to date without using Tasers. She noted that the possibility of breaking a suspects leg with a baton seemed less of a risk that tasing a person who had an unknown heart condition and killing them. She also questioned whether the Taser contributed more to efficiency in subduing suspects rather than officer safety. Colleen O'Connor spoke against Tasers, noted that there were risks involved that were taken very lightly. She observed in an altercation, if a person had a knife and the Police Officer had a gun, the Police Officer would win. Chief McDonough responded noting that in that scenario lethal force would be used, where-as with a Taser the Police Officer could save that person's life by not having to shoot them. Chief McDonough, responding to a question from the floor,

affirmed that there were defibrillators in the police cars. He also noted that the useful life of a Taser was approximately 5 years, and that a lease program would be used, and that Tasers would be paid for through the Police Department Expense account. Ms. O'Connor asked if the Town had video recorders in our Police Cruisers, and Chief McDonough responded that we did not. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 21 Passed.**

Article 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000 for the purchase of a replacement shed for the Becket Center Cemetery.

Majority Vote Required

Article 22 Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 22 Passed.**

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,900 for the purchase of computers and software along with related network work.

Majority Vote Required

Article 23 Was moved and seconded from the floor. Virginia Lavery asked how many computers and printers this would entail. Mr. Gibson noted that the work would encompass 7 computers and printers as well as for three computers that had not originally been hooked up to the network. He also noted that some software needed to be updated. A vote was taken and the motion on

Article 23 Passed Unanimously.

Article 24: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$385,000 to purchase a new Grader for the Highway Department, and to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow the sum of \$385,000 for said appropriation under applicable sections of Chapter 44 of the General Laws, and authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell or otherwise dispose of the 1995 John Deere Grader as surplus property.

2/3 Vote Required

Article 24 Was moved and seconded from the floor. Kevin Flarity questioned why we don't rent a grader for 2 or 3 months to grade roads in the summer and keep the old one for winter use. Mr. Bouchard responded the grader was used for road grading twice a year, summer and fall, for 30 to 45 days each road grading period. The Town did look into renting and found that renting would cost \$6,500 to \$7,000 per month with mobilization costs from the rental company of approximately \$700 to \$1,500 per rental. Renting twice a year would incur costs of between \$21,000 to \$24,000, over 20 years this would result in rental costs of between \$420,000 to \$480,000. Mr. Bouchard noted that the current grader was 19 years old, and the one prior to that was 23 years old when replaced. Mr. Bouchard also noted that we would be given a trade in allowance of \$35,000 on the current grader, and that we have, to date, spent a little over \$57,000 in repairs to the current grader, including \$5,000 for damage from an electrical fire on the grader. Mr. Bouchard noted that the current grader needed tires which would cost approximately \$12,000. Mr. Kovich inquired as to whether the machine was stored indoors or outdoors, Mr. Bouchard responded that the machine was stored outdoors as the Town does not have sufficient garage space to store it indoors. Mrs. Rodhouse noted that if the grader was rented seasonally it would not be available for snow clearing after big storms. A vote was taken and the motion on

Article 24 Passed by 2/3 Majority.

Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the use of the following revolving funds for departmental operations which shall not exceed the noted sums for each fund, which shall be under the control of the Town Treasurer, which shall be accounted for separately, and to which shall be credited only the receipts received in connection with the departmental operations supported by the revolving fund; further to authorize the Town Treasurer to expend from such funds in accordance with chapter 44, Section 53E1/2 of the General Laws, provided however that said expenditures for the revolving funds shall not exceed the receipts for said fund:

Plumbing Inspector:

\$10,000

Gas Inspector:	\$10,000
Wiring Inspector:	\$15,000

Majority Vote Required

Article 25 Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 25 Passed Unanimously.**

Article 26: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or reserve from the Community Preservation annual revenues in the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for committee administrative expenses, community preservation projects and other expenses in fiscal year 2015, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation:

Appropriations:

From FY 2015 estimated revenues to Committee Administrative Expenses	\$500
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Reserves:

From FY 2015 estimated revenues to Historical Resources Reserve	\$ 4,674
From FY 2015 estimated revenues to Community Housing Reserve	\$ 4,674
From FY 2015 estimated revenues to Open Space Reserve	\$ 4,674
From FY 2015 estimated revenues to Undesignated Reserve	\$32,218

Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee

Majority Vote Required

Article 26 Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 26 Passed Unanimously.**

Article 27: To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$5,000 from the Historical Resources Reserve and \$10,000 from the Undesignated Reserve Account of the Community Preservation Fund for the exterior restoration and painting of the Becket Athenaeum: said funds to be expended under the direction of the Community Preservation Committee and the Board of Directors of the Becket Athenaeum.

Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee

Majority Vote Required

Article 27 Was moved and seconded from the floor. Cindy DelPapa noted that the Town gives money to the Athenaeum but they don't have open board meetings, and that she would like to see more transparency. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 27 Passed.**

Article 28: We, the undersigned citizens of Becket, Massachusetts,

RESOLUTION TO BAN "FRACKED GAS" PIPELINES AND TO CHAMPION SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Whereas a proposed High-Pressure Pipeline carrying natural gas obtained through hydraulic fracturing may come through Western Massachusetts impacting neighboring communities, bringing said fuel en route to Dracut, Massachusetts to be used for electricity generation; and

Whereas said pipeline goes against current Massachusetts commitments to renewable energies and combating global climate change; and

Whereas said pipeline would permanently alter forest, conservation land and farmland in a manner that cannot be mitigated; and

Whereas a high-pressure gas pipeline, by its nature, carries the potential for leak, rupture or explosion causing damage to property and lives; and

Whereas the cost of said pipeline would require Massachusetts citizens to pay a utility bill tariff as well as environmental costs not required by law for Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, L.L.C. (“TGP”, a subsidiary of Kinder Morgan Energy Partners, L.P.), making ratepayers bear financial risk for the endeavors of a private corporation; and

Whereas, we the citizens of Becket, Massachusetts choose not to participate in such encumbrances to the life, vibrancy, economic stability, and general well being to our neighbors in New York and elsewhere, wherever hydraulic fracturing is occurring and the pressurized pipeline is running; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the people of Becket, Massachusetts:

1. Hereby call on our Board of Selectmen to stand in opposition to TGP’s high pressured pipeline, proposed for the transportation of natural gas obtained through hydraulic fracturing, and not allow it within our town borders;
2. Hereby request our state, federal legislators and executive branch devote our resources to creating a comprehensive renewable energy infrastructure rather than fortifying our reliance on fossil fuels.

Article petitioned by voters

Majority Vote Required

Article 28 Was moved and seconded from the floor. Colleen O’Connor spoke in favor of sustainable energy, but noted that there had been no discussion of solar in Town. Mr. Alvin Blake of the Energy Committee referred Ms. O’Connor to the next meeting of the Energy Committee where solar power for municipal use would be discussed. Mr. Toomey spoke against the proposed pipeline, and in favor of the motion. Steve Rosenthal noted that a vote in favor of the motion was voting against the pipeline. Mr. Massini asked why we were voting against a pipeline that wasn’t proposed to come through Becket. Meredyth noted one of the proposed routs took the pipeline through Washington, so this motion is preemptive in nature, to send a message to our representatives that we don’t want a pipeline, and spoke against the pipeline. Ann Spadafora noted the environmental damage that fracking caused to the water table, and noted that huge swaths of the forests and farmland would be cut and remain cleared if a pipeline were to be installed. Mr. Massini suggested that if a pipeline is to be installed, they would use currently open transmission lines and wouldn’t be clearing new land. Meredyth Babcock acknowledged that there was financial motivations to attempt to use existing transmission lines, but asserted that new paths would be cut, and pointed out other issues with the project. A vote was taken and the motion on

Article 28 Passed.

It was moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn to the Annual Town Election which will be held one week from today on May 17, 2014, starting at 10:00 a.m. A vote was taken and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. The checkers were Election Workers Eva Bonney, Beth VanNess, Meredyth Babcock and Ann Krawet.

Respectfully submitted,

George E. Roberts
Town Clerk

A TRUE COPY, ATTEST:

Seal

GEORGE E. ROBERTS
TOWN CLERK