

Town of Becket Massachusetts



2018
Annual
Town Report
of the Town
Officials

About the Town Report Cover

Officer Michael Hunt & K9 Kain 
K9 Unit, Becket Police Department

IN MEMORIAM

During the year, we were saddened by the passing of two individuals who enhanced the lives of those in our community. We dedicate this Annual Report to their memory:

MERCEDES GALLAGHER
Conservation Commission
Westfield River Wild & Scenic Advisory Committee
Center Pond Weed Project Director
January 9, 2018



ALFRED “BUD” E. MOYLAN, JR.
Center Cemetery Commissioner
Council on Aging
Transfer Station Attendant
February 16, 2018

WITH APPRECIATION AND BEST WISHES TO JEFF AND ZIGGY WHO HAVE RETIRED

Jeffrey “Jeff” Waite, Truck Driver – Highway Department



Jeffrey Waite was hired in July of 2000 as a Truck Driver in the Highway Department. During the past eighteen years, he took pride in performing all of his duties while serving in that capacity. Jeff retired in September of 2018. We will fondly remember Jeff’s flair for fun-filled quotes for different situations for many years to come. The Town would like to thank Jeff for his many years of dedicated service.



Siegfried “Ziggy” Hoppe – Transfer Station Attendant



Siegfried Hoppe was hired in 2008 as a part-time Transfer Station Attendant. Ziggy was well-known for his show of satisfaction in helping everyone use the Transfer Station. His outgoing and friendly personality will always be warmly remembered by anyone who encountered him. Ziggy retired in March of 2018. The Town would like to thank Ziggy for his many years of dedicated service.

Town of Becket, Massachusetts

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Town Officials

♦ **2018** ♦



William H. Elovirta

Selectman

Michael S. Lavery

Selectman

Nicole D. Ledoux

Selectman

Robert T. Markel

Interim Town Administrator

For the year ending December 31, 2018

◆ Town Officers ◆

Elected Officials

Board of Selectmen

William H. Elovirta, <i>Chair</i>	2021
Michael S. Lavery, <i>Vice Chair</i>	2020
Nicole D. Ledoux, <i>Clerk</i>	2019

Board of Health

Gale LaBelle, <i>Chair</i>	2019
Laurel Burgwardt, <i>Vice Chair</i>	2021
I. David Krawet, <i>Clerk</i>	2020

Cemetery Commissioners

William Cavanaugh, <i>North Becket Cemetery</i>	2019
Michelle Smith, <i>West Becket Cemetery</i>	2021
Dean Williams, <i>Center Cemetery</i>	2020

Constables

Michael Hunt	2021
Nicole Miller	2021

Finance Committee

Dan Parnell, <i>Chair</i>	2019
Mark Karlberg, <i>Vice Chair</i>	2020
Ronald DeFoe, <i>Clerk</i>	2019
Charles Garman	2021
Ann Spadafora	2021

Planning Board

Robert Ronzio, <i>Chair</i>	2020
James Levy, <i>Vice Chair</i>	2021
Alvin Blake, <i>Clerk Pro Tem</i>	2022
Ann Krawet, <i>Clerk</i>	2023
Charles Andrews	2019
Gale LaBelle, <i>Associate Member -</i>	2019
<i>appointed by the Board of Selectmen</i>	

Moderator

Ethan Klepetar	2020
Bruce Garlow, <i>Deputy Moderator</i>	6/30/2018
<i>appointed by the Moderator</i>	

School Committee

Barbara Craft-Reiss	2022
John Les	2020

Town Clerk

George Roberts	2020
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Board of Selectmen Appointments

Agricultural Commission

Kristopher Massini	2019
Neil Toomey	2019
Vacancy	

Cultural Council

Linda Bacon, <i>Chair</i>	2019
Barbara Wacholder, <i>Treasurer</i>	2019
Jennifer Avery	2021
Judy Cromwell	2021
Yana DeLuca	6/30/2018
Roberta Goldman	2020
Rosanna Koelle	2021
Mary Manning Cohen	2019
Sally Soluri	2019
Tracy Wilson (resigned 9/17)	2019

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

<i>appointed by the Planning Board</i>	
Robert Ronzio, <i>Delegate</i>	2019
Alvin Blake, <i>Alternate Delegate</i>	2019
<i>appointed by the Board of Selectmen</i>	

Berkshire Public Health Alliance

<i>appointed by the Board of Health</i>	
Gale Labelle, <i>Voting Member</i>	
Laurel Burgwardt, <i>Alternate Representative</i>	

Berkshire Transportation Advisory Committee

William H. Elovirta, <i>Representative</i> (no expiration date)	
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Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board

William H. Elovirta, <i>Designee</i>	2019
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Board of Assessors

Geraldine Walter	2021
Elizabeth Will	2021
Vacancy	
<i>Elizabeth Will retired from the Assessor's Office on 10/21/16 and remains part-time on the Board of Assessors.</i>	

Board of Survey

William Cavanaugh	
Beth VanNess	

◆ *Town Officers* ◆

Bylaw Review Committee

Jeanne Pryor, *Chair* (resigned 4/18) 2020
 Ann Krawet, *Vice-Chair* (resigned 4/18) 2018
 Maria Wallington (resigned 4/18) 2019
 Town Clerk, *ex officio, non-voting member*
 Moderator, *ex officio, non-voting member*
 Vacancies: 3

Chief Procurement Officer

Robert Markel 2019

Community Preservation Committee

Neil Toomey, *at Large member, Chair* 2019
 Cindy Delpapa, *Conservation Com. Designee* 2021
 Jan Elovirta, *At large member (resigned 12/5)* 2020
 Rita Furlong, *Parks & Recreation Designee* 2019
 Gail Kusek, *Historical Com. Designee* 2021
 James P. Levy, *Planning Board Designee* 2020
 Vacancy, *at large members:* 2

Conservation Commission

Alison Dixon, *Chairperson* 2020
 Karen Karlberg, *Vice Chair* 2019
 Cindy Delpapa, *Secretary* 2019
 Barbara Brand 2019
 Mary Stucklen (resigned 7/16) 2021
 Vacancies: 3

Council on Aging

Joan Moylan, *Director* 2019
 Paula Bergeron 2019
 Lorraine Dean 2020
 Celine Godbout 2019
 Marie Grull 2019
 Herbert "Sonny" Nelson 2020
 William Robinson 2019
 Betty Shepard 2019

Dog Hearings Officer

George Roberts 6/30/2018

Election Workers

Meredyth Babcock (D) 2019
 Alvin Blake (U) 2019
 Eva Bonney (D) 2019
 Candace Cahalan (U) 2019
 Barbara Craft-Reiss (D) 2019
 Charles Francis (D) 2019
 Charles Garman (U) 2019
 Patricia Clemons (D) 2019

Katherine Hoak (U) 2019
 Julia Kay Grace (D) 2019
 Ann Krawet (D) 2019
 Gale LaBelle (R) 2019
 Stephen LaBelle, Sr. (R) 2019
 Adele Levine (D) 2019
 Priscilla McEwen (U) 2019
 Adrienne Metcalf (U) 2019
 Steven Reiss (D) 2019
 Ruth Rosenthal (U) 2019
 Jerome Schwartzbach (U) 2019
 Beth VanNess (D) 2019

Energy Committee

Alvin Blake, *Chair* 2019
 Robert Gross, *Vice-Chair* 2019
 Catherine DeFoe, *Secretary* 2020
 Katherine Hoak 2021
 Garth Klimchuk 2021
 Ex-Officio Members: Christopher Bouchard,
 Robert Markel, William Girard, Dan Parnell

Harbor Master

Steve Rosenthal 2019

Historical Commission

Sandra Jarvis, *Chair* 2021
 Rita Furlong 2019
 Katherine Hoak 2020
 Gail Kusek 2021
 Vacancy

Zoning Enforcement Officer

William Girard 2021

Jacobs Ladder Trail Advisory Committee

John Garvey 2021

WiredWest

Jeremy Dunn, *Delegate* 2020
 Robert Gross, *Alternate Delegate* 2020

Municipal Light Plant Manager

Robert Gross 2019

Parks & Recreation Committee

Rita Furlong, *Chair* 2020
 Madelaine Elovirta, *Clerk* 2020
 Tina LeVasseur, *Beach Coordinator* 2019
 2 Vacancies

◆ *Town Officers* ◆

Public Relations Liaison/Officer

William H. Elovirta

Records Access Officers (term effective 1/1/2017

per Chapter 121 of the Acts of 2016)

Town Clerk (for Town Clerk Records)

Administrative Assistant (for other than Town Clerk Records)

Registrar of Voters

Colleen Cox (D) 2021

Robin Greenspan (R) 2019

Michelle Smith (D) 2020

Town Clerk, George Roberts (U)

Southern Berkshire Solid Waste District Representative

Dean Williams 2019

Tax Collector

Kenneth Bilodeau 2020

Nina Weiler, *Assistant Collector* 2019

David Shorey, *Deputy Collector* 2019

The Assistant and Deputy Collectors are appointed by the Tax Collector with the Selectmen's approval.

Town Administrator

Edward Gibson (resigned 1/5) 2019

Robert Markel, Interim T.A. 2019

Town Administrator Search/Screening Committee

Katherine Warden, *Chair* until TA is hired

Alvin Blake, *Co-Chair/Vice-Chair* until TA is hired

Beverly Gilbert, *Clerk* until TA is hired

Robert Gross until TA is hired

Dan Parnell until TA is hired

Nina Weiler (resigned 3/18) until TA is hired

Jeff Wilkinson until TA is hired

On 1/17, the Board of Selectmen voted on appointments to this advisory committee charged with selecting applicants to present to the Board of Selectmen.

Treasurer

Christine Bleau 2019

Kenneth Bilodeau, *Assistant Treasurer* 2020

The Assistant Treasurer is appointed by the Treasurer with the Selectmen's approval

Westfield River Wild & Scenic Advisory Committee

Mercedes Gallagher (passed away 1/9) 2018

Vacancy

Zoning Board of Appeals

Victoria Bleier, *Chair* 2021

Karen Karlberg, *Vice Chair* 2019

George Roberts, *Clerk* (resigned 6/27) 2020

Joy Lennartz 2020

Jeff Wilkinson 2019

Alvin Blake, *Associate Member* * 2019

Katherine Warden, *Associate Member* * 2019

** appointed by the Board of Selectmen*

Town Administrator's Appointments

Accountant

Term Expiring

Margaret McClellan 2019

Ambulance Director

Raymond Ferrin 2019

Animal Control Officer

Albert Goodermote 2019

Tania Jakubiec, Assistant 2019

Animal Inspector

Madelaine Elovirta 2019

Inspector of Buildings/Trench Inspector

William Girard 2021

Gary Danko, *Asst. Building Inspector* 2019

Emergency Management Director

Kristopher McDonough 2019

Fire Chief/Fire Warden

Mark Hanford 2019

Highway Superintendent/Pest Control/Tree Warden

Christopher Bouchard 2019

Plumbing/Gas Inspector

Mark Levernoch 2019

Brian Middleton, *Assistant Plumbing/Gas Inspector* 2019

◆ *Town Officers and Town Employees* ◆

Police Department

Kristopher McDonough, <i>Chief</i>	2019
Matthew Virginia, <i>Sergeant</i>	2019
Kurtis Eckman	2019
Cameron Forest	2019
Chad Heath	2019
Michael Hunt	2019
Craig Jones	2019
Charlene Lamb	2019
Nicole Miller	2019
Stephen Parkington	2019

Veterans' Agent

Doug Mann	2019
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Veterans' Grave Officer

William Mulholland	2019
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Wiring Inspector

Dana Spring	2019
Jim LaPier, <i>Assistant Wiring Inspector</i>	2019

Town Employees

Ambulance Department

Haylie Breault
Vincent Garofoli

Building and Grounds Technician

David Shorey

Clerk of Committees

Jessica Perotti

Conservation Commission Agent

Stacy Parsons

Highway Department

Robert Cooper
Albert Goodermote
Nathan Morawiec
Donald Murray
Jeffrey Waite (retired 9/14)

Administrative Assistant

Beverly Gilbert

Transfer Station

Siegfried Hoppe (retired his post in March)
Dean Williams
Mark White
Robert Will

Volunteer Fire Department

Mark Hanford, *Chief*
Paul Mikaniewicz, *Deputy Chief*
Madelaine Elovirta, *Asst. Chief*
Kristopher Massini, *Captain*
Robert Healey, Sr., *Lieutenant*
James Atwell
Aurele Bergeron
Richard Beringer
Dutch Davis
Jan Elovirta
Justin Elovirta
William Elovirta
Carly Falone, EMT
David Furlong, Jr.
Vincent Garofoli, EMT
Jessica Giarolo EMT
Gene Goebel
Robert Healey, Jr.
Christopher Isner
Robert Johnson
Jason Maronde
Paul Mazut
Jordan Miller
Travis Miller
Michael Ozner
Cameron Van Buren

Probationary Firefighters:

Warren Castenguay
Craig Colantoni
Brandon Cox
Austin Houghtaling
Christopher Swindlehurst

Town of Becket, Massachusetts
2018 Annual Report
of the
Town Officials
January 1 through December 31
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**Town of Becket Appointment Application* – At end of report

◆ **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR USE (updated 03/1/2019)** ◆

Governor

Charlie Baker

Mass. State House,
24 Beacon St., Room 280
Boston, MA 02133
TEL: 617-725-4005

Western Mass. Office, State Office Building
436 Dwight St, Ste. 300
Springfield, MA 01103
TEL: 413 784 1200

United States Senators

Elizabeth Warren

317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
TEL: 202-224-4543
www.warren.senate.gov

Edward J. Markey

255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
TEL: 202-224-2742
www.markey.senate.gov

Congressman

Richard E. Neal

Federal Building, 78 Center Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201
TEL: 413-442-0946
www.neal.house.gov

State Senator

Adam G. Hinds

100 North Street, Suite 410
Pittsfield, MA 01201
TEL: 413-344-4561, 413-768-2373
adam.hinds@masenate.gov

State Representative

William “Smitty” Pignatelli

Lenox Town Hall
PO Box 2228
Lenox, MA 01240
TEL: 413-637-0631
Rep.Smitty@mahouse.gov

Annual Town Meeting

Second Saturday of May

Annual Town Election

Third Saturday of May

◆ **FACTS ABOUT BECKET** ◆

Incorporated	June 21, 1765
Location	Western Massachusetts
Population	1,927 (as of 12/31/2018)
Registered Voters	1,467 (as of 12/31/2018)
Form of Government	Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator Open Town Meeting
Tax Rate	\$10.87 Fiscal Year 2018
Public Schools	Central Berkshire Regional School District
Police Department	Full-Time Chief, Full-Time Sergeant, Two Full-Time Police Officers, and Six Part-Time Officers Non-Emergency Telephone: 413-623-6010
Fire Department	Fire Chief Non-Emergency Telephone: 413-627-0397 Burning Permits 413-627-0397 (January 15 – May 1 weather permitting) <i>To apply for a burn permit online please go to the following link:</i> http://www.bcburnpermits.com/
Ambulance Department	Fire Station #2 Non-Emergency Telephone: 413-623-5027
Public Library	Becket Athenaeum 3367 Main Street, Becket Telephone: 413-623-5483
Arts Center	Becket Arts Center 7 Brooker Hill Road, Becket Telephone: 413-623-6635
Post Office	Becket Post Office 623 Main Street, Becket Telephone: 413-623-8845
Elevation	1,200 Feet
Area	48.04 Square Miles
Website:	www.townofbecket.org

If you would like to receive public meeting agendas and/or public notices please subscribe on the town's website at the following link: <http://www.townofbecket.org/subscriber>. Thank you.

◆ **TELEPHONE DIRECTORY OF TOWN SERVICES** ◆

All Emergencies, Call 911
Local Public Safety (non-emergency)

FIRE DEPARTMENT	413-627-0397
AMBULANCE	413-623-5027
POLICE	413-623-6010
STATE POLICE	413-243-0600

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT 413-623-8988

Becket Town Offices 413-623-8934 (see extension)

<u>Department</u>	<u>Extension for 413-623-8934</u>
Selectmen's Office/Administrative Assistant	#100
Town Clerk	#111
Treasurer	#112
Town Administrator	#113
Building Inspector	#114
Tax Collector	#116
Assessors	#118
Planning Board/Zoning Board of Appeals	#120
Board of Health	#122
Council on Aging	#127
Conservation Commission	#129
Harbor Master	#140
Animal Control Officer	#156

◆ **REPORT OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR** ◆

It has been my privilege to serve the Town of Becket as Interim Town Administrator during 2018. Arriving in January, I was pleased to find that my predecessor, Ed Gibson, left behind a well-managed town government and a balanced budget.

2018 was a very busy year. Much of my time has been spent working with the Selectmen and the Energy Committee to plan and complete energy conservation projects. The Western Massachusetts coordinator for the state's Green Communities Program came to Becket in January to recognize the Town for achieving outstanding success in reducing energy usage. With funding from the Green Communities grant, Becket has reduced energy consumption by 31% since joining the Green Communities program in 2010, making Becket a statewide leader in energy conservation.

My work with the program consisted of coordinating projects at the Highway Garage and at the two Fire Stations with installation of new energy efficient windows and doors and changing heating systems from fuel oil to propane-based systems. We are planning for a new grant funded Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning system at Town Hall.

The Broadband Ad Hoc Group continues its tedious and time-consuming work to wire the Town for broadband internet service. When broadband service is inaugurated over the next few years, Town residents will have high speed, state of the art service which will increase housing values and make Becket more attractive for business.

In 2018, the Town pursued a much more aggressive effort to combat derelict buildings. Using the Attorney General's Receivership program to encourage owners to bring their properties up to code, the Building Inspector and Board of Health have achieved marked success. When buildings are beyond repair, the Building Inspector has stepped in and required demolition.

The Town continues its effort to develop a new radio repeater system on Johnson Road to expand coverage for the Police, Fire and Highway Departments. This is an important public safety initiative in a community with hills and valleys that are difficult to reach from central dispatch in Pittsfield.

This past year, the Town has developed a new Code of Conduct for municipal employees and established a monthly newsletter, available from the Town's website.

Recruiting a new, permanent Town Administrator was a year-long process. The market for Town Managers/Administrators has become very competitive in recent years with many retirements and not enough new Administrators entering the field. The Selectmen hired a search firm, took steps to make the salary more competitive, and as of the writing of this report, they were successful in hiring William Caldwell of Athol under a three-year contract.

Lastly, residents of Becket should know that my time in Becket was one of the most positive experiences of my 40-year career in municipal government. The Town is fortunate to have high quality leadership from the Board of Selectmen and from the volunteers who sit on various boards and committees. Town leaders in Becket work together and cooperate to serve the residents. I regret having to depart, but residents can be confident that their town government is being led by some very capable and public spirited individuals.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert T. Markel
Interim Town Administrator



◆ *REPORT OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN* ◆

The Board of Selectmen experienced another busy year with many issues facing the town. Town Administrator Edward Gibson's final day was January 5th. Ed had submitted his resignation previously to accept a position in Southampton closer to his home. We were fortunate to hire Interim Town Administrator (ITA) Robert Markel to work three days per week starting January 10th. Bob had just completed an ITA position in Southampton. The Board of Selectmen then appointed a seven member search committee to find a new Town Administrator (TA).

Also in January we were saddened to learn of the passing of Mercedes Gallagher. Mercedes was the representative from Becket to the Westfield River Wild & Scenic Advisory Committee. Mercedes headed up the volunteer weed pulling program at Center Pond and had served on the Conservation Commission.

One of the biggest concerns in Becket is high speed internet. Robert Gross, a member of the Broadband Ad Hoc Group, was appointed Municipal Light Plant Manager to replace outgoing TA Ed Gibson. We can report that the Broadband Ad Hoc Group is working tirelessly with Whip City Fiber, a division of Westfield Gas & Electric, to achieve the end goal of providing fiber access to every house in Becket. There have been many combined working meetings between the Board of Selectmen and Broadband Ad Hoc Group.

In the summer through Community Preservation Grants totaling \$39,000, written by Maddy Elovirta of the Parks and Recreation Commission and approved at the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) in 2018, new exercise equipment has been installed at the North Becket Park on Maple St. and a new Equipment Shed, that will house the beach equipment and porta-potty, has been installed at the Becket Beach. Thank you to the Highway Department for supplying equipment and personnel for some of the ground preparation.

As always, during budget season (January thru April), the Town Administrator, Board of Selectmen, and Finance Committee diligently work to prepare the operating and capital expense budgets to present at the Annual Town Meeting in May. The Town Administrator compiles department requests, investigates the projected needs against budget limitations and submits the proposed budgets to the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen for their input and approval. Before the Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator finalize the Annual Town Meeting Warrant, the Finance Committee and Selectmen meet jointly to formulate the Annual Town Meeting Warrant and vote on recommendations.

This is only a partial report of the many agenda items that come before the Board of Selectmen. Board members also attend many other meetings of town boards and travel to school district meetings and seminars put on by state agencies, and municipal associations. All agendas and minutes of meetings of the Board of Selectmen are available on the Town website.

In May, William "Bill" Elovirta was re-elected to a third term on the Board of Selectmen. As is customary the board reorganized at the first meeting after the election. Bill Elovirta was re-elected Chairperson; Michael Lavery, Vice-Chairperson and Nicole Ledoux, Clerk. We are happy to say that the Board has a very good working relationship.

In June, the Board of Selectmen entered into a mutual aid agreement with Otis to allow each town's respective animal control officers to cover for each other.

In July, because we were unable to find a new TA, the Board of Selectmen hired Community Paradigm Associates, LLC to conduct a search for TA applicants. Community Paradigm advertised and produced a list for the TA Screening Committee (formerly known as the TA Search Committee) to select, interview and finally present applicants to the Board of Selectmen to interview.

Also in July, the Board of Selectmen approved a proposal submitted by Officer Michael Hunt and Chief Kristopher McDonough for the Becket Police Department to establish a K-9 Unit utilizing a \$25,000 grant from the Stanton Foundation. This grant covered the cost of purchasing "Kain", all training, outfitting a K-9 cruiser and housing for Kain at Officer Hunt's residence. Kain is now a welcome member of the force.

The Chapter 90 contract from last year was completed with the paving 6,300' of Bancroft Rd. from Hopkins Lane to Wade Inn Rd. The contract for Chapter 90 this year was used to pave portions of County Rd. and Quarry Rd.

At the 2018 ATM, \$15,000 was appropriated to perform a feasibility study on the cost to bring the Route 20 Spring into compliance with DEP regulations. The estimated cost by Housatonic Basin Engineering was \$85,430.70 plus any legal costs the town might incur. A citizen's petition was submitted to include this on an upcoming Special Town Meeting tentatively scheduled for January 22, 2019.

The Planning Board has approved a recreational marijuana dispensary sales permit for the Becket General Store in the village and a medical/retail dispensary sales permit at 2727

◆ **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN** ◆
(Continued)

Jacob's Ladder Rd. Both establishments will have to obtain a permit from the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission in Boston.

Several town officials and citizens have expressed concerns that communication needs to be improved. In November the first issue of the Becket Bulletin, a monthly newsletter was published. The Becket Bulletin includes articles of interest to all Becket residents, full or part-time. You can go to the Town of Becket website, townofbecket.org, to sign up to receive it monthly.

On December 5th the Board of Selectmen held the annual Tax Classification Hearing. It was voted to maintain the one classification with an estimated tax rate of \$11.07 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

On December 6th the Board of Selectmen held interviews with two finalists presented by the TA Screening Committee. After conclusion of the interviews the Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to offer the position of TA to William "Bill" Caldwell pending negotiation of a three year contract.

We are expecting delivery of the new rescue/mini pumper for the Fire Department and the new ambulance for the Ambulance Department in early February 2019.

To ensure that Ambulance, Fire and Police Department personnel can locate your home in an emergency, we ask for your assistance in assuring that your home is in compliance

with Article 17, Section 17 of the Town's Betterment Bylaws: "Numerals indicating the official number for each principal building of each front entrance to such building shall be placed immediately above, on, or at the side of the main entrance of each building so that the number can be seen plainly from the street line. Whenever any building is situated more than fifty (50) feet from the street line, or is not visible from the street, the number should be placed to the right of the driveway or common entrance to such building, or upon a gate post, fence, tree, post or other appropriate place so as to be clearly discernible from the street curb line in both directions of travel." Numerals shall be at least 4" in height.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Beverly Gilbert, who was promoted from Town Secretary to Administrative Assistant this year. Due to the absence of a full-time TA this past year Beverly rose to the task. She always has a smile and is ready to assist. Thank you.

It is our pleasure to serve you, the taxpayer. Please feel free to contact the town office, the Administrator or any Board member with questions. Thank you.

Becket Board of Selectmen
William H. Elovirta, *Chairperson*
Michael S. Lavery, *Vice-Chairperson*
Nicole D. Ledoux, *Clerk*



◆ *REPORT OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT* ◆

DURING 2018 THE BECKET VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONDED TO 128 CALLS:

• Fire Alarm Activations.....	37
• CO Detector Alarms.....	15
• Chimney Fire.....	1
• Motor Vehicle Accidents.....	20
• Misc. (missing persons, assist. Becket Police Dept., water calls, lifting assistance, and other).....	31
• Structure Fires.....	5
• Medical Calls.....	19

Each member completed 135 hours of training during 2018. We hold our trainings during our weekly meetings. We have been fortunate that our membership remains at approximately thirty members. A core group comprised of twenty members consistently attends meetings and trainings, and responds to calls. We all try diligently to conduct meaningful training sessions that simulate real-life scenarios. Oftentimes, other neighboring towns join us for mutual aid drills. We recently conducted a drill with the Otis Fire Department to practice our Ice rescue skills on one of the coldest nights this winter.

We have been fortunate that our equipment has only had minor issues that required repairs. The Self Contained Breathing Apparatus Air packs at both stations were tested and received all required repairs.

Fire Station #1 houses: Engine #1 (a 1990 International), Engine #2 (a 2013 Kenworth/Pierce which, at this time is our only class A insurance rated pumper) and Rescue #4 (a 1991 Ford with

utility body). Rescue 4, which was purchased by the Fireman's Association in the 1990s, will be replaced when we accept delivery of our new Rescue 6. The new Rescue 6 was manufactured by Dependable Fire Apparatus of Ontario Canada. Members Bill and Justin Elovirta of our Department traveled there recently to conduct a final inspection. Station #2 houses: Engine #4 (a 1996 International/Darley), Tanker #1 (a 2008 Kenworth/Rosenbauer purchased by a grant from Home Land Security), Rescue #5 (a 2005 Ford/Rosenbauer), a rescue mini pumper, and two surplus military pickups of which one is used as a brush fire truck and the other is used as a utility vehicle that tows the 6x6 Polaris ATV Rescue Vehicle.

The Department will face many changes in order to comply with new state and federal laws including OSHA rules and regulations. Although the town upgraded the windows in station 1 and will soon replace its heating system, the Town will inevitably need to construct a new station to meet the new safety requirements.

I would like to thank all my officers and firefighters for their devotion to duty and for sacrificing their time and energy to serve the Fire Department. Stations and Engines mean nothing without the team of individuals who commit and give of themselves to time and respond.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Hanford,
Fire Chief

Firefighters and Officers

Name	Rank
Mark Hanford	Chief
Paul Mikaniewicz	Deputy Chief
Madelaine Elovirta	Assistant Chief
Kristopher Massini	Captain
Robert Healey Sr.	Lieutenant

Name	Rank
James Atwell	Firefighter
Aurele Bergeron	Firefighter
Richard Beringer	Firefighter
Warren Castenguay	Prob. Firefighter
Craig Colantoni	Prob. Firefighter
Brandon Cox	Prob. Firefighter
Dutch Davis	Firefighter
William Elovirta	Firefighter
Jan Elovirta	Firefighter

Justin Elovirta	Firefighter
Carly Falone	Firefighter/EMT
David Furlong Jr.	Firefighter
Vincent Garofoli	Firefighter/EMT
Jessica Giarolo	Firefighter/EMT
Gene Goebel	Firefighter
Robert Healey Jr.	Firefighter
Austin Houghtaling	Prob. Firefighter
Christopher Isner	Firefighter
Robert Johnson	Firefighter
Jason Maronde	Firefighter
Paul Mazut	Firefighter
Jordan Miller	Firefighter
Travis Miller	Firefighter
Michael Ozner	Firefighter
Christopher Swindlehurst	Prob. Firefighter
Cameron Van Buren	Firefighter

◆ *REPORT OF THE BECKET AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT* ◆



2018 was a fast-paced year for the Ambulance Department. In total, we responded to 262 calls for help. We were also subject to training on new medication delivery techniques, and a few new pieces of equipment that will help us provide better patient care. There have also been some cosmetic changes to the outside of our building.

LUCAS Device - This device was placed into service in Mid-July, and provides chest compressions to patients in cardiac arrest.

RAD57 - This device replaced our 20-year old pulse oximeter device, which is used to monitor the levels of oxygen in a patient's blood stream. The RAD57 allows us to monitor those levels, as well as check the levels of carbon monoxide in the blood stream.

Signs/Emergency Phone - Two signs that identified the garage portion of the 629 Jacobs Ladder Road building as the Ambulance Department were installed in October. Also, the "Friends of Becket Ambulance" association purchased a new emergency phone that was installed on the front of the building. This allows the public to access 911 via a direct landline in the event that the ambulance and crew are out of the station.

As always, I wish to thank my staff for their continued dedication to providing the town with the best emergency care possible. The town currently has approximately 30 EMTs available to respond on a 24/7 basis, and who give up holidays and time with their families to be there for the town. I extend that thank you to our partners: the Fire Department, Highway Department, Police Department, and Buildings and Grounds Technician, all whose effort and time help make this work safer and more effective. I appreciate the "Friends of Becket Ambulance" for providing support through their donations of equipment,

training, and uniforms. I also need to thank the town as a whole for its continued support and funding. As a reminder, my door is always open, and coffee is always on for anyone wishing to stop and chat, offer suggestions, or learn more about the department. Regular office hours are Monday-Friday, 8am-1pm.

Town	# of Runs	Town	# of Runs
Becket	170	Lee	23
Blandford	5	Middlefield	1
Chester	4	Otis	52
Hinsdale	1	Sandisfield	2
Huntington	1	Washington	3

Dispatch Reason

of calls

Abdominal Pain	1
Allergies	3
Animal Bite	1
Assault	5
Back Pain (Non-Traumatic)	4
Breathing Problem	16
Cardiac Arrest	3
Chest Pain	15
Choking	1
Convulsions/Seizure	5
Diabetic Problem	2
Electrocution	1
Fall Victim	36
Headache	1
Heart Problems	4
Heat/Cold Exposure	2

◆ **REPORT OF THE BECKET AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT** ◆
(Continued)

Hemorrhage/Laceration	4	Transfer/Inter-facility/Palliative Care	2
Industrial Accident / Inaccessible Incident/		Traumatic Injury	14
Other Entrapments (Non-Vehicle)	1	Unconscious/Fainting	6
Ingestion/Poisoning	2	Unknown Problem/Person Down	4
Not Known	43		
Psychiatric Problems	7		
Sick Person	35		
Stroke/CVA	4		
Traffic/Transportation Accident	40		

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Ferrin, *Ambulance Director*



New Sign along Rt. 20



New Sign on the front of the building



LUCAS Device



New Emergency Phone



◆ **REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT** ◆

The 2018 yearly breakdown shows the Police Department responded to 2948 calls. The statistics are gathered from our computer records management system, Precinct Connection and our new system IMC. Every call that the department receives is logged into this database and the department may print the statistics monthly.

In addition to the activity breakdown, officers also issued citations for 67 civil motor vehicle violations, 36 criminal motor vehicle violations, 12 arrest motor vehicle violations, and 132 written warnings, for a total of 247 citations. Officers made 12 arrests for the year and 19 criminal charges were filed at Southern Berkshire District Court against individuals.

All of the officers in the department continue to be proactive while serving the Town. Each individual officer carries unique skills and qualities that help the department provide the highest level of service to the Town.

In March the Becket Police Department hired Officer Kurtis Eckman as a full-time officer. Officer Eckman is a graduate of the 55th ROC for full-time municipal police officers. Officer Eckman has been an excellent officer and has taken control of the department's Field Training Program. While active with the department Officer Eckman completed training in Officer Down and Advanced Roadside Assessment Testing. I look forward to Officer Eckman serving on the department for years to come and wish him a long, safe, and rewarding career.

In August the department received a \$25,000.00 grant through the Stanton Foundation to add a K-9 unit to the department. Officer Hunt travelled to Pennsylvania to pick up K-9 Kain and a cruiser was reconfigured to meet the needs of the K-9 Unit. Officer Hunt and K-9 Kain completed their months of training held by the Berkshire County Sheriff's Department in November and assumed patrolling Becket. I see this as a huge asset for the Town to ensure public safety.

In September the Becket Police Association held its third annual car show, "Cops & Rodders." This car show was created and is headed by Officer Nicole Miller to raise money to provide a holiday party for the children of Becket and Washington. I cannot begin to tell you the amount of work Officer Miller undertakes to continually make this event a success. I would first like to thank the Town of Washington for letting the association use the Washington Town Park. It is

estimated that throughout the day roughly 400 people attended the car show to view the 100 show cars that appeared in the event. I would also like to thank my entire department and their family members for volunteering their time that day. Officers spent most of their time parking cars, selling raffle tickets, and maintaining the safety of spectators and of course the show cars.

In December the Becket Police Association held its third annual Christmas party for the children of Washington and Becket. The Becket Chimney Corners YMCA & Outdoor Center was kind enough to offer their dining hall for use and also provide lunch and snacks for the kids. Santa Claus made his arrival in a fire truck escorted by police and ambulance vehicles and handed out roughly 100 presents to the children. Once again, I would like to thank Officer Nicole Miller and all the officers of the department who volunteered their time to make this event successful.

I want to reiterate that I have an open door policy for anyone wishing to speak to me regarding any issue. This year license to carry or firearms identification card renewals or applicants may stop into the station at any time to begin the process of renewing/applying for their LTC/FID. If an Officer is not at the station please call our business line (413- 623-6010) that is on the Police Department's door and the officer on duty will arrange to meet you at the station to assist you.

Finally, I would like to thank all the officers for their continued dedication in providing quality policing to the residents of Becket while maintaining the highest level of professionalism and integrity. I would like to thank the Becket Fire Department, Becket Ambulance, Becket Highway Department, and the Becket Buildings and Grounds Technician for their dedication and partnership in working together with the Police Department. Furthermore, I would like to thank the residents of Becket for their continued support of the Police Department. It is only through a strong partnership between the general public and the Police Department that a safe community can be established.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristopher G. McDonough
Chief of Police

◆ *REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT K9 UNIT* ◆

I would like to introduce the newest member of the Becket Police Department, K9 Kain. Last summer, we were very fortunate and received a \$25,000 grant from the Stanton Foundation. This grant was to establish a dual purpose Police K9 for our town. The Stanton Foundation Grant provided funding to outfit an existing Becket Police Department cruiser with the necessary equipment to transport and keep the K9 safe. This includes a special kennel in the rear of the cruiser to protect K9 Kain, along with a special heat alarm and fan that will automatically activate and cool K9 Kain down in the summer months if the cruiser approaches dangerous heat levels. The grant also provided funding to purchase the K9 and related equipment, along with funding to construct a heated kennel at home for K9 Kain to live when he is off duty. In addition, the grant reimbursed the Town of Becket for the payroll costs to send K9 Kain and me to a 12 week patrol school, and narcotic detection school. Since we have completed our training, K9 Kain and I are on patrol and are available 24 hours a day for calls where a K9 is needed.

K9 Kain was imported in early August from a breeder in Hungary, a country located in Central Europe. He was born August 27th, 2017 and was bred specifically for his drive and ability to be a working police canine. Four other new K9 Handlers and I drove to the importer in western Pennsylvania where we would meet our new partners. Upon returning home with K9 Kain we had approximately a week to start our bonding process before we began our training. Our 12 week K9 Academy was instructed by Captain Dwane Foisy of the Berkshire County Sheriff's Department, and Officer Michael Whitney of the Ludlow Police Department.

During training K9 Kain and I learned seven disciplines required for a police K9 to successfully work. Each of these areas, which I will explain below, have their own separate certification. I am pleased to report that K9 Kain passed each of these certifications at the end of our training. K9 Kain is certified by the National Police Work Dog Association (NAPWDA) in the following disciplines: Obedience, Tracking,

Area Searches, Building Searches, Article Searches, Aggression Control, and Narcotics Detection. K9 Kain is able to track people who are suspected of a crime, and missing children or elderly parties who may wander off for various reasons. K9 Kain can also search a particular area where somebody may be hiding, such as a neighborhood. In addition to tracking and area searches, K9 Kain can search a building for a suspect who may be considered dangerous in order to preserve the safety of human Officers. Also, K9 Kain can do what is called an article search. This is useful to locate missing items such as evidence from a crime that human Officers are unable to locate. He can do this much faster and with significantly higher accuracy than humans. One of K9 Kain's other abilities is to find illegal narcotics in a multitude of settings. He is trained in the detection of Heroin, Cocaine, and Methamphetamine, and can pinpoint precisely where these illegal substances are hidden. Lastly, K9 Kain is certified in aggression control. This means he is able to subdue a violent suspect, or to protect me or other Officers in a violent encounter when we have exhausted all other options. Although this is not something he will use on a regular basis, it is simply another tool that we have available to us if and when the situation arises.

The addition of K9 Kain to our department has increased our ability to protect the citizens of this town tremendously. We are grateful for this generous grant, and K9 Kain and I look forward to many years together serving our community and protecting the citizens of Becket. As always, thank you for your overwhelming support to the Becket Police Department.

Respectfully submitted,

Officer Michael Hunt
Becket Police Department



Becket Police Department Calls 2018

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept.	Oct.	Nov	Dec	Total
Abandoned Vehicles	1	3		2			1					2	9
Abuse		1		1			1			1			4
Alarm	6	9	11	11	10	20	14	15	19	21	16	8	160
Ambulance/Medical	6	7	5	7	6	11	5	9	11	5	5	1	78
Animal	1	1	5	10	9	8	11	13	4	8	9	3	82
Assault													
Assault & Battery										1			1
Assist other Department	7	2	2	2	3	6	10	3	7	9	9		60
Attempted Burglary													
Attempt to locate						1							1
Attempted Suicide													
Attempted Theft													
ATV Complaint		1		1			1						3
Bomb Threat						2							2
Bad Checks													
BOLO (Be On The Lookout)	3	3	8	3	6	7	9	6	12	7	9	2	75
Breaking & Entering	1	1	1		1	2						2	8
Burglary				1					2				3
Call Return	15	3	8	2	10	13	22	29	10	20	24	1	157
Criminal Mischief													
Car Off Roadway	3	4	3		1	1							12
Calls for Service	6	3	6		3	4	10	10	4	6	2		54
Check				10	4	28	34	6	9	2	3	1	97
Child Custody	1	1					1						3
Civil			1	1	1			2	4	1		1	11
Court	2	4	1		4	2	6	2	2	1	2	1	27
Credit Card Fraud													
Destruction of Property					2	1							3
Disorderly Conduct							1						1
DOA (Dead on Arrival)													
Detail		1	7	3	6	4	9	14	1	9	9	9	72
Disturbance	2		2	1	1		4	1		1	2		14
Drugs													
Disabled Motor Vehicle	16	6	6	4	1	1	10	8	4	6	9	4	75
Escort						2							2
Explosives													
Firearms				2	1	1		3		1			8
Fire		2	2	4	4	3	4	3	1		1		24
Follow Up Investigate	3	12			3	3	8	3	2	1	3	9	47
Found Property	1	2			2		1		1				7
209A Order Service													
Fraud													
Gun Shots					1	2	4	1		1			9
Harassment	2	1	1	1	1	5	2	1		2	1		17
Hit & Run (H&R)													
House Watch/Check						1					3		4
Indecent Exposure													
Illegal Burn													
Illegal Dumping					1	1				1			3
Information Request	20	25	20	29	47	33	42	32	19	14	13	9	303
Juvenile Calls						1	2		2		1		6
Larceny Under 250			1						1			2	4
Larceny Over 250								3	1		1		5
Littering													
Lock Out		1				2	1	1		1	1		7
Lost				2		1	2		2		1		8
Mail Complaint													
Mental Health Sec 12	2	1			1	1	5	2	2	1	5		20
Missing Persons					1	2							3

Becket Police Department Calls 2018 (continued)

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept.	Oct.	Nov	Dec	Total
Motor Vehicle Accident	3	6	6	3	4	4	7	4	7	1	6	3	54
Motor Vehicle Accident (OUI)		1				1	1						3
Motor Vehicle Violation	8	3	2			10	10	4	7	9	8		61
Nuisance		1			1	3	3		1		3		12
Odor													
Open Burn	1	2											1
Operating under the Influence (OUI)	1	2				1							4
Paper Work	10	9	12	3	6	7	18	12	12	18	10	1	118
Parade													
Permits (LTC, FID, Vendor)	2	1	1	4	3	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	22
Parking Complaint	1	1			1	2	5	1	1				12
Patrol	42	27	28	24	26	118	68	45	34	31	41	49	533
Phone 911 Hang Up	3	4	2	3	1	9	8	4	3	3	7	6	53
Possible Scam													
Property Damage		2					2				3	2	9
Property Return	3	1	2			1	3	1	4	2	1		18
Protect from abuse					1								1
Public Drunkenness													
Prowler Complaint													
Rape													
Radar	21	4	5	6	7	14	3	7	16	24	11	6	124
Reckless Driving	3	1	1		1	5	4	2	3	3	1	6	30
Records Request	6		1	4	1	1	3	2	2				20
Refer to other Dept.							1		1				2
Ride Along													
Road Complaints	9	4	5	3	5	8	6	7	10	5	8	9	79
Runaway								2			3		5
Scam Complaints							1		1	1			3
Sensitive Call R	3	4		2	1	1	3	3	1	1			19
Sex Offender Registry				1		1		3	1		1	3	10
Snow Mobile Complaint													
Speeding Complaints								3					3
Stolen Motor Vehicle				1		1						1	3
Stolen Property				1	4		1			1			7
Suicide													
Summons Service	1	4			4	3	1	9	3	1	3	1	30
Suspicious Activity	5	2	2	3	2	1	6	2	4		3	4	34
Suspicious Persons		1	1	1		3	1	1		4		2	14
Suspicious Vehicle	4		1	2		4	1	2	2	1	2	2	21
Transport								1					1
Trespass	1		1	3	2	3	4	1	2	6	3		26
Town Ordinance (TWPO)	1												1
Theft	1								1				2
Unauthorized Use			1										1
Unattended Death													
Unsecure Property							1			1			2
Underage Drinking													
Unwanted Party												2	2
Vehicle Stop				8	4	9	3	2	7	6	5		44
Vehicles Towed													
Warrant					3						1		4
Weather Advisory													
Welfare Checks	4	2	2	1	1			2	1	6	1	5	25
Wires Down		2	2	5	1	2	6	1	2	5	9	5	40
Total Calls Monthly for 2018	230	176	167	175	213	381	395	286	249	251	261	164	2948
Total Arrests 2018	2	3	1	0	1	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	12
Total Criminal Charges 2018	0	5	1	0	0	3	2	4	0	3	1	0	19

◆ **REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD** ◆

The Planning Board consists of five elected members with five-year terms and one associate member who is appointed annually by the Planning Board and the Board of Selectmen. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at the Becket Town Hall, 557 Main Street. Additional meetings are scheduled on an as-needed basis.

First, the Planning Board would like to acknowledge Ms. Ann Krawet for her re-election to the Board in May of 2018. Ms. Krawet has served the Town of Becket in many different capacities for more than ten years both as an elected and appointed public official. This past year, Ms. Krawet also served on the Becket Bylaw Review Committee where she functioned as its Vice-Chair. Her experience, insight and knowledge have definitely been very welcome.

Second, I would like to recognize the following members in their respective positions on the Board and the additional time and energy it takes of them: Mr. James Levy, the Vice-Chair; Ms. Ann Krawet, the Clerk; and Mr. Alvin Blake, the Clerk Pro Tem. Ms. Gale LaBelle was reappointed as the Associate Member. The Associate Member attends all Board meetings and in the absence of a regular member, assumes the duties of the absent individual. The remaining member of the Board is Mr. Charles Andrews. Mr. Andrews is an invaluable asset as he has served Becket in many elected and appointed positions, including Selectman.

The Board would also like to recognize Ms. Jessica Perotti, the Board's highly qualified Administrative Assistant. Ms. Perotti has a significant impact on the day-to-day operations of the Board and she continues to become increasingly familiar with the permitting application process, the myriad rules and regulations of the Zoning Act, as well as the nuances of governmental interdepartmental work. She continues to be a great asset to the team.

Mr. Ronzio was unanimously elected to serve as the Board's representative to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and Mr. Blake was unanimously elected as the alternate.

The Planning Board is responsible for the review of land divisions, either via the approval of a subdivision or, where sufficient frontage exists, through the submission of an Approval Not Required (ANR) plan under the Subdivision Control Law statute. The Board also undertakes long-range planning activities including the development of proposed amendments to the Zoning Bylaws and other land-use regulations.

In 2018, the Becket Planning Board convened for twenty-four scheduled meetings and two additional public hearings.

Two ANR plans were received and endorsed by the Board for filing at the Registry of Deeds, as these applications did not constitute a subdivision within the meaning of the Subdivision Control Law. Each ANR enabled the applicants to redraw existing boundary lines and did not affect the frontage or existing acreage requirements. The first allowed the owners of two nonconforming parcels to swap equivalent amounts of property because of an encroachment issue. The second allowed the owners of two conforming lots to readjust their property line to accommodate a replacement septic system.

Several special permit applications were presented for review and approved. A number of residents attended the regular meetings to informally discuss special permit requirements for projects they were considering. Some resulted in formal applications but others were never submitted.

Borrego Solar Systems, Inc. presented a special permit application because of a fence height requirement. The Zoning Board of Appeals had approved Borrego's original special permit, but since the Zoning Bylaws assign fence height approval to the Planning Board, the applicant had to apply for a second special permit. The Board unanimously approved the modification, as it was a federal requirement.

Another special permit was presented for the installation of a small-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic array at 1986 Fred Snow Road. In this case, the applicants were required to seek Board action given that a complete revision of the Solar Photovoltaic Bylaw had been approved at the Annual Town Meeting in May of 2018. The approval was unanimous. The Board subsequently reviewed the changed bylaw and with guidance from the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, they proposed a second revision.

A third special permit approval enabled the applicant for Spencer House, LLC to operate an Adult-Use Retail Marijuana Establishment at 3235 Main Street. The Board determined that the special permit met the requirements under Section 6.8 of the Becket Zoning Bylaws as the applicant addressed safety, traffic, and the environmental impact satisfactorily.

The Board approved another special permit request that enabled the applicant to construct a deck within the front setback area on a non-conforming lot due to the fact that his plan showed the proposed deck was within the actual front line setback.

◆ **REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD** ◆

~ Continued ~

Additional Actions

The Board reviewed and discussed Ipswich Pharmaceuticals Associates Inc.'s (IPA) request to operate a registered retail marijuana dispensary for both medical and adult-use retail sales to be located at 2727 Jacob's Ladder Road. The Board convened the initial hearing at its November 14, 2018 meeting, and with the assent of the applicant, continued the hearing until December. The hearing was continued again by mutual consent until January 2019. The Board accepted public input and concerns from the attendees and asked Mr. McCarthy to address these issues when the Board reconvened. Of particular concern were issues regarding the traffic study, site access and egress points, lighting and parking. Of note is the Board of Selectmen's acceptance and ratification of a Community Host Agreement with Ipswich Pharmaceuticals.

The Board endorsed the local acceptance of a three percent (3%) local sales excise tax for recreational marijuana sold by any retail marijuana operation within the Town. The action was approved at the Annual Town Meeting in May 2018.

The Board, at the request of the Board of Selectmen, held public hearings for two moratoriums and prepared two articles for the Special Town Meeting held on March 6, 2018. One article was for the temporary moratorium of medical marijuana treatment centers and the second was for a moratorium of recreational marijuana establishments. Both articles failed to achieve the 2/3rd vote necessary for passage.

The Board discussed and rewrote the Zoning Bylaw regarding Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations given the ambiguity of language and whether the Planning Board or the Zoning Board of Appeals should have jurisdictional authority. This bylaw was approved at the May 2018 Annual Town Meeting. The Planning Board subsequently initiated another solar bylaw review due to the requirements found in the Green Communities Act. Of note and in conjunction with the input from the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, the newly modified bylaw added a section regarding medium scale installations. The Board held a public hearing on this matter before the newly modified bylaw

would be presented at a Special Town Meeting scheduled in January of 2019.

The Board reviewed and rewrote the Zoning Bylaws regarding driveways. The Board determined that it should develop a single set of standards for all driveways not just for common driveways, which are currently regulated within the Zoning Bylaws. Through an oversight, this article, which had been prepared for the voters at the 2018 Annual Town meeting, was withdrawn. The Board has again reviewed the proposed driveway bylaw and plans to present it at the 2019 Annual Town Meeting.

Informal discussions were again held regarding the zoning implication and impact AirBnBs might have on neighborhoods within the community.

The Board reviewed its procedural rules regarding attendance at informational events and meetings based on the relevance of the topics being presented or discussed.

The Board appreciates and encourages public attendance at its meetings and encourages citizens to offer their constructive comments. Planning Board meetings are posted in Town Hall, and also for information, on the town website, www.townofbecket.org.

Finally, the Board wishes to thank those town officials and members of the various boards, commissions and departments who provided technical assistance and expertise throughout the year for their cooperation. Please feel free to call the Planning Board Office at 413-623-8934 ext. 120, send correspondence via USPS or email at planning@townofbecket.org with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert T. Ronzio
Chair



◆ **REPORT OF THE BUILDING INSPECTOR** ◆

With the 9th Edition of the Mass. State Building Code in full force there are only a few changes that affect residents of single family homes. Combined with the new short term rental law which will be in effect as of July 1st of 2019, there is a significant change to those who are renting to others for less than a consecutive 30 day period. Those tenants are considered to be transient in nature and the law and the Building Code and possibly zoning bylaws are going to make the rules and hardware requirements for short term rentals harder to navigate. The State Building Code makes this especially true if there is not a full time owner or manager living in the residence. The short term rental law allows for an exemption from the registration, taxation and insurance requirements if you rent for less than 14 days in a calendar year. Whatever your situation, please don't hesitate to contact me if there is a question about the requirements and we can try to figure it out together.

Even though my office has had no owners of a "vacant properties" register their properties as required by the

Abandoned House Bylaw, the town is serious about properties which are not maintained and consistent with the requirements of the sanitary, building and fire codes. They will not be allowed to stand. To that end, the town or owners have demolished 10 houses and associated accessory buildings that were abandoned or substandard. The cost to the town was around \$85,000 which was budgeted over 3 years. These structures were located throughout town. There was also one building which went through a receivership program in conjunction with the Board of Health and the Attorney General's office. We are planning more receivership for the coming year.

There were only four new single family residences started in 2018 which is low for Becket but many buildings were completely remodeled. One of the biggest projects is the former Kushi Main House which is undergoing a very thorough upgrade by the new owner, the Marion Missionaries. There were 15 residential solar projects installed.

Here are the statistics for the year 2018:

Type of Activity	# of Activity	Est. Value	Cost of Permit
Certificate of Inspection	67		\$ 3,350.00
Certificate of Occupancy	7		\$ 175.00
Commercial Building Permit	22	\$ 915,578.00	\$ 6,088.00
Residential Building Permit	159	\$ 4,365,543.00	\$ 18,290.00
Sheet Metal Permit	4	\$ 31,000.00	\$ 330.00
Sign Permit	3	\$ 3,740.00	\$ 313.00
Solid Fuel Appliance Permit	21	\$ 57,985.00	\$ 968.00
Tent Permit	8	\$ 31,620.00	\$ 550.00
Trench Permit	0		\$ 0.00
Building Permit Total	286	\$ 5,373,846.00	\$ 30,064.00
Electrical Permit	104		\$ 8,560.00
Gas Permit	58		\$ 3,280.00
Plumbing Permit	40		\$ 3,000.00

I would like to thank the Assistant Building Inspector Gary Danko, Plumbing Inspectors Mark Levernoch and Brian Middleton, and Wiring Inspectors Dana Spring and James LaPier for their dedicated service. Also many thanks to Jessica Perotti, the Administrative Assistant to the Planning, Zoning and Health Boards. She is always helpful and keeps me informed.

Respectfully Submitted,

William E. Girard
Building Inspector / Zoning Enforcement Officer

◆ *REPORT OF THE BECKET LAND TRUST* ◆

The Becket Land Trust is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a mission to protect open space in the Town of Becket and to increase the public's awareness of conservation issues. Your enthusiasm and involvement are essential to our mission of protecting the Town of Becket's rural character, natural resources and ecologically sensitive areas.

Our primary holding is the 320 acre Historic Quarry and Forest on Quarry Road. We have seven miles of hiking trails and a self-led historic hike with 14 granite-posted signs that explain the highlighted artifacts.

Here are just a few of the accomplishments that your generosity, along with leveraged grant funding and volunteer labor, have made possible:

- We have created a 20-acre Oak Regeneration Area where native oaks are once again thriving and supporting the re-establishment of other native plants and animals.
- We have launched a wildlife management project with funding from the US Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. This is called the New England Cottontail Habitat.
- We have enhanced the Historic Quarry Museum exhibit at the Mullen House, with new exhibits of additional local artifacts from Becket history.
- We continue to provide an outdoor recreation destination for thousands of visitors annually, with the inclusion of revised and improved maps and blazes and upgraded trails in 2018 through a state-funded project in partnership with the Appalachian Mountain Club.

We have instituted a parking charge of \$10 per car per day. This fee is helping to offset the cost of weekly trash removal, an on-site attendant and maintaining new comfort facilities. Through these efforts, we have succeeded in improving the experience of Land Trust visitors and we have greatly reduced litter and graffiti.

Your Becket Land Trust membership donation of \$50 or more at this time will support our mission of environmental preservation for our community today and for future generations. Membership will allow you to park for free for the 2019 season as you and your family enjoy the natural beauty of the Becket Land Trust's Historic Quarry and Forest.

I hope you will continue to visit and support this special place in Becket and will give generously to help us stay on-course with all of our ongoing projects. Please take a moment to go to our website <https://becketlandtrust.org/> and make a donation. All donations are tax-deductible.

We encourage you to "Like" us on Facebook or send us an email landtrust@BecketLandTrust.org to be placed on our email list so you can stay current with our activities.

From all of us on the board of the Becket Land Trust, please accept our sincere thanks for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth Smith
President



◆ **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS** ◆

Staffing: Please call ahead to be sure the office is open. The Assessors' Office is open on a part-time basis Monday through Thursday, and closed on Fridays.

Tax Relief: In Massachusetts, there are several exemptions available to residents. Becket offers the following:

- Elderly 70+
- Veteran
- Blind

The Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-off Program is available for persons 60+.

Tax Bill Reminders: Motor Vehicle Excise bills are generated by the Registry of Motor Vehicles in Boston, so it is important to contact the Registry with any address changes - online at www.mass.gov/rmv or by phone. Please remember to submit changes of address to the Assessors' office so all tax bills will be mailed appropriately. Two web sites which may be helpful: www.massrmv.com and www.masslandrecords.com.

A number of our forms and maps can be found at www.townofbecket.org.

Total Appropriations and Charges \$5,482,721.29

Total Receipts \$1,469,051.00

Total Amount to be Raised \$6,951,772.29

CLASS	LEVY %	VALUATION	PARCEL COUNT
Residential	90.2723	455,234,791	3,705
Commercial	3.9016	19,679,200	82
Industrial	0.2702	1,362,800	4
Personal Property	5.5559	28,023,392	918
Totals	100%	501,436,466	4,726

Tax Rate.....\$10.87

The Board of Assessors processed:

Elderly and Veteran Exemptions.....	42
Blind Exemption.....	2
Hardship.....	0
Senior Work-off Abatements.....	4
Personal Property /Real Estate abatements.....	12
Motor Vehicle Abatements.....	86

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Will
Geraldine L. Walter

◆ **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH** ◆

The Becket Board of Health has had a busy year. Massachusetts' Receivership Program has been a useful tool in cleaning up buildings in disrepair. Charlie Kaniecki, Health Agent, has partnered with William Girard, Building Inspector, and the state to either repair these structures or take them down completely. A property on Main Street has been fully restored and reoccupied while four other properties were enrolled in the program. Two of these homes were cleaned-up by the owners themselves, one property's structures were completely removed and the last is still in process.

The spring at the Becket-Chester town line has been of great concern for residents this year. In 2016, MassDEP changed the water testing requirements for total coliform to zero parts per 100 milliliters collected. Since then, the spring has tested positive for total coliform several times. The spring pipe was cleaned and the source of coliform bacterium could not be identified. MassDEP issued an Enforcement Order to the town which required the closure of the spring if the source of the contamination could not be identified and corrected. In accordance with the 2018 Annual Town Meeting, the town hired a firm to conduct an engineering study and to obtain cost estimates for the installation of an ultra violet system. At the Special Town Meeting (held on January 22, 2019) the Town did not approve funding (up to \$100,000 from the Stabilization Fund) to construct an ultra violet water purification system and building to comply with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Enforcement Order regarding the Route 20 Spring.

Laurel Burgwardt conducted several food service establishment and Title V inspections.

I. David Krawet provided his expertise for administrative support and guidance.

Special thanks to:

- Jessica Perotti, Clerk and Administrative Assistant, who has scheduled inspections, trainings and meetings in addition to fielding phone calls and emails.
- Jayne Smith, Health Agent, who has provided her expertise regarding septic system design and inspection as well as administrative support.

Permits and inspections issued and conducted in 2018:

• Septic:	22
• Wells:	4
• Percolation tests:	16
• Title V inspections:	49
• Food service establishments:	18
• Camp permits:	11
• Beaver permits:	6
• Pools:	1
• Lodging:	2
• Septic Haulers permit:	4
• Septic Installers permit:	11
• Receiverships:	4

Revenue: \$14,450.00

Respectfully Submitted,

Gale LaBelle, ***Chairperson***
Laurel Burgwardt, ***Vice Chairperson***
I. David Krawet, ***Clerk***



◆ *REPORT OF THE PORCHLIGHT VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION* ◆

The following is a report of the services performed in the Town of Becket during the 2018 calendar year:

HOME VISITS	1st Quarter 1/1/18 - 3/31/18	2nd Quarter 4/1/18 - 6/30/18	3rd Quarter 7/1/18 - 9/30/18	4th Quarter 10/1/18 - 12/31/18	Total
Skilled Nursing	36	21	44	53	154
Physical Therapy	44	16	43	2	105
Occupational Therapy	24	4	20	4	52
Speech Therapy	0	0	0	0	0
Medical Social Work	0	3	0	0	3
Maternal Child Health	0	0	0	0	0
Nutrition Services	0	0	0	0	0
Home Health Aide	2	1	15	2	20
Totals	106	45	122	61	334
NON-BILLABLE	0	0	0	0	0

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE	1st Quarter 1/1/18 - 3/31/18	2nd Quarter 4/1/18 - 6/30/18	3rd Quarter 7/1/18 - 9/30/18	4th Quarter 10/1/18 - 12/31/18	Total
Confirmed	14	0	5	0	19
Probable	0	0	1	0	1
Suspected	0	4	3	2	9
Revoked	0	0	0	0	0

CLINICS	# of Clinics Held / Attendance				
Flu	0	0	0	1/30	1/30
Blood Pressure	3/27	3/25	3/27	3/28	6/107
Presentations	3/27	3/25	3/27	3/28	6/107

Telehealth Monitoring	1	0	1	0	2
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Porchlight VNA/Home Care offers a full continuum of care to the residents of Berkshire, Hampden and Hampshire Counties. We service to the Vermont, Connecticut and New York borders all the way to the outskirts of Worcester. We have offices in Lee, Pittsfield and Chicopee Massachusetts. We have agreements with all major insurance companies, Medicare, Mass Medicaid, Long Term Care Insurance companies, Veterans Administration, Elder Services and other federally funded grants. Porchlight offers community clinics including but not limited to Falls Prevention, influenza vaccinations, blood pressure and cholesterol and diabetes screenings. Porchlight Home Care has the only home visiting nurse practitioner program implemented by a home care agency in Massachusetts. Porchlight VNA is proud to be recognized by CMS as a 5 STAR agency and once again as "Home Care Elite 2015" Top 500 agencies in the nation. Porchlight Home Care is an accredited agency by the Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Ann Chaffee, RN, BSN, MSN
President, CEO

◆ *REPORT OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE* ◆

The town's parks are a source of pride. We wisely took advantage of the Community Preservation Act Funding Account and have built a new beach shed. In it, we house the lifeguard equipment, swim area ropes and buoys, gate guard vests and signage. The cement base was built by town Buildings and Grounds Technician Dave Shorey and volunteer Bill Elovirta. Dave Drugmand constructed the building. The building will be painted in the spring and the old shed and cement pad will be removed. Bill and Maddy Elovirta organized and hung up the equipment inside the shed.

Volunteers Ed Rossini and his sons Ted and Sam again put out the swim lines and the float. They do not live in the immediate area and so we truly are grateful for their labor of love.

The summer lifeguard program did not go as planned. The hired life guard resigned after only a few days on the job. There are not many certified lifeguards available during the summer as they have all taken jobs elsewhere. We were able to rehire Michaela DeFoe and Zachary Greenspan for a few days each and are grateful for their help.

We hired Ariana Shannon and Emma Adams for the position of Mecum Way gate guards. We also called on Rich Beringer and Maddy Elovirta to fill in spots on the gate guard schedule. The gate guards allow entry to those with permits in accordance with the Selectmen's Beach Permitting Policy adopted on December 20, 2017. This helped control the numbers who entered the beach during the daytime and allowed the taxpayers to have a place to use the beach and park safely.

The erosion problem continues at the beach and **it is essential that everyone fill in holes before they leave the beach area. This is not the ocean and waves do not smooth the area.** For everyone's safety, it is important that the following rules be respected:

- Do not throw stones or sand
- Please fill in excavated areas before leaving the beach to prevent erosion.
- Swim only within the roped area.
- Do not jump or horse around on the float or go under the dock.
- Absolutely NO DOGS allowed.
- Please DO NOT FEED the ducks.
- Motorized boats may launch before 10:00 a.m. and after 5:00 p.m. only. The only exception is the Harbor Master.
- Take your trash with you when you leave.

The summer park's program had an average attendance of 15-24 children. Melody Frisbie and Andrew Greenspan were hired as counselors. The program took place at the beautiful Becket Center Park. Generally Thursday was BEACH DAY. We invested in a water cooler for extra water availability in the pavilion garage during the hot weather. Children were kept busy playing games and using the playground equipment. In order to participate, all children must be on their best behavior for the safety of all.

During the summer, volunteers Bill and Maddy Elovirta, Richard and Rita Furlong, Aaron and Jennifer Beatty, and Neil Toomey removed brush from the North Becket Village Park perimeter and the Town Highway crew chipped the brush. The walkway was cleared by Damian Rogers and the aforementioned people. Emergency vehicles can now enter the park. Becket Washington School physical education teachers bring students there and it is now safe for them to use the park. Again, we applied for Community Preservation Act Funding Account to build a new fitness activity center there. It can be used by adults as well as children. It is colorful and safe to use. The Becket Highway employees gave generously in their help and equipment to prepare the site and to finish it with the spreading of the chips. Our heartfelt thanks goes to Highway Superintendent Chris Bouchard, Bob Cooper, Bert Goodermote and Don Murray. Bill Elovirta and his Kubota also helped finish the spreading of chips and final grading. The sign to the park has also been cleared of brush and lights were donated by the Elovirtas.

The successful Yoga Program continues to meet on Wednesday morning at 9:00 weekly. Everyone is invited to attend for only a \$2.00 fee. The balance of the cost is subsidized by the Parks and Recreation budget.

The granite fence posts at the Becket Center Park have been righted and the chains have been repaired by Chester Granite Company owner Allen Williams.

New posts are being installed at the tennis court on Prentice Place by Bill Cummings and Dave Pingryn. They dug new holes and cemented the new post holders in place. The new posts and net will be installed this coming spring. A new backboard will also be installed to replace the rotted one. New pads have been installed to protect those who play tennis. The court will then be in great shape and it is hoped that someone will come forth and offer to give free lessons to anyone wishing to play tennis or pickleball. Let us know if you are interested. There will be a container to house

◆ ***Report of the Parks and Recreation Committee*** ◆
(continued)

pickleball rackets and balls for all to use. Please return them when you are done playing.

Becket Town Gardens continue to be weeded and new hosta plants appear wherever the deer do not visit. Ballou Memorial Park has plant volunteers: Aaron and Jennifer Beatty, and Skip and Kathy Saville place flowers there in time for Memorial Day. The town mows the area. Maddy and Rita tend the deer statue area at the Fred Snow Road corner, the corner of Route 8 North and Route 20, Becket Center Parks pavilion area, the triangle across from the Athenaeum, the island at High Street, the island at McNerney, County Road and Route 8, and any other place that catches our eye and looks ignored. This coming spring we will add the small areas on lower Main Street to our list.

The year round porta-potty at the town beach, housed in the new shed, is now used regularly by winter visitors and ice fishermen who go to the lake. The new shed will give it a bit of protection from the weather.

We need more members and if you are interested, please submit an appointment application to the Board of Selectmen.

Respectfully submitted,

Parks and Recreation Committee Members:

Rita Furlong
Madelaine Elovirta
Tina Lavasseur



◆ ***REPORT OF THE BUILDING AND GROUNDS TECHNICIAN*** ◆

In addition to the daily and routine (and sometimes surprise) maintenance of town facilities and grounds, below is a listing of projects accomplished during 2018.

- Repaired the rotted plywood and trim on the Transfer Station attendant's shed.
- Replaced the trim and installed new plywood to the south wall of the North Becket Cemetery shed.
- Oversaw the replacement of the windows at Fire Station #2 and the Ambulance Department kitchen window and subsequent rotted framing. The new windows will decrease our energy costs.
- Built a roof extension at the Highway Department. The extended roof will protect the vents for the new gas furnaces from ice in the winter.
- Helped with the installation of the new Town Hall phone system.
- Oversaw the purchase of a new enclosed trailer for the Buildings and Grounds Department.
- Oversaw the replacement of the Veteran's Park flag pole lighting.
- Oversaw the installation of lighting for the new playground area at the Center Becket Park.
- Worked with the Parks and Recreation Committee to install a new concrete slab at the Town Beach for the new shed.

It is always gratifying to partake in projects which result in visible improvements to town-owned properties. I would like to thank the department heads and employees for all their help during the 2018 year. I look forward to serving the Town of Becket in the upcoming year.

Respectfully Submitted,

David O. Shorey,
Buildings & Grounds Technician

◆ *REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION* ◆

Becket has a wealth of wetlands, streams, lakes and ponds. All of these water resources provide important habitat for wildlife and serve as recreational and scenic assets. The headwaters of three major New England rivers lie within Becket's borders: the Westfield (a nationally designated Wild and Scenic river), the Farmington (also nationally designated Wild and Scenic in Connecticut), and the Housatonic. Becket's many wetlands also help keep our rivers, lakes, ponds and groundwater supplies clean and protect against flooding. Today, these resources are protected by state and federal laws. The Becket Conservation Commission works hand-in-hand with state agencies to make sure that our water resources remain intact for the future generations.

The Conservation Commission is a seven-member, volunteer board. At the end of 2018, we had four members serving on the Commission as one resigned in 2018. We thank Mary Stucklen for her service to the Commission. All of our Commissioners are Becket residents who volunteer their time to review permit applications and participate in site visits as part of the administration and enforcement of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. Our Commissioners further their knowledge by attending Webinars and Conferences, primarily organized by the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC).

To support the Commission, Becket has a part-time Conservation Agent who arranges site visits, posts legal and meeting notices and follows up on inquiries and violations. During 2018, Laura Robbins served as the Conservation Agent until she resigned on May 16th. The position was left vacant until Stacy Parsons stepped in as Interim agent in June and used her vast knowledge and expertise to assist the Commission

throughout the remainder of the year. The Commission also recognizes Mary Stucklen as a new conservation agent that will begin her service in January of 2019.

Our regularly scheduled monthly meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM in the Becket Town Hall. Special meetings are held when necessary. We currently have three vacancies on the Commission. Interested individuals are encouraged to contact the Commission or attend a meeting. We welcome local residents to attend our meetings and learn more about the Commission and its responsibilities. The Town's website has more information about the Conservation Commission as well as our agendas and meeting minutes.

To contact the Commission, call the office at Town Hall at 413-623-8934 Ext 129 or send an email to conservation@townofbecket.org.

Commissioners:

Alison Dixon, Chairperson (2020); Barbara Brand (2019); Cindy Delpapa, Secretary (2019); Karen Karlberg, Vice-Chairperson (2019); and Mary Stucklen (resigned effective 07/16/2018).

Conservation Agent:

Laura Robbins (resigned and left the position on May 16th); Stacy Parsons (started in June).

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Dixon
Conservation Commission Chair

Permits Issued:

Order of Conditions – 7

Determination of Applicability – 17

Certificate of Compliance – 8

Enforcement Orders – 3

Emergency Certifications – 7

Permit Extensions – 1

Reissue Order of Conditions – 0

Reissue Extension Order of Conditions – 0

Amended Order of Conditions – 1

◆ *Mercedes Gallagher, With Deep Gratitude* ◆

We mourn the loss of and celebrate the accomplishments of former Conservation Commission member Mercedes Gallagher who passed away in January of 2018. Mercedes was a dedicated advocate for the special natural places so important to the character and charm of Becket. Her tireless work and advocacy for our rivers, lakes and wetlands made an enduring difference in the health, beauty and understanding of our irreplaceable natural assets.

Mercedes was not a native of the Berkshires, having grown up on Long Island, but there are few people who embraced the challenge of protecting and improving the region's natural resources more diligently. From her first days in Becket, Mercedes began a long and successful volunteer career donating countless hours to the protection and celebration of our waterways and open spaces. This led to her long-term participation in the Wild & Scenic Westfield River Committee and her service as a Becket Conservation Commissioner.

As a Conservation Commission member, Mercedes worked to improve her understanding and skills so she could excel as a Commissioner. In addition to the time demands of reviewing application materials, participating in site visits and attending meetings, Mercedes invested the considerable time needed to complete all of the special educational training workshops offered to the Commonwealth's Conservation Commissioners. She felt it a duty to be as well informed as possible to implement her duties to the best of her abilities and the Commission benefited from her commitment to her duties.

Her work with the Commission was a catalyst for one of Mercedes' most ambitious and successful endeavors. The innocuously named Center Pond Weed Project, her biggest 'pet project', was born from the many requests made to the Conservation Commission for chemical control of invasive plants in the town's lakes, pond and impoundments. Mercedes wanted to investigate viable and effective alternatives to this expensive and short-term approach to invasive plant management. Her goal was to investigate the effectiveness of hand pulling invasive plants over an extended period of time.

Mercedes was able to obtain modest funding and began to recruit and train divers to pull undesirable plants from Center Pond. She spent hours in a canoe piling up the collected plants, scheduling work days and guiding the divers. She also meticulously gathered data related to the hand pulling effort including recording the weight of plants removed, the location and density of invasive plants pre and post hand pulling and the level of effort expended. Over the years her careful planning and tenacity was rewarded with only a handful of plants left to pull in Center Pond by 2016. Even in her final months, despite being seriously ill, she was still organizing work days and preparing detailed notes. Her work was presented at numerous lake management conferences and in a published paper. Her loyal divers and the residents living around Center Pond are working to continue her ground breaking work by organizing the continuation of her beloved Center Pond Weed Project.

Mercedes also served as the appointed Becket representative to the Wild and Scenic Westfield River Committee where she worked with other town representatives from the ten Wild & Scenic towns in the watershed to implement the conservation plan created to protect, promote and improve the Westfield River and its tributaries. Mercedes was a particularly active member of the Committee and arranged her work schedule so she could attend the monthly meeting. She even agreed to take on the onerous task of serving as the Committee's treasurer. As treasurer for over a decade, Mercedes worked hard to make every penny of the Committee's modest funding work to improve the Westfield River and the Wild & Scenic towns.

While we have lost a great champion and advocate, we are buoyed by the knowledge that her work will continue by the many people who were inspired by her dedication and leadership to protect our community's natural places.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Delpapa



◆ *REPORT OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT* ◆

It has been a busy year filled with normal road maintenance sweeping, drop inlet cleaning, grading and ditching, brush cutting, tree work, asphalt patching, crack sealing, shoulder work, drainage work, line painting, and snow and ice control.

We were lucky with mud season this year as it was short and the impact to our roads was not too severe thanks to the weather coupled with preventative maintenance with our special equipment. However, maintaining our roads has been especially challenging due to above average rainfall.

In late May we completed the Bancroft Road project involving 6500' full-depth recycling with asphalt injection (base stabilizer), and 4" of asphalt and shouldered the road. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Chapter 90 provided \$359,111.00 to fund this project. We had previously replaced 11 culverts and prepared the shoulders for this project. In September we awarded the County Rd. 6300' and Quarry Rd. 6250' project for installation of 2" asphalt overlays. MassDOT Chapter 90 funded this project in the amount of \$240,304.00. This project was completed in October.

Winter Weather Statistics

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>Amount of Snow Accumulations</u>
Jan. 2018 through Apr. 2018.....	91.25" snowfall (above average)
Oct. 2017 through Apr. 2018	118.5" snowfall (above average)
Nov. 2018 and Dec. 2018	23" snowfall (late winter start) (above average) and numerous snow & freezing rain events.

Winter started a little later than usual in November 2018 and December 2018. The rain and above normal temperatures have caused quite a bit of trouble with the gravel roads, and caused ice build-up from thawing and refreezing water in ditches that expand into our roads.

In September, Jeff Waite retired after devoting 18 years of service to the Town. Enjoy Jeff!

I would like to thank Bert Goodermote, Bob Cooper, Don Murray, Jeff Waite, and Nate Morawiec for their hard work and dedication to the Highway Department.

I wish to thank the Interim Town Administrator, Buildings and Grounds Technician, Board of Selectmen; and our Ambulance, Fire, and Police Departments for their support and dedication.

Residents with questions or concerns are welcome to call the Highway Department office Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at 623-8988.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher J. Bouchard
Highway Superintendent



◆ *REPORT OF THE BECKET ARTS CENTER OF THE HILLTOWNS* ◆

During the 2018 season, the Becket Arts Center became completely handicap accessible for the first time in its 165-year history. A sleek, mechanized chairlift, which can carry 2 people plus a wheelchair, was installed and immediately enthusiastically adopted by BAC's patrons. The chairlift was made possible by a years-long fund-raising campaign that engaged many generous individuals, foundations, and cultural councils as well as the Town of Becket and its officials.

The season kicked off with the annual Becket-Washington School Art Show, in which the children's art work was framed and hung just as though it were a professional exhibition. A joint project of the PTO and BAC as well as the school arts faculty, the Art Show also featured performances by the school band and chorus, and attracted large crowds of picture-taking parents and grandparents.

All through the summer, BAC runs exhibitions of painting, sculpture, photography and designer crafts by local artists. These included Lauren Skelly Bailey, Keith Emerling, Nancy Katz, Katherine Oakes, Stephanie Jaffe, Karlene McConnell, Ivan Rosenblum, Allan Seppa, Rose Tannenbaum, Sara Markel Altman, Palma Fleck, Molly Pomerance, Josh Ruder and Susan Sabino.

The 6-part Marty Lasker Lecture Series began with a panel on the sources of artistic inspiration, spear-headed by poet Lewis Warsh, Jacob's Pillow Associate Producer Ariana Brawley, Chester Theatre Company Artistic Director Daniel Kramer, Sculptor Joy Cameron, and moderator David Edgecomb. Other programs included a demonstration-explanation about hip hop starring JB!! Aka Dirty Moses, a concert by harpist Elizabeth Morse, a history of film special effects by Eugene Mamut and Irina Borisova of AniMagic, a lecture on cheese making by Lisa Martin of Spirited Wines, and a rollicking concert by Lady Di and the Chiefs.

The BAC Summer Art Camps for children worked in partnership with Becket Day camp to greatly expand outreach. There were sessions for 5-8 year olds as well as 9-13 year olds

held both at the BAC headquarters at 7 Brooker Hill Road and at the Becket Federated Church. In partnership with Jacob's Pillow, BAC offered "Families Dance", in which kids can bring their grown-ups to share in the joys of music and movement. Other music programs at BAC included the ever-popular singalongs, led by keyboardist Cathy Schane-Lydon and singer Ann Krawet. On September 1st, the popular songstress Wanda Houston electrified audiences at BAC's annual fund-raising gala at Papa Bob's Roadhouse on Chester Road.

We ran painting and drawing workshops with Wednesday Sorokin as well as the annual yoga program with Rima Sala. In the winter season, teacher Mary Beth Eldridge taught after-school crafts at the Becket Washington School. And in time for the holidays, floral designer Edith King taught wreath making. More than 70 people attended, and everyone went home with a gorgeous super-sized holiday wreath.

At the BAC Hilltowns Shop, patrons browsed through a unique selection of beautiful crafts, ceramics, jewelry, books and novelties, offered at extremely reasonable prices.

The sparkling, jam-packed program at the Becket Arts Center is run almost entirely by devoted volunteers, friends and neighbors committed to creating a local gathering place for the arts to serve our towns. Many thanks to them and to BAC's corporate sponsors for their enthusiastic support. Special recognition for providing funds goes to the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, the Berkshire Bank, the Mass Cultural Council, Jacob's Pillow Dance, the David and Sandra Bakalar Family, the Town of Becket and the Cultural Councils of Chester, Hinsdale-Peru, Lee, Otis and Washington.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Dworkin, Ted Greenwood, Adele Levine,
2018 Co-Presidents



◆ **REPORT OF THE MULLEN HOUSE EDUCATION CENTER** ◆

The Mullen House Education Center continues to be a viable small business entity in North Becket Village. There are five active tenants there including a massage therapist, a lawyer, a writer, a construction company, and the Becket Land Trust. The gallery had a wonderful painting exhibit this summer by Christine O'Malley Levy of Becket. The Quarry Museum and the Becket Ballou Basket Industry exhibit drew many visitors as well. Leslea Stanton was again hired as the docent who was present when the galleries were open. The downstairs exhibits were open to the public on Saturdays from 12-4 p.m.

The grounds were mowed by the Town Buildings and Grounds Technician Dave Shorey. Snow blowing was performed by hired neighbor Dave Wiley.

The working plan is for the tenants to provide their own paper needs and change smoke alarm and carbon monoxide alarm batteries as needed. They all help take care of the

building. This coming spring the building will need some paint removal and repainting which will be paid for by the income from the tenants. The new furnace is working well. The quality of the water is being monitored by the town and at present has a boil water order in place.

The Fairy Garden in the backyard continues to draw children to create houses for the playful forest creatures. The Mullen House board provides the plastic fairies and the care of the gardens.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Furlong, **Chairman**
Board of Directors

Other board members include:
Ken Smith, Ann Smith, Sharon Hughes,
and Sid Cholmar.

◆ **REPORT OF THE BECKET AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION** ◆

The Becket Agricultural Commission (BAC) is a standing committee of town government, created through a vote at town meeting and appointed by a vote of the Board of Selectmen. BAC represents the farming community, encourages the pursuit of agriculture, promotes agricultural economic development, protects farmlands and farm operations and preserves, revitalizes and sustains agricultural businesses and land.

The intent of BAC is simple: protect agricultural lands, preserve rural character, provide a voice for farmers, and encourage agricultural based enterprises.

Anyone who is a resident of Becket is eligible to serve on a town board or commission. However, the bylaw created and passed by the town determines the number of members and composition of the commission. Anyone interested in serving on the BAC should review the appropriate bylaws and contact the BAC.

Towns provide support for all committees. Each town should decide what an appropriate budget is for the BAC. Existing budgets range from \$0-\$1000.

Unlike other town committees, AG Coms do not operate under any regulatory authority from the Commonwealth. While town conservation committees implement the state wetlands protection act and planning boards enforce the local

zoning codes, AG Coms are created at town meeting to represent farming interests in the town, but do not have any legal mandate or enforcement authority.

In Massachusetts AG Coms are adopting local "right to farm" bylaws (Becket has one), raising money for farmland protection and economic development, starting local farmers markets, providing mediation and conflict resolution on farm related disputes within town, collaborating with other town boards on development proposals, educating town residents about the value of agriculture in the community, holding educational workshops on intergenerational transfer of property, Chapter 61 lands, farm viability, and agricultural preservation restrictions, obtaining technical assistance on nonpoint source pollution, conservation farm planning, manure management, and environmental stewardship.

Anyone seeking out information and educational resources relevant to farming in Becket should contact the BAC for help and guidance.

Respectfully submitted,

Neil F. Toomey,
Chairman
Becket Agricultural Commission

◆ **REPORT OF THE ENERGY COMMITTEE** ◆

For 2018, the Becket Energy Committee consisted of the following members:

Name	Title	Term
Garth Klimchuk	Member	2021
Robert Gross	Vice Chair	2019
Cathy DeFoe	Secretary	2020
Alvin Blake	Chair	2019
Katherine Hoak	Member	2021
Chris Bouchard	Ex-Officio	
Bob Markel	Ex-Officio	
Bill Girard	Ex-Officio	
Dan Parnell	Ex-Officio	

Mission

The committee's charge is to advise the Becket Board of Selectmen and make recommendations about energy efficiency in town buildings and operations, ensure compliance with the requirements of the Massachusetts Green Communities Program, investigate and recommend renewable and alternate energy opportunities for Becket's municipal government, advise and assist the town and community to identify and apply for energy and conservation related grants and funding opportunities, educate residents about ways that they can save energy and reduce energy payments, advise them on energy-related issues and recommend specific initiatives.

The BEC met on or about every third Thursday of each month throughout 2018. Meeting minutes and agendas, were posted on the Town of Becket website.

Notable Accomplishments

- Undertook fourth information session in which town residents were presented with specific solar, energy efficiency and loan financing program information by BEC members, representatives of the MA Dept. of Energy Resources (DOER) and private entities.

- Received award from DOER for achieving 31% reduction in our town energy use which allows us to apply for new competitive grant to replace heating and air conditioning systems.
- Continued assessment of town properties and rooftops for possible solar arrays in order to reduce the Town's energy bill and carbon footprint.
- Initiated review of the Town's involvement as an anchor participant in possible community solar projects.
- Began process of participation in municipal aggregation program.

Current Priorities

Short Term

1. Create a Request For Proposal to explore construction of solar array on the Town Hall property.
2. Continue to explore anchor participant role in community solar array.
3. Continue to identify community solar and other renewable energy projects for the Town and Town residents.
4. Organize Fifth annual BEC Information Session to be held sometime in 2019.
5. Continue to assist Town Administrator with ongoing Green Community opportunities.

Long Term

1. Continue to implement Town sustainability and renewable energy objectives, and reduce dependency on Fossil Fuels.

Respectfully Submitted,
Energy Committee



◆ **REPORT OF THE BROADBAND AD HOC GROUP** ◆

2018 was a very challenging but productive year for the Becket Broadband Project. The state's prohibition of WiredWest as the owner of the fiber network for all member towns left each town to construct its own Town Owned Network (TON). Westfield Gas & Electric (WGE) stepped up to assist any interested town and be its state approved project manager. Becket selected WGE to be its project manager. The first task was to prepare an initial fiber network design which would offer service to 100% of town premises which have utility service and survey the town utility poles. This would enable us to validate the initial state budget of \$5.96 million. The town had very little detail on the initial state budget. We were told Becket had only 109 or 119 miles and 3,650 utility poles. Based upon our review it was determined that the town has 152 miles and that an estimated 800 poles would need replacement. This information and many other preliminary factors resulted in a revised budget of \$13.0 million, more than double the initial estimate. One critical factor that was discovered is that the private roads in town (comprising one-third of our roads) were not considered in the initial budget. Due to the changes in the state agencies and personnel, we had no way to validate how the original budget was constructed. This significant increase, which was not funded, caused a very critical review of the design to identify areas of savings. Many iterations of the budget and reviews with the Board of Selectmen (BOS) identified significant savings but still not enough to build a network for the authorized funding. A third party, for profit enterprise, Matrix Design Group, proposed to build the town network if the town provided the pathway to lay the fiber to the

homes. This pathway, known as "MakeReady (MR)", was the biggest area of unknown cost in the budget and the town was responsible for it. If a TON was selected, the state would reimburse the town for almost all of the MR cost; if the town selected Matrix, the MR reimbursement was limited. After final project designs, which included the above-mentioned savings, and stripping out all subsidies for individual premise connections, the budget for a TON came in approximately \$500 thousand under the authorized funding. A comparison of the TON to the Matrix proposal showed that a TON offered significant savings to residents over the short and long term, not to mention overall control of decisions affecting the network in the future. The BOS decided to build our own TON. We patiently await the final invoices for MakeReady from the utility companies and the actual work to be performed so we can start the next phase of the project, which is construction of the network. The Broadband Ad Hoc Group will provide updates on the project's progress as it occurs. This information will also be posted on the town's website and will be mentioned in the monthly town electronic newsletter.

Respectfully submitted,

Broadband Ad Hoc Group

Bob Gross, ***Municipal Light Plant Manager and
WiredWest Alternate Delegate***

Jeremy Dunn, ***WiredWest Delegate***

Chuck Garman

Dave Labrecque

Dan Parnell

Cris Sanchez



◆ *REPORT OF THE BECKET CULTURAL COUNCIL* ◆

The Becket Cultural Council is funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, whose allocations are made to all Massachusetts cities and towns to support community and cultural activities.

The Becket Cultural Council gives priority to projects and programs that directly benefit local organizations and local citizens of all ages. These priorities include: applications that support local youth and senior programs, new applicants or projects in Becket, projects that emphasize cultural diversity and projects that will take place in a local venue and can show local support.

Becket Cultural Council members who continued serving during 2018 are Linda Bacon (Chair), Mary Manning, Sally Soluri, Roberta Goldman and Barbara Wacholder. New Members who were appointed during 2018 are Jennifer Avery, Judy Cromwell and Roseanna Koelle. Yana DeLuca served during the 2018 grant cycle. The Council welcomes inquiries for membership especially from Becket residents with children attending Becket Washington School.

Below are the projects for which the Cultural Council will fund during the calendar year 2018. A total of \$4,547 was granted for the fiscal year 2018.

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Project Title</u>	<u>Decision</u>
Patty Robie, Colleen Trager	Freedom Trail Scholars Program	\$475
Becket Washington PTO	Becket Washington PTO Carnival	\$450
Becket Volunteer Firefighters Assoc	Entertainment for the Hilltown Brouhaha (BWCP)	\$500
Becket Arts Center	First Sparks (Where Does Art Start?)	\$450
Becket Athenaeum	Museum Passes	\$765
Becket Arts Center	2018 Hilltown Brouhaha	\$500
Amelia Chandler	Performance The Colonial Theater	\$277
Amelia Chandler	Performance The Colonial Theater	\$295
Margaret Kelleher	Berkshire Museum Field Trip	\$185
April LeSage	River Ecology Field Trips for WRHS Science Classes	\$250
Berkshire Music School	Music Enrichment Programs Becket-Washington	\$400

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Bacon, *BCC member*



◆ **REPORT OF THE VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICER** ◆

The Veterans' Services Office serves the needs of the Veterans of Becket and their families. Chapter 115 benefits are needs based, and include temporary financial assistance, medical reimbursement, and assistance in applying for aid from state and federal agencies. Veterans with a dishonorable discharge are not eligible.

The caseload of Veterans' Services has remained fairly constant. The need for assistance varies. The greatest need continues to be for senior veterans and their spouses, or widows, who have very little income and are unable to work. There are some who have lost their job and need temporary assistance until they find employment. We try to help them find employment as soon as possible. All eligible veterans and their families who applied, received benefits.

The Town of Becket was able to assist veterans this year with benefits totaling \$50,660.86, an increase of about \$17,000 over last year. Of this amount, 75%, or \$37,995.64, will be reimbursed by the state for an actual cost to the Town of \$12,665.22. This included regular benefits, heating assistance, medical reimbursements, and funeral costs.

With a few stipulations, Veterans' Services may assist with burial expenses up to \$4,000 if the Veteran's estate, insurance, or family does not have sufficient funds. During 2018, Veteran Services paid for one funeral.

For those who received Chapter 115 benefits, there was additional help with heating costs during the winter.

Recipients must first apply for and use funds from the Low Income Heating Assistance Program. Once that was used up, limited funds were made available.

One of the most underused programs available to veterans, is a program that allows a Veteran to receive Medical Only benefits, even if their income is too high for regular benefits. Since it is a needs based program, the asset limits of \$5,000 for singles, or \$9,800 for married applicants still applies. This program reimburses co-pays, other medical costs, and can even reimburse the cost of Medicare Part B and some supplemental insurances. Veteran Services does not pay the bills, but reimburses medical bills paid for by the veteran. Becket Veterans' Services has several veterans, or their widows, on this Medical Only program.

The Veterans' Service Officer is available by telephone or in his office on Mondays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The office is located in the Airolidi Building, 45 Railroad Street (P.O. Box 199), Lee, MA 01238. Sometimes, the part-time hours is a hardship for some veterans or their families, and if necessary, an appointment can be made for another day and time. Those who desire to use email, may contact me at LeeVetsAgent@wmconnect.com.

Respectfully Submitted,

Doug Mann
Becket Veterans' Service Officer (Veterans' Agent)

◆ **REPORT OF THE HARBOR MASTER** ◆

Ensuring safety on the water is an important part of the Harbor Master's job. Another important task is training. During the 2018 season the Becket Volunteer Fire Department had an opportunity to practice on the water with the town boat. This is important since mutual aid requests can happen at any time.

Based on the number of calls received by the Harbor Master last summer, the need to observe reasonable speeds on the water is the number one issue. Our lakes are relatively small and there is no need to speed and create strong wakes. Any accident or damage caused by your wake is, according to Massachusetts law, your responsibility. Be aware of the effect of your wake on swimmers, boaters, rafts, and the shoreline.

The details of all applicable boating laws are available online at www.Boat-ed.com. One law to remember is that all children under 12 years of age must wear a United State Coast Guard approved personal floating device when in a boat on the water.

If you have any questions about any boating matter feel free to contact me via Town Hall telephone (413) 623-8934 extension 140.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Rosenthal
Harbor Master

◆ *REPORT OF THE BECKET ATHENAEUM* ◆

At the Becket Athenaeum, our commitment to serving the communities of Becket and Washington remains strong. During 2018, we continued to provide outstanding library services and high-quality after-school programming as a result of appropriations received from the towns of Becket and Washington toward both operating and capital expenses, as well as the Fairfield County Community Trust, which continues to support our after-school programs. Our local LCCs (Local Cultural Council) from both Becket and Washington have also provided support for the museum passes to local attractions we provide to our patrons all year long.

In 2018, our after-school programming continued to offer academic support to elementary and middle school students. The ACE (Academic, Collaboration, and Enrichment) program serves the needs of students from the local elementary and middle school with nutritious snacks, help with homework, extra math and reading practice tailored to each student, and other educational enrichment activities. This fully-funded, (and free to families) program is filled by applicants with a demonstrated academic need along with teacher recommendations. Jodi Shafiroff, our after-school program coordinator, managed this academic support program to serve up to 10 students on a single day with the help of a mix of 5 adult volunteers, 7 staff, and high school interns. We now have an ongoing line of communication with the BWS teachers and administration to ensure our program is meeting each child's needs as they change throughout the school year. The families of our program participants help support our program by donating time at the library or making a donation to our annual appeal. We also offer grant-funded paid internships for high school students to work in either the after-school program or in the library, helping with various tasks. Mentoring these teens is a vital piece of our community outreach.

The Athenaeum continued their partnership with the Dalton Community Recreation Association (CRA) as well as the Becket Washington School in 2018 to provide an affordable afterschool program to help working families in our community with after-school care. This is the third State-accredited Kids' Club program managed by the Dalton CRA. This program offers affordable childcare five days per week during the school year. This program is held at the Becket Washington School and is partially funded by a generous

grant through the Fairfield County Community Fund.

Our Friday Enrichment program continued with a focus on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) under the direction of Dr. Sarah Reedy. We continued to work with the Berkshire Outdoor Center as part of the Friday Enrichment program as well as our summer camp scholarship offering to local school children. We would again like to acknowledge the YMCA Berkshire Outdoor Center for their continued support and partnership in 2018.

Our Story Craft program for the pre-school age group transitioned to a STEAM exploration program. This program meets for an hour and a half on the second, third and fourth Tuesdays each month and is managed by Wendy Provencher, the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement coordinator for the Central Berkshire Regional School District. Wendy's position is funded through a grant by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.

The Athenaeum is now hosting BWS class field trips to help foster a love of reading, a familiarity with the library as a source of community as well as books, and to support the BWS teachers in their needs for their classrooms and students. This will be an ongoing community outreach throughout 2019 and beyond.

The Athenaeum, along with the Arts Center, Becket Washington School PTO, Federated Church, Fire Department, and members of the Washington Community continue to work together as the BWCP (Becket Washington Community Partnership). This organization has worked together to make the town fair (renamed the Hilltown Brouhaha) a community event with something for everyone! We received a grant from the Berkshire Taconic Foundation Central Berkshire Fund in December 2018 to support this event for the fourth year in 2019. The Hilltown Brouhaha for 2019 will be held at the Washington Town Park on Saturday, July 13, 2019.

We have a dynamic book club group that meets on the first Tuesday of each month. This group is open to all interested in discussing literature new and old with the hot or cold beverage of your choice. We are open to suggestions for group activities of interest to our patrons.

REPORT OF THE BECKET ATHENAEUM

(Continued)

In 2018, we replaced our dated six interior halogen lamps. This work was completed in early 2018 and funded in part by a grant from Eversource with the balance paid for by Capital Repair funds from the Town of Becket. We also began the septic system assessment project in April 2018. We chose Hill Engineering to perform the necessary technical aspects of this project. We now have an up to date, detailed property map. We also need to replace our existing septic system and have begun the next phase in this project to potentially tie our system in with the septic system on the nearby town owned Mullen House property. This is the most cost effective option for this project.

The Athenaeum partnered with the Becket Arts Center as grant recipients from the Central Berkshire Fund of the Berkshire Taconic Foundation for a series of eight workshops that were held at the Athenaeum on evenings during the fall and winter of 2018. These workshops were led by local experts in vegetable fermentation, sustainable permaculture, history and terminology of beer brewing, sourdough bread baking, as well as a visit by State Senator Hinds speaking on how citizens can contact their elected officials. The workshops were well attended and provided a wide range of interesting topics for our community. We received an additional grant to continue these programs in 2019 and look forward to seeing more of our friends and neighbors at these sessions throughout the months ahead.

Cathy DeFoe, Athenaeum Director since 2013, has retired effective 12/31/2018. Cathy plans to re-join the Board of Trustees in 2019 and will continue to support the Athenaeum in this capacity. Jodi Shafiroff, Assistant Director since February 2018, has been selected as the new Director. We are confident Jodi will apply her diverse experiences to enhance all the Athenaeum has to offer the Becket and Washington Community.

As an independent non-profit organization, we rely on and so appreciate the many supportive groups that help us deliver the services and programs our community deserves from its library.

Our patrons, volunteers, donors, grantors, and the Towns of Becket and Washington all come together as our partners to make the organization a success and we sincerely thank you.

We look forward to seeing you at the Athenaeum!

Staff

Cathy DeFoe, *Director*
Jodi Shafiroff, *Assistant Director and*
After-school Program Coordinator
Ellen Manley, *Assistant Librarian and Tutor*
Dawn Greene, *Catalogue Specialist*
Jerry Greene, *Assistant Librarian*
Sara Reedy, *Friday Enrichment Coordinator*
Jennifer Beatty, *After-school Program Staff*
Michelle Raymer, *After-school Program Staff*

Becket Athenaeum Board of Trustees

Purr McEwen, *Chair*
Aaron Beatty, *Vice-Chair*
Robert Gross, *Treasurer*
Maria Wallington, *Secretary*
Jan Nelson
Elizabeth Oakes
Allison Mikaniewicz
Katherine Hoak
Denise Johns



◆ *REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE* ◆

The members of the Finance Committee would like to thank Robert “Bob” Markel who stepped in as Interim Town Administrator after Edward Gibson’s departure. Bob has been a delight to work with and we learned a great deal from his experience. A lengthy search, aided by a professional search firm at a cost of \$10,000, for a permanent Town Administrator resulted in the selection of William “Bill” Caldwell who will begin work in January 2019. We welcome Bill and wish him all the best in his future with Becket.

The Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen continued to have an excellent working relationship in developing the town budget with the guidance and support of our Interim Town Administrator Bob Markel. Total tax appropriations at the Annual Town Meeting were \$6.332 million, leading to a tax rate of \$11.07 per thousand valuation, a 1.8% increase over the previous year. The average single family residential property in Becket is assessed at \$234,903 with a related tax bill of \$2,600. There are 1,697 residential parcels in town.

Education expenses, including school capital costs, remain the largest item in the operating budget at 43.6%. The CBRSD operating budget increased 4.6% in this budget cycle. The only other significant increases were for 911 Safety Communications, which includes funds to install and maintain a new repeater antenna on Johnson Rd and operating costs for the Transfer Station due to increased recycling and disposal costs. All other operating costs had no significant increases.

Capital acquisitions in 2018 included a new police cruiser, fire turnout gear and police communications equipment. Capital items purchased but not yet received and placed in service include an ambulance, a fire rescue pumper, and a backhoe.

Grants were obtained for a review and enhancement of our budget process and new online software which will be available to use by department heads and offer town finances transparency to the general public. Our Green Communities initial grant was completed and we may apply for a new round of grant funding in 2019. We hope to secure funding to replace our Town Hall HVAC equipment.

A new PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) payment from Borrego for their solar array installation on Tanglewood Drive was negotiated and accepted by the Town of Becket which will lead to increased revenue of over \$50,000 each year. Free Cash was certified at \$392,997, and our current Stabilization Fund balance is \$916,459. At this level of funding a portion of the Stabilization Fund could be used to offset capital purchases (or the debt service) if needed.

Becket’s financial future seems stable and we hope our efforts to keep the tax rate under control remain successful. The tax rate has remained stable since 2014, a tribute to our town officials and employees who work so hard for our town.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Parnell, ***Chair***
Mark Karlberg, ***Vice Chair***
Ron Defoe, ***Secretary***
Ann Spadafora
Chuck Garman

◆ REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK - 2018 ◆

Board of Registrars: George Roberts (Town Clerk), Michelle Smith, and Robin Greenspan, and Coleen Cox.

Voter Registration Sessions	4
Candidate Voter Lists prepared	0
Sherwood Forest Road District Voter Lists prepared	1

Census Results

Residents over age 16	1,726
All Residents	1,927

Vital Records

Vitals recorded in Becket:

Births	11	
Deaths	17	
Marriages	6	
Marriage Intentions filed:	7	Fees \$ 175.00
Certified copies prepared:		
5 birth certificates		\$ 25.00
13 death certificates		\$ 65.00
6 marriage certificates		\$ 30.00
Burial Permits issued:	4	\$ 0.00
Cemetery Deeds Recorded:	3	\$ 3.00
Genealogy requests:	0	\$ 0.00
Total Vitals Fees Collected		\$ 298.00

Other Licenses, Permits, Recordings

<u>Issued</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Fees</u>
243	Dog Licenses (neutered & non-neutered)	\$ 1,379.00	\$ 185.25
2	Kennel licenses	\$ 62.00	\$ 1.50
17	Dog License Late Fees	\$ 185.00	\$ 185.00
1	Raffle Permits (Renewal)	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00
0	Physician Registration	\$ 0	\$ 0
2	Utility Pole Recording	\$ 0	\$ 0
5	Business Certificate applications:	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Total Other Fees Collected			\$ 481.75

Business Certificates recorded:

The Becket Motel
Elfquilter
Ferron-Hartman Custom Painting
Papa Chops Hot Dog Shop & Catering
Logsdon Plumbing And Heating

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

Elections and Town Meetings

VOTER ATTENDANCE			
<u>Election</u>	<u>Registered Voters</u>	<u>Ballots Cast</u>	<u>Percent Voting</u>
Annual Town Caucus, April 10, 2018	1,486	37	2.49%
Annual Town Election, May 12, 2018	1,391	245	18.00%
State Primary, September 4, 2018	1,514	274	18.10%
State Election, November 6, 2018	1,479	805	54.44%

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Registered Voters</u>	<u>Voters/ Non-voter</u>	<u>% of Voters Attending</u>
Special Town Meeting, March 6, 2018	1,486	68/5	5%
Annual Town Meeting, May 12, 2018	1,502	78/25	5%

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING ~ MARCH 6, 2018

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, the Special Town Meeting was called on March 6, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Becket Town Hall, 557 Main Street, Becket, MA 01223. There being a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 7:05p.m. by the Moderator. There were 68 registered voters present (5% of 1,486 registered voters) and a total of 73 people attended the meeting. Town Officials Present: Ethan Klepetar, Moderator; William Elovirta, Nicole Ledoux and Michael Lavery, Selectmen; Maria Wallington, Mark Karlberg, Ron Defoe, Finance Committee Member; George E. Roberts, Town Clerk; Bob Markel, Interim Town Administrator. Town Counsel, Jeff Blake was also in attendance.

The Moderator opened the meeting stating the rules to be followed. He asked for a showing of hands of non-voters and welcomed them, indicating that they could address the meeting but 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 noted it as having been duly posted.

The following articles were voted on:

ARTICLE 1: TO SEE IF THE TOWN WILL VOTE TO PAY THE FOLLOWING UNPAID BILLS FROM FISCAL 2017

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sufficient sum of money to pay the following unpaid bills of prior years as provided for in MGL. C. 44, Section 64:

Vendor/Reimbursement	Date	Amount
Action Ambulance Service*	06/09/2017	\$250
Action Ambulance Service*	05/27/2017	\$250
Action Ambulance Service*	01/06/2017	\$250
Action Ambulance Service*	12/29/2016	\$250
Action Ambulance Service*	12/08/2016	\$250
Action Ambulance Service*	09/25/2016	\$250
Action Ambulance Service*	09/15/2016	\$250
Action Ambulance Service*	07/30/2016	\$250
Action Ambulance Service*	07/26/2016	<u>\$250</u>
*ALS Intercept		\$2,250

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended, 9/10ths Vote Required
Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 1 Was moved and seconded. Interim Town

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

Administrator explained this warrant article. There was no discussion. A vote was taken by a count of hands. There were 52 votes for and 2 votes against.

Article 1 PASSED by a 9/10ths majority.

ARTICLE 2: TO SEE IF THE TOWN WILL VOTE TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING TRANSFERS WITHIN THE FY 2018 OPERATING BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the following amounts within the Fiscal Year 2018 operating budget:

From:	To:	Amount:
Vocational Tuition	Available Funds	\$33,000
Available Funds	Health Insurance	\$13,500
Available Funds	Veterans Benefits	\$10,000
Available Funds	Transfer Station	\$9,500

Or take any other action relative thereto.

**Board of Selectmen: Recommended, Majority Vote Required
Finance Committee: Recommended**

Article 2 Was moved and seconded from the floor. Interim Town Administrator Bob Markel gave a presentation explaining Article 2.

There was no discussion. **A vote was taken and the motion on Article 2 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ARTICLE 3: REVOLVING FUNDS

To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws, pursuant to the provisions of Section 53E½ of Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as most recently amended, by inserting a new bylaw establishing various revolving funds, specifying the departmental receipts to be credited to each fund, the departmental purposes or programs for which each fund may be expended, and the entity authorized to expend each fund, such bylaw to provide as follows:

Section 1: There are hereby established in the Town of Becket pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.44, §53E½, the following Revolving Funds:

Program or Purpose	Representative or Board Authorized to Spend Fund	Department Receipts
Plumbing Inspections	Building Inspector	Fees & charges for Plumbing Inspections
Gas Inspections	Building Inspector	Fees & charges for Gas Inspections
Wiring Inspections	Electrical Inspector	Fees & charges for Electrical Inspections
Fire Inspections	Fire Chief	Fees and charges for Fire Inspections

Section 2: Expenditures from each revolving fund set forth herein shall be subject to the limitation established by Town Meeting or any increase therein as may be authorized in accordance with G.L. c.44, §53E½.

And, further, to set FY 2019 spending limits for such revolving funds as follows:

Program or Purpose	FY 2019 Spending Limit
Plumbing Inspections	\$10,000
Gas Inspections	\$10,000
Wiring Inspections	\$15,000
Fire Inspections	\$8,000

Or take any other action relative thereto.

**Board of Selectmen: Recommended, Majority Vote Required
Finance Committee: Recommended**

Article 3 Was moved and seconded from the floor. Bob Markel gave an explanation of Article 3 noting that there would be two motions to amend.

A motion to amend was made under Section 1, under "Authorized to Spend" to change "Electrical Inspector" to "Building Inspector". The motion to amend was moved and seconded. A vote was taken and the first amendment passed unanimously. A motion was made under Section 2, to amend "And, further, to set FY 2019 spending limits for such revolving funds as follows" to "And further, to set annual spending limits for such revolving funds as follows" the amendment was moved and seconded. A vote was taken and the motion and the second amendment passed. Article 2, as amended was moved and seconded, there was no discussion. A vote was taken.

Article 3 as amended PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 4: ANIMAL CONTROL BY-LAW AMENDMENTS

To see if the Town will amend Article 20 of the General Bylaws, by amending the existing language with new language shown in boldface text and deleted language shown as stricken through (**Appendix A**); and further to amend the Table of Contents by replacing reference to "Dog Control By Law" with "Animal Control Bylaw"; Or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended, Majority Vote Required

Article 4 was moved and seconded. Town Clerk George Roberts gave a brief presentation regarding article 4. A motion was made to Take No Action on Article 4 pursuant to Article 1, Section 8A Town of Becket By-Laws and seconded. There was no discussion. A vote was taken on the motion to

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

Take No Action on article 4. The motion to Take No Action on article 4 Passed by a 2/3 majority vote as declared by the Moderator.

Article 4 was not acted upon pursuant to a 2/3 vote to take no action.

ARTICLE 5: RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA MORATORIUM

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's Zoning Bylaw by adding a new Section 6.8, **TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENTS**, that would provide as follows, and further to amend the Table of Contents to add Section 6.8, "Temporary Moratorium on Recreational Marijuana Establishments:"

Section 6.8.1: Purpose

On November 8, 2016, the voters of the Commonwealth approved a law regulating the cultivation, processing, distribution, possession and use of marijuana for recreational purposes (new G.L. c. 94G, Regulation of the Use and Distribution of Marijuana Not Medically Prescribed). The law, which allows certain personal use and possession of marijuana, took effect on December 15, 2016 and (as amended on December 30, 2016 by Chapter 351 of the Acts of 2016 and thereafter, on July 28, 2017 by Chapter 55 of the Acts of 2017) requires a Cannabis Control Commission to issue regulations regarding the licensing of commercial activities by March 15, 2018 and to begin accepting applications for licenses no later than April 1, 2018. Currently under the Zoning Bylaw, a non-medical Marijuana Establishment (hereinafter, a "Recreational Marijuana Establishment"), as defined in G.L. c. 94G, §1, is not specifically addressed in the Zoning Bylaw. Regulations to be promulgated by the Cannabis Control Commission may provide guidance on certain aspects of local regulation of Recreational Marijuana Establishments. The regulation of recreational marijuana raises novel legal, planning, and public safety issues, and the Town needs time to study and consider the regulation of Recreational Marijuana Establishments and address such issues, as well as to address the potential impact of the State regulations on local zoning and to undertake a planning process to consider amending the Zoning Bylaw regarding regulation of Recreational Marijuana Establishments. The Town intends to adopt a temporary moratorium on the use of land and structures in the Town for Recreational Marijuana Establishments so as to allow sufficient time to address the effects of such structures and uses in the Town and to enact bylaws in a consistent manner.

Section 6.8.2: Definition

"Recreational Marijuana Establishment" shall mean a

"marijuana cultivator, independent testing laboratory, marijuana product manufacturer, marijuana retailer or any other type of licensed marijuana-related business."

Section 6.8.3: Temporary Moratorium

For the reasons set forth above and notwithstanding any other provision of the Zoning Bylaw to the contrary, the Town hereby adopts a temporary moratorium on the use of land or structures for a Recreational Marijuana Establishment and other uses related to recreational marijuana. The moratorium shall be in effect through December 31, 2018 or until such time as the Town adopts Zoning Bylaw amendments that regulate Recreational Marijuana Establishments, whichever occurs earlier. During the moratorium period, the Town shall undertake a planning process to address the potential impacts of recreational marijuana in the Town, and to consider the Cannabis Control Commission regulations regarding Recreational Marijuana Establishments, and shall consider adopting new Zoning Bylaws in response to these new issues.; Or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended, 2/3 Vote Required

Article 5 was moved and seconded. Robert Ronzio made a brief presentation on behalf of the Planning Board noting that it was his understanding that the Attorney General had not endorsed moratoriums. Selectman William Elovirta gave a presentation in support of the Article noting that the Attorney General recommended the moratorium. Town Counsel gave an explanation of the position of the Attorney General and how any application for a permit submitted to the Cannabis Control Commission would trigger a review of the Zoning By-Laws in effect at the time of the permit application. Mr. Elovirta indicated that the Attorney General's recommended that towns adopt the moratorium at a meeting he attended. Heather Anello, owner and operator of the Becket General Store spoke against the moratorium feeling that it would put local retailers at a disadvantage. Meredyth Babcock spoke in favor of the moratorium. Rodney Logan noted that he had friends who had cancer and were frustrated with the slowness of distribution of medical marijuana. Robert Ronzio noted that the Planning Board had drafted a medical marijuana by law but that it had been withdrawn from the warrant in a previous Town Meeting. He noted that there are no zoning districts in Becket, and that retail sales would be controlled by Planning Board Special Permit. This means that the Planning Board can't take action until they receive an application for a retail marijuana facility. Selectman Michael Lavery spoke in support of the moratorium noting that regulation come out next week and if applications are received in April. Alvin Blake noted that the moratorium, if passed, might place local farmers interested in growing at a disadvantage. James Levy

Report of the Town Clerk

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noted that the Cannabis Control Commission will have huge amount of regulations pertaining to marijuana, calling into the question the wild west...no zones in Becket, houses of worship, schools, parks etc., the Planning Board cannot proscribe use in certain areas of town. Steve Rosenthal called the question. The moderator held that Mr. Rosenthal was out of order as others wished to speak. Randy Johnson 305 High Street spoke in favor of the moratorium noting that the moratorium would protect the town, and that marijuana sales might not be appropriate in Becket as it might change the community. A vote was taken. The votes in favor were 29, that votes against were 28, and the Moderator declared that the motion on Article 5 did not receive the 2/3 vote necessary, and thus the motion on Article 5 failed.

Article 5 FAILED.

ARTICLE 6: MEDICAL MARIJUANA MORATORIUM

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's Zoning Bylaw by adding a new Section 6.9, **TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON MEDICAL MARIJUANA TREATMENT CENTERS**, that would provide as follows, and further to amend the Table of Contents to add Section 6.9, "Temporary Moratorium on Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers:"

Section 6.9.1: Purpose

By vote at the State election on November 6, 2012, the voters of the Commonwealth enacted Chapter 369 of the Acts of 2012, entitled "An Act for the Humanitarian Medical Use of Marijuana", regulating the cultivation, distribution, possession and use of marijuana for medical purposes. The law became effective on January 1, 2013, and on May 24, 2013, the State Department of Public Health issued regulations under the act governing the cultivation, processing and distribution of medical-use marijuana. On July 28, 2017, Governor Baker signed "An Act to Ensure Safe Access to Marijuana" (the "Act"), adopted as Chapter 55 of the Acts of 2017. The Act makes a number of significant changes to the regulation of medical-use marijuana, including, but not limited to, the eventual repeal of Chapter 369 of the Acts of 2012, the transfer of the oversight and regulation of medical-use marijuana from the Department of Public Health to the newly-created Cannabis Control Commission, and the adoption of new requirements for the cultivation, processing, distribution, possession and use of marijuana for medical purposes. Pursuant to the Act, the Commission is required to promulgate new rules and regulations for the medical use of marijuana, including the licensing and operation of Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers. Currently under the Zoning Bylaws, the cultivation, processing, or distribution of marijuana for medical purposes

is not a permitted use in the Town and regulations promulgated by the Commission are expected to provide guidance to the Town in regulating medical marijuana, including Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers.

The regulation of medical marijuana raises complex legal, planning and public safety issues. The Town needs time to study and consider the regulation of Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers and address such complex issues, as well as to address the potential impact of State regulations on local zoning and to undertake a planning process to consider amending the Zoning Bylaws regarding regulation of Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers and other uses related to the regulation of medical marijuana. A temporary moratorium on the use of land and structures in the Town for Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers will allow the Town sufficient time to engage in a planning process to address the effects of such structures and uses in the Town and to enact bylaws in a manner consistent with sound land use planning goals and objectives.

Section 6.9.2: Definition

"Medical marijuana treatment center" shall mean an establishment approved under a medical use marijuana license that acquires, cultivates, possesses, processes (including development of related products such as food, tinctures, aerosols, oils, or ointments), transfers, transports, sells, distributes, dispenses, and/or administers marijuana, products containing marijuana, related supplies, and/or educational materials to registered qualifying patients or their personal caregivers for medical purposes.

Section 6.9.3: Temporary Moratorium

For the reasons set forth above and notwithstanding any other provision of the Zoning Bylaws to the contrary, the Town hereby adopts a temporary moratorium on the use of land or structures for Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers. The moratorium shall be in effect through December 31, 2018. During the moratorium period, the Town shall undertake a planning process to address the potential impacts of medical marijuana in the Town, consider the impact of the "The Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act" and the "Act to Ensure Safe Access to Marijuana" and regulations adopted thereunder, and consider adopting new zoning bylaws to address the impact and operation of Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers and related uses.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended, 2/3 Vote Required

Article 6 was moved and seconded. Robert Ronzio read a Cannabis Control Commission memo to the meeting that set forth the Commissions review procedures, and noted that the Planning Board did have a draft by-law in place and that there would be a public hearing in March and the Planning Board

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

anticipated having a by-law in place to put before the Annual Town Meeting in May. Mr. Ronzio stated that the Planning Board was not in favor of this moratorium. John Kovich stated that he felt that this article was not necessary as marijuana had been recognized as medication for six years and that it should be between a doctor and patients. Selectman Michael Lavery spoke in favor of the moratorium and explained that the Selectmen decided to present that moratorium as a method to allow the Town to look at the laws when they came out. A vote was taken. The votes in favor were 22 and the votes against were 38. The Moderator declared that the motion on Article 6 did not receive the 2/3 vote necessary, and thus the motion on Article 6 failed.

Article 6 FAILED.

ARTICLE 7: LARGE SCALE GROUND MOUNTED SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATIONS

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's Zoning By-Law, Section 6, Large Scale Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations, by amending the existing language with new language shown in boldface text and deleted language shown as stricken through:

6.6 LARGE-SCALE GROUND-MOUNTED SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATIONS

6.6.1 Purpose. The purpose of this bylaw is to promote the creation of new large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations (LSGMSPI) by providing standards for the placement, design, construction, operation, monitoring, modification and removal of such installations that address public safety, minimize impacts on scenic, natural and historic resources and to provide adequate financial assurance for the eventual decommissioning of such installations.

6.6.2 Applicability. The provisions set forth in this section shall apply to the construction, operation, and/or repair of LSGMSPI. This section applies to LSGMSPI proposed to be constructed after the effective date of this section. This section also pertains to physical modifications that alter the type, configuration, or size of these installations or related equipment.

6.6.3 Definitions. The following definitions shall apply:

As-of-Right Siting: As-of-Right Siting shall mean that development may proceed without the need for a special permit, variance, amendment, waiver, or other discretionary approval. As-of-right development may be subject to site plan review to determine conformance with local zoning ordinances or bylaws. Projects cannot be prohibited, but can be reasonably regulated by the Becket Building Inspector and the ~~Site Plan Approval Board~~. **Planning Board.**

Building Permit: A construction permit issued by an authorized building inspector; the building permit evidences that the project is consistent with the state and federal building codes as well as local zoning bylaws, including those governing ground-mounted large-scale solar photovoltaic installations.

Customer-Owned Generator: An LSGMSPI owned by an entity other than the electric utility company.

Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installation (LSGMSPI): A solar photovoltaic system that is structurally mounted on the ground and is not roof-mounted, and has a minimum nameplate capacity of 250 kW DC.

Rated Nameplate Capacity: The maximum rated output of electric power production of the photovoltaic system in Direct Current (DC).

Site Plan Review: Review by the ~~Site Plan Approval Board~~ **Planning Board** to determine conformance with local zoning bylaws. ~~See Becket Zoning Bylaws §9.4 for details.~~

Solar Photovoltaic Array: An arrangement of solar photovoltaic panels.

6.6.4 General Requirements for all Large Scale Solar Power Generation Installations. The following requirements are common to all LSGMSPIs to be sited on any parcel in Becket with a lot size of four (4) acres or more. Any such parcel may be used as a site for an LSGMSPI, as long as all Site Plan Review criteria have been met to the satisfaction of the ~~Site Plan Approval Board~~. **Planning Board**

1. Compliance with Laws, Ordinances and Regulations. The construction and operation of all LSGMSPIs shall be consistent with all applicable local, state and federal requirements, including the Wetlands Protection Act ,M.G.L. c. 141, § 40 et seq., and any other regulations or laws under the purview of the Becket Conservation Commission, and including but not limited to all applicable safety, construction, electrical, and communications requirements. All buildings and fixtures forming part of an LSGMSPI shall be constructed in accordance with the State Building Code. All necessary permits from the Conservation Commission shall be obtained by the applicant prior to Site Plan Review **by the Planning Board.**

2. Building Permit and Building Inspection. No LSGMSPI shall be constructed, installed or modified as provided in this section without first obtaining a building permit.

3. Fees. The application for a building permit for an

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LSGMSPI must be accompanied by the fee required for a building permit and the required Site Plan Approval review fee.

6.6.5 Site Plan Review. LSGMSPIs with 250 kW or larger of rated nameplate capacity shall undergo site plan review by the ~~Site Plan Approval Board~~ **Planning Board** prior to construction, installation or modification as provided in this section. Failure by the ~~Site Plan Approval Board~~ **Planning Board** to render a decision on the submitted plan ~~in accordance with Section 9.4.6 of the Becket Zoning By-Laws~~ within 365 days of Completeness Notification (as set forth below) shall be deemed to be a constructive approval of those plans. An applicant claiming constructive approval of a LSGMSPI shall follow the process set forth in M.G.L. c. 40A, § 9 to obtain a certificate of such approval from the Town Clerk.

1. General. All plans and maps shall be prepared, stamped and signed by a Professional Engineer licensed to practice in *the Commonwealth of Massachusetts*.

2. Required Documents. Pursuant to the site plan review process, the project proponent shall provide the following documents in addition to those required under §9.4 of the Zoning By-Law

a. A site plan showing:

- i. Property lines and physical features, including roads, for the project site;
- ii. The proposed site for the installation shown on a map of the Town of Becket.
- iii. Proposed changes to the landscape of the site, grading, vegetation clearing and planting, exterior lighting, screening vegetation or structures;
- iv. Blueprints or drawings of the LSGMSPI signed by a Professional Engineer licensed to practice in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts showing the proposed layout of the system and any potential shading from nearby structures or vegetation;
- v. One or three line electrical diagram detailing the LSGMSPI, associated components, and electrical interconnection methods, with all National Electrical Code compliant disconnects and overcurrent devices;
- vi. Documentation of the major system components to be used, including the *photovoltaic (PV)* panels, mounting system, and inverter;
- vii. Name, address, and contact information for proposed system installer;
- viii. Name, address, phone number and signature of the project proponent, as well as all co-proponents or property owners, if any;

ix. The name, contact information and signature of any agents representing the project proponent; and
b. Documentation of actual or prospective access and control of the project site (see also Section 6.6.6);

c. An operation and maintenance plan (see also Section 6.6.7);

d. Description of financial surety that satisfies Section 6.6.14; and

e. Proof of liability insurance that satisfies Section 6.6.15.

3. Application Submission. The application packet must contain all the appropriate application fees, application forms, and the appropriate number of copies of all plans and supporting documentation as set forth in § 9.4.3 of the Zoning By-Laws. The application packet shall be submitted to the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk shall stamp the application with the date received and shall immediately notify the Chair of the ~~Site Plan Approval Board~~ **Planning Board** of a submitted application packet.

4. Completeness Review. The ~~Site Plan Approval Board~~ **Planning Board** shall, within thirty (30) calendar days of the receipt of the application by the Town Clerk, determine whether the application is complete or incomplete (“Completeness Review”) and notify the applicant in writing by certified mail.

a. Incomplete Applications. If the ~~Site Plan Approval Board~~ **Planning Board** determines the application to be incomplete, the Board will provide the applicant with a written explanation as to why the application is incomplete and request the information necessary to complete the application. Any additional information submitted by the applicant starts a new thirty (30) calendar day Completeness Review.

b. Complete Applications. When the ~~Site Plan Approval Board~~ **Planning Board** determines the application to be complete, the Board will notify the applicant in writing (“Completeness Notification”) and transmit copies of the completed application to the appropriate local boards, commissions and departments for their independent review.

6.6.6 Site Control. The project proponent shall submit documentation of actual or prospective access and control of the project site sufficient to allow for construction and operation of the proposed solar photovoltaic installation.

6.6.7 Operation & Maintenance Plan. The project proponent shall submit a plan for the operation and maintenance of the LSGMSPI, which shall include measures

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for maintaining safe access to the installation, storm water controls, as well as general procedures for operational maintenance of the installation.

6.6.8 Utility Notification. No LSGMSPI shall be constructed until evidence has been given to the ~~Site Plan Approval Board~~ **Planning Board** that the utility company that operates the electrical grid where the installation is to be located has been informed of the LSGMSPI's owner or operator's intent to install an interconnected Customer-Owned Generator; as well as documentation from said utility that they can and will connect the proposed Customer-Owned Generator into their power grid. Off-grid systems shall be exempt from this requirement.

6.6.9 Dimension and Density Requirements. The following dimensional and density requirements shall apply to all LSGMSPIs.

1. Setbacks. For LSGMSPIs, front, side and rear setbacks shall be as follows:

- a. Front yard: The front yard depth shall be at least 50 feet;
- b. Side yard. Each side yard shall have a depth at least 50 feet;
- c. Rear yard. The rear yard depth shall be at least 50 feet.

2. Appurtenant Structures. All appurtenant structures to LSGMSPIs shall be subject to reasonable regulations concerning the dimensions and height of structures. All such appurtenant structures, including but not limited to, equipment shelters, storage facilities, transformers, and substations, shall be architecturally compatible with each other. Whenever reasonable, such structures should comply with the setback requirements in § 6.6.9 (1), be screened from view and/or joined or clustered to avoid adverse visual impacts.

6.6.10 Design Standards. The following design standards shall apply to all LSGMSPIs.

1. Lighting. Lighting of LSGMSPIs shall be consistent with local, state and federal law. Lighting of other parts of the installation, such as appurtenant structures, shall be limited to that required for safety and operational purposes, and shall be reasonably shielded from abutting properties. Where feasible, lighting of the solar photovoltaic installation shall be directed downward and shall incorporate full cut-off fixtures to reduce light pollution.

2. Signage. Signs on large- scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations shall comply with § 5 of the Becket Zoning By-Laws. A sign shall be required to identify the

owner and operator of the LSGMSPI and provide a 24-hour emergency contact phone number. Solar photovoltaic installations shall not be used for displaying any advertising except for reasonable identification of the manufacturer.

3. Utility Connections. Reasonable efforts, as determined by the ~~Site Plan Approval Board~~ **Planning Board**, shall be made to place all utility connections from the solar photovoltaic installation underground, depending on appropriate soil conditions, shape, and topography of the site and any requirements of the utility provider. Electrical transformers for utility interconnections may be above ground if required by the utility provider.

4. Fencing and Screening. All fencing and screening shall be in compliance with § 4.3.2 (2) of the Becket Zoning By-Laws.

6.6.11 Safety and Environmental Standards. The following safety and environmental standards shall apply to all LSGMSPIs.

1. Emergency Services. The LSGMSPI's owner or operator shall provide a copy of the project summary, electrical schematic, and site plan to the local fire chief. Upon request the owner or operator shall cooperate with local emergency services in developing an emergency response plan. All means of shutting down the solar photovoltaic installation shall be clearly marked. The owner or operator shall identify a responsible person for public inquiries throughout the life of the installation.

2. Land Clearing, Soil Erosion and Habitat Impacts. Clearing of natural vegetation shall be limited to what is necessary for the construction, operation and maintenance of the LSGMSPI or otherwise prescribed by applicable laws, regulations, and bylaws.

6.6.12 Monitoring and Maintenance.

1. Solar Photovoltaic Installation Conditions. The LSGMSPI's owner or operator shall maintain the facility and access road in good condition. Maintenance shall include, but not be limited to, painting, structural repairs, and integrity of security measures. Site access shall be maintained to a level acceptable to the local Fire Chief and Emergency Medical Services.

2. Modifications. All modifications to an LSGMSPI made after issuance of the required building permit shall require approval by the ~~Site Plan Approval Board~~ **Planning Board**.

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6.6.13 Abandonment or Decommissioning.

1. Removal Requirements. Any LSGMSPI which has reached the end of its useful life or has been abandoned consistent with Section 3.12.2 of this bylaw shall be removed by the owner or operator no more than 150 days after the date of discontinued operations. The owner or operator shall notify the ~~Site Plan Approval Board~~ **Planning Board** by certified mail of the proposed date of discontinued operations and plans for removal. Decommissioning shall consist of:

- a. Physical removal of all LSGMSPIs, structures, equipment, security barriers and transmission lines from the site.
- b. Disposal of all solid and hazardous waste in accordance with local, state, and federal waste disposal regulations.
- c. Stabilization and re-vegetation of the site as necessary to minimize erosion. The ~~Site Plan Approval Board~~ **Planning Board** may allow the owner or operator to leave landscaping or designated below-grade foundations in order to minimize erosion and disruption to vegetation.

2. Abandonment. Absent notice of a proposed date of decommissioning or written notice of extenuating circumstances, the LSGMSPI shall be considered abandoned when it fails to operate for more than one year without the written consent of the ~~Site Plan Approval Board~~ **Planning Board**. If the owner or operator of the LSGMSPI fails to remove the installation in accordance with the requirements of this section within 150 days of abandonment or the proposed date of decommissioning, the town may enter the property and physically remove the installation.

6.6.14 Financial Surety. Proponents of LSGMSPI projects shall provide a form of surety, either through escrow account, bond or otherwise, to cover the cost of removal in the event the town must remove the installation and remediate the landscape, in an amount and form determined to be reasonable by the ~~Site Plan Approval Board~~ **Planning Board**, but in no event to exceed more than 125 percent of the cost of removal and compliance with the additional requirements set forth herein, as determined by the project proponent. Such surety will not be required for municipally- or state-owned facilities. The project proponent shall submit a fully inclusive estimate of the costs associated with removal, prepared by a qualified engineer. The amount shall include a mechanism for calculating increased removal costs due to inflation.

6.6.15 Liability Insurance. The owner or operator of an LSGMSPI shall provide the Town Clerk with a certificate of insurance showing that the property has a minimum of one million dollars in liability coverage, and that the Town of Becket is an additional named insured thereon. Such a certificate shall be supplied on an annual basis upon the renewal of said insurance policy.;

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen:, 2/3rds Vote Required

Article 7 was moved and seconded. Robert Ronzio gave a brief explanation of the article, noting that the existing by-law inadvertently placed review authority for Large Scale Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installation in the Zoning Board of Appeals. As it stands now, an applicant has to go to the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Planning Board. The instant article corrects the language of the by-law to place consolidated review authority in the Planning Board. Jeremy Dunn asked the practical difference between the review of the Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Board. Mr. Roberts explained the general differences. He also explained that the State requires that fencing 7 feet tall be placed around a Large Scale Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installation, and that the Town by-laws require any fence taller than 6 feet may only be installed with a special permit from the Planning Board. Ann Krawet confirmed the intent at the time of drafting by the Planning Board was to keep application review in the Planning Board. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 7 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ARTICLE 8: AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 21 OF ARTICLE 17 --THE TOWN BETTERMENT BY-LAW

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town Betterment By-Law, Article 17, Section 21 by amending the existing language with new language shown in boldface text and deleted language shown as stricken through as follows:

No person shall **(a)** drink or possess in an open or partially consumed container any alcoholic beverages as defined in MGL Chapter 138, § **Section 1**, or **(b) smoke, vaporize, ingest, or otherwise use or consume marijuana (marihuana) or tetrahydrocannabinol, as those terms are defined in MGL Chapters 94C and 94G, Section 1, as may be amended**, while on, in or upon any ~~public~~ way or place to which the public has a right of access, ~~excluding premises licensed under said chapter 138, or in , on or upon private lands without the consent of the owner or person in control thereof. or any area owned by or under the control of the~~ **Town of Becket, or any place to which members of the public have a right of access. A police officer may arrest without a warrant any person who commits a violation of this**

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~~bylaw in his presence and may seize the alcoholic beverages, which shall be kept by him and destroyed upon adjudication or returned to the person entitled to lawful possession. This bylaw shall not apply to persons or businesses which have been issued a valid one-day or other temporary license for consumption of alcoholic beverages or marijuana on any Town owned property in accordance with Town Policy. This bylaw shall also not be construed to limit the medical use of marijuana. The penalty for any violation of this bylaw shall be a fine not exceeding fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each offense. The provisions~~ **Violations of this section may be penalized enforced through any lawful means in law or in equity including, but not limited to, by indictment or on complaint brought in the district court or by non-criminal disposition as provided in MGL Chapter 94C, Section 32N and M.G.L. MGL Chapter 40, Section 21D.**

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Article 8 was moved and seconded. Michael Lavery explained that this article seeks to amend the Town By-Law to add marijuana to the existing regulation of alcohol consumption. Jeremy Dunn asked what the phrase “any place to which members of the public have a right of access” means, does it prohibit consumption in a place like the Becket General Store? The moderator noted the Becket General Store has a license to serve alcohol on premises. Town Counsel discussed the issue and noted that he felt that the intent of the article was to prohibit people from consuming marijuana on the streets in town. David Edgecombe stated that it was his belief that a “place to which members of the public have a right of access” was a public way. Cindy Delpapa asked if a “place to which members of the public have a right of access” would include the Westfield River. Town Counsel opined that if the public did, in fact, have a right to access the Westfield River, this article would apply. Jeff Wilkinson asked about if the language that specified temporary one day licenses would exclude consumption in places that had annual licenses. Town Counsel noted that alcohol licenses all expire annually, and that marijuana would likely be licensed annually as well. Chris Swindlehurst questioned if the Town should be limiting consumption of anything on land that isn’t owned by the Town, and recommended that people vote against it. Bob Ronzio questioned if the Town had authority over State Roads. Counsel opined that a fair reading of the article prohibited consumption in public spaces. Jeremy Dunn noted that many ponds are great ponds and that this article would prohibit consumption while in a boat on a great pond. Town Counsel

concluded that it would. Chris Massini expressed concern that the language “place to which members of the public have a right of access” includes much private property that isn’t posted and noted that the striking of the “on or upon private lands without the consent of the person in control” would seem to make it impossible for him to give permission to someone to consume on his private property. Town Counsel doesn’t agree that the public has a right of access to your property just because it isn’t posted under this article and stated that you would be. A motion to call the question was moved and seconded. The motion to call the question passed by 2/3 vote. A vote was taken on Article 8 and the motion did not pass.

Article 8 FAILED.

ARTICLE 9: PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES AGREEMENT WITH 978 SOLAR DEVELOPMENT, LLC

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate and enter into Structured Tax Agreements or agreements for payments-in-lieu-of-taxes (“PILOT”) pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 38H (b), and Chapter 164, Section 1, or any other enabling authority, for a term of years for both real property and/or personal property, as applicable, associated with solar photovoltaic facilities, including but not limited to facilities to be located on land known as 0 Tanglewood Circle and shown as Lots 14-20 & 37-47 on Assessors’ map 406, upon such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen shall deem to be in the best interest of the Town, and to take all action necessary to implement such agreements; or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended, Majority Vote Required
Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 8 was moved and seconded. Interim Town Administrator Bob Merkel made a brief presentation explaining that a solar voltaic facility is not required to pay taxes, but a Payment In Lieu of Taxes Agreement (PILOT agreement) is an approved method for a Town to recover revenue by agreement through the Selectmen. The amount of income to the Town under the PILOT agreement that has just about been finalized would be \$53,000.00 per year for 20 years. Selectman Bill Elovirta explained that this agreement is in line with how these agreements are done. He noted that the Assessors felt that this was a fair package. Jeremy Dunn stated that he was confused about the language regarding citing. Julia Kay Grace noted that she thought that she had seen an article describing a solar array developer who had entered into a PILOT agreement with a municipality and then latter sold the array to Eversource who then immediately stopped making PILOT payments. Ms. Kay Grace suggested

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(Continued)

that there should be a clause in the agreement that would prohibit the sale to a third party that would not be otherwise bound by the PILOT agreement. Charles Francis felt that the developer has already gone ahead with development without the benefit of a PILOT and that the developer should be subject to taxes like the rest of us. Bill Elovirta noted that there was a clause in the agreement that prohibited voluntary sale of the property to any entity that qualifies as a charitable organization. Bob Markel noted that the value of the equipment on land depreciates and thus a level term PILOT agreement is beneficial in the long term. He also noted that a PILOT agreement was more advantageous to the Town than assessed property taxes would be as all solar facilities in Massachusetts are treated like they are owned by a non-profit. Mr. Markel explained that because not-for-profits don't pay property taxes, the only way for the Town to get monies from them is through a PILOT agreement. Bob Ronzio questioned if Town Counsel reviewed the PILOT agreement and determine that the Town would be protected. Mr. Elovirta stated that he believes Town Counsel had reviewed the agreement. Mr. Ronzio noted that there were not-for-profits that he was familiar with that had PILOT agreements and

breached them. Steve Rosenthal discussed the possibility of amending the motion. Town Counsel suggested that a motion to require the Selectmen to include specific language in the agreement might not be binding on the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Rosenthal withdrew his proposed motion. Mr. Markel noted that the sample agreement was drafted by attorneys. Mr. Elovirta noted that the sample PILOT was drafted by Town Counsel and provided by KP Law. Town Counsel noted that it appears the sample PILOT was provided by KP Law. David Edgecombe asked for clarification on some issues, and Mr. Elovirta responded. Charles Francis asked if the company was a not-for-profit, Mr. Dunn explained that state law prevents taxation of a solar facility, and that is why we would enter into a PILOT agreement. A vote was taken and the motion on Article 9 passed by majority vote.

Article 9 PASSED

A motion to dissolve the meeting was moved and seconded from the floor. A vote was taken and the motion to dissolve the meeting passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m. The checkers were Election Workers Patricia Clemons Charles Francis, Ann Krawet, and Margaret Clemons.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MAY 12, 2018

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, the Annual Town Meeting was called on May 12, 2018, 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 78 registered voters present (5% of 1502 registered voters) and a total of 103 people attended the meeting. Town Officials Present: Ethan Klepetar, Moderator, Bill Elovirta, Nicole Ledoux, and Michael Lavery, Selectmen; Ann Spadafora, Maria Wallington, Dan Parnell, Ronald Defoe, and Mark Karlberg; Finance Committee Members; George E. Roberts, Town Clerk; Robert Markel, Interim 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 reviewed the warrant and declared it to have been duly posted as evidenced by the attestation of the posting

ARTICLE 1: COMPENSATION

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to Chapter 41, section

108 of the General Laws, to fix the compensation of the Board of Selectmen at \$2,080 each and pursuant to Chapter 41, section 4A of the General Laws, to allow the following boards to employ their members at the listed hourly rates.

Board of Health at the rate of \$15.15 per hour for the performance of their duties as Board of Health members that is in excess of their meeting time.

Cemetery Commission at the rate of \$15.15 per hour for the performance of their duties as Cemetery Commission members in maintaining the cemeteries that is in excess of their meeting time; or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended, Majority Vote Required
Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 1 Was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 1 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 2: FY 2019 OPERATING BUDGET

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

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

Town for the 2019 Fiscal Year as set forth in APPENDIX A, which is on file with the Town Clerk and on the Town Website (www.townofbecket.org); or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommended

The Moderator stated that he would not read each line item but rather, if there were to be any questions or discussion of any line item, a “Hold” should be placed on that line item. There will be a vote on all the line items that weren’t placed on “Hold.” After the initial vote there would be an opportunity for discussion on each line item placed on “Hold,” and the Meeting would vote upon each. The Moderator stated that in the non-held line items, the figure voted upon would be the Finance Committee/ Selectmen recommended amount. The following line items had “Holds” placed upon them:

Line 48 (E911 Communication) (note: there is a typographical error in APPENDIX A resulting in two Line 48 –the one placed on hold is the first)

Line 150 (Health and Life Insurance)

Article 2 Was moved and seconded from the floor. After explanations by Interim Town Administrator Robert Markel, together with a clarification by Dan Parnell that the figure being voted on was the figure recommended by the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen of \$5,686,505 as set forth in Line Item 155 in Appendix A, Town Counsel, Joel Bard, recommended that the motion be amended to read:

“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 2019 Fiscal Year as set forth in Line Item 155 in APPENDIX A, which is on file with the Town Clerk and on the Town Website (www.townofbecket.org); or take any other action relative thereto.” The suggested motion to amend was made and seconded. A vote was taken by a show of hands, and the motion to amend passed unanimously.

A vote on the motion as amended exclusive of line items 48 (E911 Communication) and line item 150 (Health and Life Insurance) was taken by a count of hands and the motion as amended on

Article 2 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Each of the held line items was considered individually and the following actions were taken:

Line Item 48. E911 COMMUNICATION:

Line Item 48 was moved and seconded. Selectmen William Elovirta explained that radio communication in Becket for emergency services are terrible. He noted that this line item

would improve emergency communications. He noted that the money to fund the purchase of the equipment is available through a Homeland Security grant to the Berkshire County Sheriff’s Office, and that cell tower rent was negotiated down to \$1400 per month with an annual 3% increase. A vote was taken and

Line Item 48 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Line Item 150. HEALTH/LIFE INSURANCE:

Line Item 150 was moved and seconded. Jeremy Dunn asked for an explanation as to why health insurance costs hadn’t gone up from the prior year. Interim Town Administrator Robert Markel explained that the Massachusetts Inter-local Insurance Association. (MIAA) sends a letter out each year advising towns of the next year’s cost. This year letter indicated that there wouldn’t be an increase for the fiscal year 2019, but that there would be an increase for the fiscal year 2020. Additionally, he noted that MIAA was changing the plan that they offer to retirees and we would be required to migrate from MedEx 2 to MedEx 3. MedEx3 would have the same benefits as MedEx2, but would result in a significant subsidy from the Federal Government, which he believes, explains the lack of increase for the upcoming fiscal year. A vote was taken and **Line Item 150 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ARTICLE 3: DEBT SERVICE

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$305,692 to fund debt service due in Fiscal Year 2019 for the following previously approved borrowings:

Becket Washington School	103,867	EFP 2025
Wahconah Regional High School	7,876	EFP 2029
Wahconah Sidewalks	838	EFP 2022
Kittredge School MSBA Windows	456	EFP 2022
Craneville Roof	161	ERP2023
Craneville Air Handler	41	ERP 2022
District Security	999	EFP 2025
Dump Truck (Highway Dept.)	51,456	EFP 2021
Loader (Highway Dept.)	58,800	EFP 2020
Town Hall Roof	25,284	EFP 2020
Ambulance	43,209	EFP 2021
Short Term Debt Service	<u>1,500</u>	
	\$294,487;	

or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended, Majority Vote Required
Finance Committee Recommended

Article 3 Was moved and seconded. Nandor Sala inquired as to the terms of the debt of the dump truck and loader. The Highway Superintendent Chris Bouchard noted that the terms were 5 years each. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 3 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

ARTICLE 4: TRANSFER TO THE STABILIZATION FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be deposited into the Stabilization Fund for Fiscal Year 2019; or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended, Majority Vote Required
Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 4 Was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 4 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 5: ACCEPTANCE OF CHAPTER 90 FUNDS

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 appropriation 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 to be reimbursed to the Town by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in accordance with Chapter 90 of the Massachusetts General Laws; or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended, Majority Vote Required,
Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 5 Was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 5 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 6: AMBULANCE BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$405,574 for the salaries and expenses of the Ambulance Enterprise; and to fund said appropriation, to raise and appropriate \$300,574 from the General Fund and to transfer \$105,000 from Fiscal Year 2018 Ambulance Receipts; or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended, Majority Vote Required
Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 6 Was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 6 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 7: CAPITAL REPAIRS TO THE BECKET ATHENAEUM

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$10,000 for capital repairs and improvements at the Becket Athenaeum, including all incidental and related costs, in order for Library Services to be provided to Town residents; or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended, Majority Vote Required
Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 7 Was moved and seconded. Andras Sala, asked that

Kathy DeFoe explain this item. Ms. DeFoe explained this money would be used with respect to ongoing water and septic issues at the Athenaeum. She related that the Athenaeum had a shallow well, designated as a public water supply. The Athenaeum is required to conduct several water tests on the well during the year. The water from the well frequently tests positive for coliform bacteria and at least once a year tests positive for e-Coli bacteria. She also related that investigation has revealed that the building has an old style metal septic tank and that it is not clear if there is a leach field, nor where it might be located. The Board of Directors has determined that investigation is needed to ensure that the Athenaeum is not contaminating nearby water supplies. Ms. DeFoe related that the Athenaeum retained Hill Engineering to conduct the initial assessment after seeking bids from S&J Contracting and Fox & Oneill. She also noted the Athenaeum had accrued \$2,000 and was to receive \$2,000 from the Town of Washington to move forward on this issue.

A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 7 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 8: PURCHASE OF A NEW POLICE CRUISER

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$48,866.55 for the purchase and equipping of a new police cruiser and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to trade or sell the old police cruiser; or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended, Majority Vote Required
Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 8 Was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 8 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 9: PURCHASE OF MOBILE SOFTWARE FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$26,223 for the purchase and installation of IMC Mobile Software for the Police Department; or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended, Majority Vote Required
Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 9 Was moved and seconded. After an explanation by Police Chief Kristopher McDonough about the need for this software which is a records management and communications system that is used by virtually all the surrounding police departments. Mr. McDonough noted that there is a yearly fee associated with this system, but also noted that training is included in this warrant amount. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 9 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

ARTICLE 10: PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Ambulance Stabilization Account the sum of \$21,227 for the purchase of: 1) an evacuation chair (\$4,760); 2) a chest compression system (\$14,712); and 3) new software (\$1,755) for the Ambulance Department; or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended 2/3 Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 10 Was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 10 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 11: PURCHASE OF TURNOUT GEAR FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$27,000 for the purchase of replacement turnout gear for the Fire Department; or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended, Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 11 Was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 11 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 12: PURCHASE OF A NEW BACKHOE FOR THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$115,000 from the Overlay Surplus and \$12,500 from Free Cash for the purchase and equipping of a new backhoe for the Highway Department and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to trade or sell the old Highway Department backhoe; or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended, Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 12 Was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 12 PASSED.

ARTICLE 13: FY 2019 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION AUTHORIZATION

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or reserve from Community Preservation Fiscal Year 2019 estimated annual revenues the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for Committee administrative expenses, community preservation projects and other expenses in Fiscal Year 2019, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation, all as set forth below:

Appropriations:

Committee Administrative Expenses \$500

Reserves:

Historical Resources Reserve	\$4,259
Community Housing Reserve	\$4,259
Open Space Reserve	\$4,259
Undesignated Reserve	\$29,316

Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee

Board of Selectmen: Recommended, Majority Vote Required

CPA Committee: Recommended

Finance Committee: No Recommendation

Article 13 Was moved and seconded. Gale LaBelle asked why Finance Committee didn't recommend. Dan Parnell noted that this was an issue outside the ambit of the Finance Committee, and as such the Committee was neither recommending for or against this Article. Robert Markel, Neil Toomey, and Gail Kusek gave brief explanations of the various parts of the Community Preservation funds allocation and prior recent uses of these funds. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 13 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 14: COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING FOR NORTH BECKET PARK

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$22,000 from the Undesignated Reserve Account of the Becket Community Preservation Fund for the rehabilitation of land for recreational use at the south end of North Becket Park, specifically to purchase new exercise equipment to replace wooden, outdated, and uninsurable equipment; or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee

Board of Selectmen: Recommended, Majority Vote Required

CPA Committee: Recommended

Finance Committee: No Recommendation

Article 14 Was moved and seconded. Gale Kusek and Rita Furlong explained that the proposed installation was for people 14 year of age and up and that the CPA was unanimously recommending that this item be placed upon the warrant for the Town to decide. Rita Furlong related that the school wouldn't allow the children on the current equipment because it was made of wood, and could result in splinters, and would have to be torn down and replaced. Madeline Elovirta noted that equipment has significant warranties, and would be bright and inviting and placed within the boundaries of the park. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 14 PASSED.

ARTICLE 15: COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING FOR A SHED AT TOWN BEACH

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$17,000 from the Undesignated Reserve Account of the Becket Community Preservation Fund for the rehabilitation of land

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

for recreational use at the Town Beach, specifically for the purchase and installation of a new, larger shed; or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee

Board of Selectmen: Recommended, Majority Vote Required
CPA Committee: Recommended

Finance Committee: No Recommendation

Was moved and seconded. Rita Furlong noted, in response to questions about the cost of the project, that the new shed would be 12 feet by 20 feet, and that the building would be erected on a slab of concrete. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 15 PASSED

ARTICLE 16: ANIMAL CONTROL BY-LAW

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Becket By-Laws, Article 20, Dog Control By-Law, as shown in APPENDIX B, which is on file with the Town Clerk and on the Town Website (www.townofbecket.org); or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsored by the Bylaw Review Committee

Board of Selectmen: Recommended, Majority Vote Required

Article 16 Was moved and seconded. Town Clerk, George Roberts noted that the old Dog By-Law had to be changed because the State changed the laws which required updating. Mr. Roberts noted that the By-Law Review Committee opted to include much of the language of the State Law as a convenience to the people in town who keep animals. Mr. Roberts noted that the cost to license a dog would remain at \$5.00 for spayed and neutered dogs, and \$11.00 for intact dogs. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 16 PASSED.

ARTICLE 17: MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENTS AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING CODE

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Becket Zoning By-Laws by adding a new subsection, as shown in APPENDIX C, which is on file with the Town Clerk and on the Town website (www.townofbecket.org); or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsored by the Planning Board

Planning Board: Recommended

Board of Selectmen: No Recommendation, 2/3 Vote Required

Article 17 Was moved and seconded. Chairman of the Planning Board, Robert Ronzio made a motion to amend by way of correcting typographic errors by changing the wording in sections:

6.8.3(2) From "...Distances shall be between the nearest property lines of each use." To "...Distances shall be **measured** between the nearest property lines of each use." And, 6.8.1, correcting sub-paragraph numbering From:

6.8.1 Indoor Cultivation, Craft Cooperative, Micro Business, Manufacturing, Processing, Testing & Research Requirements & Performance Standards

1. The minimum lot size for this use shall be two (2) acres.

The minimum required building setbacks shall be fifty (50) feet for front yards, and twenty (20) feet for side and rear yards.

2. No fertilizers, compost, soils, materials, machinery, or equipment shall be stored outdoors within the required front, side, and rear yard building setbacks.

3. In any residential area, any property line of an abutting residential or institutional use shall be provided with a continuous screening along such side and rear property lines.

4. In reviewing a Special Permit under this Section the Special Permit Granting Authority shall consider the impact of the proposal on the following:

- a. Character of the neighborhood to include visual compatibility with surrounding uses.
- b. Proximity to other marijuana uses to prevent clustering.
- c. Relationship to surrounding uses to avoid unnecessary exposure to minors.
- d. The provision of adequate lighting to promote security for customers and the public.
- e. Hours of operation.
- f. Site design and other development related site impacts.

To:

6.8.2 Indoor Cultivation, Craft Cooperative, Micro Business, Manufacturing, Processing, Testing & Research Requirements & Performance Standards

1. The minimum lot size for this use shall be two (2) acres.

2. The minimum required building setbacks shall be fifty (50) feet for front yards, and twenty (20) feet for side and rear yards.

3. No fertilizers, compost, soils, materials, machinery, or equipment shall be stored outdoors within the required front, side, and rear yard building setbacks.

4. In any residential area, any property line of an abutting residential or institutional use shall be provided with a continuous screening along such side and rear property lines.

5. In reviewing a Special Permit under this Section the

Report of the Town Clerk (Continued)

Special Permit Granting Authority shall consider the impact of the proposal on the following:

- g. Character of the neighborhood to include visual compatibility with surrounding uses.
- h. Proximity to other marijuana uses to prevent clustering.
- i. Relationship to surrounding uses to avoid unnecessary exposure to minors.
- j. The provision of adequate lighting to promote security for customers and the public.
- k. Hours of operation.
- l. Site design and other development related site impacts.

The motion to amend was moved and seconded. A vote was taken and the **MOTION TO AMEND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Bob Ronzio on behalf of the Planning Board noted that the Planning Board recommended the by-law.

Mr. Randy Johnson proposed an amendment adding a subparagraph 6 to section 6.8.4 changing it to:

6.8.4 Designated Number of MEs and Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers.

- 1. The total number of Marijuana Retailers shall not exceed fifty percent (50%), of the number of licenses issued within the Town for the retail sale of alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises. Fractions of retailers shall be rounded up to the nearest whole number.
- 2. The aggregate number of non-retail MEs in the Town shall not exceed six (6) establishments in total.
- 3. The total number of Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers shall not be greater than 2.
- 4. In the event that the number of licensed packaged liquor stores allowed/issued within the Town decreases, any ME, if then exceeding the limitations as stated in Sections 6.8.4.1 may remain in operation.
- 5. There shall be no restrictions on the number of any particular type of establishment permitted within the Town, other than as regulated in Subsection 6.8.4.1.
- 6. Other than existing retail establishments, no marijuana retailer or treatment center may be sited within 500' of any single or multi-family residence.

The motion was moved and seconded. Mr. Dunn questioned if the By-Law could be amended by the meeting. Town

Counsel opined that while the amendment may be within the scope of the article if the Moderator deems it so. Mr. Roberts questioned if any existing stores that currently sell alcohol would be able to sell marijuana if the 500-foot exclusion proposed. Mr. Lavery noted that there were no separate zones and that the only restrictions the Town could impose is taxation and location. Mr. Roberts noted The Becket General Store was actively looking forward to incorporating marijuana sales into her business. Mr. Lavery reiterated that the Town was limited in the scope of restrictions that the Town could impose vis a' vis marijuana facilities. James Levy noted that the Planning Board considered what the Town could do, and reiterated that there are no specialized zones in Becket, thus ME's couldn't be shunted to particular zones. Mr. Dunn questions what would happen if once an ME was established a daycare or residence then was established within 500 feet. Mr. Bard noted that Department of Public Health Regulations, which are currently the controlling authority under such a scenario, would not regulate subsequent development: The choice to locate near an existing ME is outside the regulations, and would not cause the existing ME to be subject to removal. Mr. Ronzio spoke to the fact that there is only one zone in Becket, and any application for any ME would be reviewed for a special permit by the Planning Board. He noted that in the past, the Planning Board has denied applications for special permits when they failed to meet the requirements of the Zoning By-Law. Noted that if this By-Law failed there would be no way to regulate ME's in the Town, which would result in an uncontrolled environment. He noted that under the current regulatory framework, there can only be two retail ME's for recreational marijuana; two ME's for medical marijuana licenses and up to five other facilities for manufacturing, growing and transporting, etc. Mr. Dunn asks if the amendment applies to 500 feet from building or property line. The moderator noted that the amendment proposed specified 500 feet from the structure. Mr. Blake noted that the proposed amendment does not apply to other types ME's.

Town Counsel feels that there is a good chance that the Attorney may reject the amendment.

A vote was taken by a count of hands. The amendment did not pass.

A vote was taken on Article 17. There were 66 votes in favor of Article 17, and 6 votes against, with 92% voting in favor of Article 17.

Article 17 PASSED BY 2/3 MAJORITY.

ARTICLE 18: RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA EXCISE TAX LOCAL ACCEPTANCE

To see if the Town will vote to accept G.L c. 64N, Section 3 to impose a local sales tax upon the sale or transfer of

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

marijuana or marijuana products by a marijuana retailer operating within the Town to anyone other than a marijuana establishment at a rate of three percent (3%) of the total sales price received by the marijuana retailer as consideration for the sale of marijuana or marijuana products; or take any other action relative thereto.

Planning Board: Recommended, Majority Vote Required
Board of Selectmen: Recommended

Article 18 Was moved and seconded. Mr. Lavery noted that there was a 3% impact tax that can be imposed in addition to the 3% sales tax with the State taxing at 14% for a total potential tax load of a total of 20%. These taxes only apply to recreational sales. The impact tax applies to all MEs if the Town incurs expenses for traffic control, police details, etc. Adel Levine asked if there was a difference between taxation of recreational and medical marijuana. Mr. Bard notes that while the by-law does not distinguish between medical and recreational marijuana, the law is very clear that medical marijuana is not taxed. A vote was taken by a count of hands.
Article 18 PASSED.

ARTICLE 19: SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING BY-LAW

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Becket Zoning By-Laws by replacing in its entirety Section 6.6 LARGE-SCALE GROUND-MOUNTED SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATIONS with a new Section 6.6 SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATIONS re-codifying existing practices into an understandable format, as shown in **APPENDIX D**, which is on file with the Town Clerk and on the Town website (www.townofbecket.org); or take any other action relative thereto.

Planning Board: No Recommendation

Board of Selectmen: Recommended, 2/3 Vote Required

Article 19 Was moved and seconded. Alvin Blake moved to amend to effect typographical corrections as follows (removed language struck through, and added language underlined and bolded):

6.6.3 Definitions...

From:

Commercial Use: The sale of electric power generated on-site by a small scale or roof mounted solar photovoltaic ~~installation~~ that exceeds on-site use.

To:

Commercial Use: The sale of electric power generated on-site by a small scale or roof mounted solar photovoltaic **installations** that exceeds on-site use.

And,

From:

Large-Scale Solar Photovoltaic Installation: A ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation that occupies more than one eighth (1/8th) of a building acre up to a maximum of 50 acres ~~and~~ generates electricity for the purpose of off-site use.

To:

Large-Scale Solar Photovoltaic Installation: A ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation that occupies more than one eighth (1/8th) of ~~an~~ building acre up to a maximum of 50 acres **or** generates electricity for the purpose of off-site use.

And,

From:

Special ~~Permit~~ Granting Authority (SPGA): The Planning Board shall be the Special Permit Granting Authority (SPGA) for solar photovoltaic installations.

To:

Special Permit Granting Authority (SPGA): The Planning Board shall be the Special Permit Granting Authority (SPGA) for solar photovoltaic installations.

And,

From:

6.6.5.4 Application Submission of a Small Scale Photovoltaic.

H. All necessary permits from the Conservation Commission to ~~insure~~ compliance with the local, state and federal requirements including the Wetlands Protection Act, G.L. c. 141§ 40 et seq., shall be obtained by the applicant prior to Site Plan Review by the Planning Board.

1.6.5.4 Application Submission of a Small Scale Photovoltaic.

To:

H. All necessary permits from the Conservation Commission to **ensure** compliance with the local, state and federal requirements including the Wetlands Protection Act, G.L. c. 141§ 40 et seq., shall be obtained by the applicant prior to Site Plan Review by the Planning Board.

And, from:

6.6.6.6 Filing Requirements.

C. Location Map. A relevant portion of the most recent USGS Quadrangle Maps at a scale of 1" = 25,000' or similar

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

scale showing the proposed ~~large-wind~~ energy system site, associated roadways, transmission lines and the area within at least a two mile radius of the proposed site.

D. Vicinity Map. A map of the proposed ~~large-wind~~ energy system site at a scale of 1" = 300' or similar scale, with existing contour intervals no greater than ten (10') feet showing the entire area within a ½ mile radius of the proposed large wind energy system, showing existing topography, public and private roads, recreation trails, property lines of all lots, structures including their use, historic sites, cultural sites, wetlands, known critical habitat areas, other environmentally sensitive areas, location of existing and proposed electric distribution lines, transformers, substations, and access easements.

To:

6.6.6.6 Filing Requirements.

C. Location Map. A relevant portion of the most recent USGS Quadrangle Maps at a scale of 1" = 25,000' or similar scale showing the proposed **solar** energy system site, associated roadways, transmission lines and the area within at least a two mile radius of the proposed site.

D. Vicinity Map. A map of the proposed **solar** energy system site at a scale of 1" = 300' or similar scale, with existing contour intervals no greater than ten (10') feet showing the entire area within a ½ mile radius of the proposed large wind energy system, showing existing topography, public and private roads, recreation trails, property lines of all lots, structures including their use, historic sites, cultural sites, wetlands, known critical habitat areas, other environmentally sensitive areas, location of existing and proposed electric distribution lines, transformers, substations, and access easements.

And, From:

6.6.6.10 Operation and Maintenance Plan: The owner/operator of the large-scale solar photovoltaic installation shall maintain the site, at their own expense, according to an Operation and Maintenance Plan (OMP) to be submitted with the Special Permit application. The OMP shall be reviewed and approved by the local Fire Chief, Emergency Medical Service and Highway Superintendent, and/or their designee(s). The OMP shall also specify whether the owner or the operator is responsible for compliance with the plan. At the time of approval of the Site Plan Review, the permit/approval granting authority shall specify one party, either the owner or operator, who shall have the responsibility ~~for~~ compliance with this section. While the Planning Board may impose site specific requirements to be addressed by the OMP, the OMP shall describe the method of maintenance and party responsible for each of the following:

To:

6.6.6.10 Operation and Maintenance Plan: The owner/operator of the large-scale solar photovoltaic installation shall maintain the site, at their own expense, according to an Operation and Maintenance Plan (OMP) to be submitted with the Special Permit application. The OMP shall be reviewed and approved by the local Fire Chief, Emergency Medical Service and Highway Superintendent, and/or their designee(s). The OMP shall also specify whether the owner or the operator is responsible for compliance with the plan. At the time of approval of the Site Plan Review, the permit/approval granting authority shall specify one party, either the owner or operator, who shall have the responsibility **for** compliance with this section. While the Planning Board may impose site specific requirements to be addressed by the OMP, the OMP shall describe the method of maintenance and party responsible for each of the following:

The motion to amend was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion to amend passed unanimously.

Mr. Blake explained that solar used to be under the purview of the Zoning Board, now it's under the purview of the Planning Board. He also noted that the nature of solar had changed dramatically over the years.

A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 19 PASSED BY A 2/3 MAJORITY.

ARTICLE 20: AMENDMENT TO ZONING BY-LAW USE REGULATIONS

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Becket Zoning By-Law SECTION 3.0, Use Regulations, by adding in 3.1.3 Table of Use Regulations new lines in the Residential, Commercial, Industrial & Accessory Uses sections as follows:

Table A: Table of Use Regulations

Residential Uses

Roof or Building Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installation.....Y/PB

Commercial Uses

Roof or Building Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installation.....Y/PB

Small-Scale Solar Photovoltaic Installation.....PB

Industrial Uses

Large-Scale Solar Photovoltaic Installation.....PB

Accessory Uses

Small-Scale Solar Photovoltaic Installation.....Y/PB

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

Planning Board: Recommended

Board of Selectmen: No Recommendation, 2/3 Vote Required

Article 20 Was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 20 PASSED BY 2/3 MAJORITY.

ARTICLE 21: TITLE REPLACEMENT FOR SOLAR INSTALLATIONS

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Becket Zoning By-Law Table of Contents SECTION 6.6, replacing the title LARGE-SCALE GROUND-MOUNTED SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATIONS with a new title SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATIONS; or take any other action relative thereto.

Planning Board: Recommended

Board of Selectmen: No Recommendation, 2/3 Majority Vote Required

Article 21 Was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 21 PASSED BY 2/3 MAJORITY.

ARTICLE 22: DRIVEWAYS AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING BY-LAW

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Becket Zoning By-Laws by adding the following subsection 4.2.11 Driveways to the existing Dimensional Requirements section codifying existing practices, as shown in **APPENDIX E**, which is on file with the Town Clerk and on the Town website (www.townofbecket.org); or take any other action relative thereto.

Planning Board: Recommended

Board of Selectmen: No Recommendation, 2/3 Vote Required

Article 22 Was moved and seconded. Ann Krawet, as a member of the Planning Board, made a motion withdraw the Article. The motion to withdraw was moved and seconded. A vote was taken by a count of hands. **The Motion to Withdraw passed and,**

Article 22 was WITHDRAWN.

ARTICLE 23: AMENDING ZONING BY-LAW TABLE OF CONTENTS

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Becket Zoning By-Law Table of Contents SECTION 4.0, DIMENSIONAL REQUIREMENTS, by adding a new subsection 4.2.11 Driveway.

Table of Contents

SECTION 4.0 DIMENSIONAL REQUIREMENTS.....14

Add new subsection:

4.2.11 Driveway Permits.....15;

or take any other action relative thereto.

Planning Board: Recommended

Board of Selectmen: No Recommendation

2/3 Vote Required

Ann Krawet, as a member of the Planning Board, withdrew the Article.

Article 23 WITHDRAWN.

ARTICLE 24: GRANT OF AN EASEMENT AT 344 WELLS ROAD

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to grant an easement on such terms and conditions, and for such consideration, as it deems appropriate, including nominal consideration, for the benefit of property located at 344 Wells Road, Becket, for the purpose of constructing, operating and maintaining a well house, said easement shown on a plan entitled "Wells Road A.k.a. Sherwood Drive," prepared by BEK Associates, and on file with the Town Clerk, and authorize the Board of Selectmen to execute any and all documents and take such other action as may be necessary to carry out the vote taken hereunder; and further, that said easement will hold the Town harmless for any pollution in the easement area; or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended, 2/3 Vote Required

Article 24 Was moved and seconded. Ann Spadafora wanted to know where the well was going to be drilled. Michael Lavery noted that the well is on Town property very close to the edge of the road. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 24 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 25: ROUTE 20 SPRING

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to prepare a plan for the installation of an ultra violet light water purification system at the Route 20 Spring to combat coliform bacteria and bring the Route 20 Spring into compliance with Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) standards for a "public water supply;" and further, to authorize the Select Board to expend up to \$15,000 from the Stabilization Fund for an engineering study and to obtain cost estimates for the installation of an ultra violet system; or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended, 2/3 Vote Required

Finance Committee: Not Recommended

Article 25 Was moved and seconded Selectman William

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

Elovirta described the layout of the spring and noted that while the Town is the deemed “operator” of the spring by the DEP by having tested the water for bacteria for some years, the spring is not on Town property. Mr. Elovirta noted that the spring is physically located on property owned by the Deerhaven development and that it is separated from Route 20 by a thin strip of land that is owned by an individual. Mr. Elovirta noted that as the “operator” of the spring the Town has entered into a consent decree. Mr. Elovirta explained that meeting provided three options for the Town. Option 1, is to install an ultraviolet light 8x10 foot building, which would probably require electrical wiring and installation of another utility pole; entering into agreements with Deerhaven (owner of the land on which the spring is located, and the owner of the property that separates the spring from Route 20. Mr. Elovirta noted that the monitoring of the system would be ongoing. He opined that the cost of the building and system would be more than ten thousand dollars, plus engineering studies and the cost of ongoing testing. He noted that the DEP advised that the existence of coliform bacteria often is a precursor to the appearance of e-Coli bacteria. He related that if the spring water tested positive for e-Coli bacteria, the spring would have to be shut down, or require the installation of additional expensive equipment. Option 2 would be to drill an artesian well and monitor it on an ongoing basis. Option 3 would be to decommission the spring by removing the pipe from the ground and place large stones to prevent another pipe from being installed. Mr. Elovirta noted that Chester, on several occasions, had declined to participate in any course of action. Ron Thompson wanted to know what the Town’s liability would be. Town Counsel noted that the DEP requires testing. He suggested that a “use at your own risk” sign, noting that the increased liability is not that great. Mr. Elovirta noted that DEP would assess fines against the Town if we don’t do something. Gale LaBelle noted that there were 383 signatures from people who want to keep the spring open. Ms. LaBelle of the Board of Health noted that we have not explored solar options, and suggested that a Green Communities Grant might be available for the system. Alvin Blake questioned our ability to decommission the well given that the Town does not own the property upon which the spring is located. Michael Lavery noted that the DEP directed that Deerhaven, as the owner of the spring, to communicate with the Town, as operator of the spring, to get the water into compliance. Bob Markel noted that Deerhaven corresponded with the Town and offered to grant an easement to the Town if the Town decided to go forward with the project. Mr. Markel observed the DEP was surprised that the Town was not the owner of the spring. Dan Parnell noted that the Finance Committee was opposed to the project because of the

ongoing costs of the project, and noted that the majority of users are from out of town. Ann Krawet spoke of concerns of liability for the quality of the water, injuries at the site and car accidents. Priscilla McEwen noted the Athenaeum was a public water supply and the monitoring and testing was a laborious and expensive proposition. Gail Kusek noted that we are the only spring left in Berkshire County and that the nearest spring after that is 54 miles away. She noted that in power outages the spring enables people access to water if they don’t have a generator. Ms. Kusek noted that there was a Not-For-Profit being established that would be named “Friends of Becket Spring” that would run, monitor and take the liability for the spring off the Town. She elaborated that this proposed Not-For-Profit had plans to solicit donations and grants for funding the operation of their proposed system. Ms. Kusek noted that the “Friends of Becket Spring” may have to limit the hours of operation of the spring. Town Administrator Robert Markel noted that we have to decide the issue tonight or risk incurring significant fines from the DEP. Lawrence Rogowski, the owner of the strip of land between Route 20 and the spring, stated that he wants to keep the spring open and stated that he would not give the State or the Town permission to access his property to close the spring. Rogowski questioned if closing the spring would result in water backing up into his basement. Jeremy Dunn wanted to know if the Town could decline to continue as the operator of the public water supply. Mr. Lavery noted that the consent order was entered into while the Town was the public water supply operator, and apparently that bound us to move forward with some action to comply with the terms of the consent order. Mr. Bard noted that it would be difficult to extricate our self from the terms of the consent order issued by the DEP. Mr. Bard, in response to William Cavanaugh’s suggestion that we take no action, stated that it was his legal opinion that tabling the matter was not a good option and that taking no action would send a very bad message to the DEP and would likely result in the DEP levying sanctions against the Town. Many residents spoke both for and against keeping the spring open. Mr. Bard believes that if a Not-For-Profit took over the “operation” of the spring, the DEP might no longer look to the Town as the “operator” of the spring. Mr. Parnell cautions that costs could get out of hand if we move forward with this project. Mr. Roberts moved to call the question, it was seconded. The motion to call the question passed. A vote was taken by a count of hands. There were 45 votes in favor and 20 votes against the Article.

Article 25 PASSED BY 2/3.

ARTICLE 26: PETITIONED ARTICLE

We, the undersigned citizens of Becket, Massachusetts:

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

To see if the Town will Vote to authorize the Selectmen to petition the Legislature to enact amendments to the Special Act numbered as Chapter 380 of the Acts of 1982 and entitled "AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE Sherwood FOREST ROAD MAINTENANCE DISTRICT IN THE TOWN OF BECKET as shown in **EXHIBIT A**, a copy of which has been provided to the Board of Selectmen which is on file with the Town Clerk and on the Town website (www.townofbecket.org); provided that the Legislature may reasonably vary the form and substance of the requested legislation within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition; or take any action relative thereto.

Lead Petitioner: Steven Rosenthal

Majority Vote Required

Article 26 Was moved and seconded. Steven Rosenthal spoke in support of Article 26. Ron Johnson spoke in favor of the Article 26, noting that currently, less than 20 percent of Sherwood Forrest landowners vote on road district matters. He noted that the other 80 percent of landowners were unable to vote on road district issues even though they pay 80 percent of the road district taxes. Robert Grace spoke in opposition to Article 26, generally speaking in opposition to proxies, and noting that the proposed article gives one vote for each lot, where a couple with one lot only gets one vote. John Cortez-Greig spoke to the process that gave rise to this Article. He notes that the committee that was formed to reform the Sherwood Forest Road Maintenance District Legislation agreed 5-1 to the form and content of the Article before the Meeting. He observed that married couples such as Robert and his wife would not lose their individual votes, but rather all the people

who are currently disenfranchised by the current system would be allowed to vote. Mr. Cortez-Greig pointed out that the Prudential Committee consists of three residents and two part-time residents, by law. He also noted that the two part-time resident Prudential Committee members are, under the current system, elected by the full-time residents, and thus don't represent the interests of the part-time residents. Ann Spadafora spoke in favor of Article 26, noting that the Sherwood Forest Road Maintenance was the first such district in Massachusetts and thus was deeply flawed, and noted that every other private community allowed all to vote, not just full-time residents. She noted that proxies could be crafted to more accurately reflect the individual will of the proxy issuer. Howard Lerner noted that once the present Article became law, proxy issues could be addressed under the Road Districts By-Laws through consensus of the proprietors. A motion was made to call the question; it was seconded. A vote was taken and the motion to call the question passed. A vote was taken on Article 26.

Article 26 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 19, 2018, starting at 10:00 a.m. A vote was taken and **the motion passed**. The meeting adjourned at 11:05 p.m. The checkers were Election Workers Patricia Clemons, Charles Frances, Ann Krawet, and Ruth Rosenthal.

ANNUAL TOWN CAUCUS, APRIL 10, 2018

Pursuant to the foregoing notice, a Town Caucus was held in the Becket Town Hall on April 10, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 11:45 by Town Clerk George E. Roberts and the following Caucus Officers were elected: Patricia Clemons, Chair (Presiding Officer); Charles Francis, Secretary. 37 voters of the Town participated and cast ballots for the nomination of candidates. The results were as follows; the names of the candidates nominated appear in **bold**:

	<u>Votes</u>	<u>%</u>
For Member, Board of Selectmen (3-year term) Vote for One		
William H. Elovirta	23	62%
All Others (write-ins)	7	
Blanks	<u>7</u>	
Total Votes Cast	37	

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

For Member, Board of Health (3-year term)	Vote for One		
	Laurel Burgwardt	27	73%
	All Others (write-ins)	1	
	Blanks	9	
	Total Votes Cast	37	
For Cemetery Commissioner (3-year term)	Vote for One		
	Michelle A. Smith	32	86%
	All Others (write-ins)	0	
	Blanks	5	
	Total Votes Cast	37	
For Member, Finance Committee (3-year term)	Vote for Two		
	Ann Gwenneth Spadafora	32	43%
	Charles Garman	25	34%
	All Others (write-ins)	0	
	Blanks	17	
	Total Votes Cast	74	
For Member, Planning Board (5-year term)	Vote for One		
	All Others (write-ins)	7	
	Blanks	30	
	Total Votes Cast	37	
For Constable (3-year term)	Vote for Two		
	Michael Hunt	28	38%
	Nicole Miller	29	39%
	All Others (write-ins)	0	
	Blanks	17	
	Total Votes Cast	74	

Registered voters:	1486
Ballots cast:	37
Percent Voting	2%

Per MGL 53:121, "If a person receives less than eight per cent of the votes of those voting for candidates for such office, he shall not be declared nominated."

Per MGL 53:121, "At a town caucus.....the two persons receiving the highest number of votes cast for the nomination of candidates for an office shall be declared nominated for such office.."

The polls closed promptly at 7:00 pm. The election workers were: Patricia Clemons, Meredyth Babcock, Jerome Schwartzbach, Adrienne Metcalf, Patricia Clemons, Ruth Rosenthal, and Charles I. Francis. The Police Officer was Chad Heath.

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION, MAY 19, 2018

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, the Annual Town Election was held in the Becket Town Hall, 557 Main Street, on May 19, 2018. The polling hours were 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Prior to the polls opening, the Ballot Box was publicly opened, examined and found to be empty; the register was set at zero. A total of 220 voters participated and cast ballots for the election of candidates. The results of the election are as follows:

	<u>Votes</u>	<u>%</u>
For Member, Board of Selectmen (3-year term)	Vote for One	
	William H. Elovirta	152 69%
	Robert T. Ronzio	52 24%
	Laurel Burgwardt	7 3%
	All Others (write-ins)	2 1%

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

	Blanks	7	3%
	Total Votes Cast	220	
For Member, Board of Health (3-year term)	Vote for One		
	Laurel Burgwardt	170	77%
	All Others (write-ins)	2	1%
	Blanks	48	22%
	Total Votes Cast	220	
For Cemetery Commissioner (3-year term)	Vote for One		
	Michelle A. Smith	182	83%
	All Others (write-ins)	3	1%
	Blanks	35	16%
	Total Votes Cast	220	
For Member, Finance Committee (3-year term)	Vote for Two		
	Ann Gwenneth Spadafora	175	40%
	Charles Garman	160	36%
	All Others (write-ins)	2	0%
	Blanks	103	23%
	Total Votes Cast	440	
For Member, Planning Board (5-year term)	Vote for One		
	Ann Krawet	176	80%
	All Others (write-ins)	4	2%
	Blanks	40	18%
	Total Votes Cast	220	
For Constable (3-year term)	Vote for Two		
	Michael Hunt	174	40%
	Nicole Miller	186	42%
	All Others (write-ins)	2	0%
	Blanks	78	18%
	Total Votes Cast	440	

Registered voters: 1503

Ballots cast: 220

Percent Voting 15%

A total of 220 ballots were cast. There were 11 absentee ballots and 5 spoiled ballots. There were no provisional ballots. The Auto-MARK voter assist terminal was tested at 9:20 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Election Officials were Gail LaBelle (Warden), Patricia Clemons (Clerk), Charles Francis, Beth VanNess, Julia Kay-Grace, and Alvin Blake. The police officer was Chad Heath. The polls closed at 7:00 p.m. and the unofficial results were printed and posted.

STATE PRIMARY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2018

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, the State Primary was held in the Becket Town Hall, 557 Main Street, on September 4, 2018. The polling hours were 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Prior to the polls opening, the Ballot Box was publicly opened, examined and found to be empty; the register was set at zero. The results of the election are as follows:

DEMOCRATIC	VOTES	Ballots Cast
Senator in Congress		
	Blanks	24
	Elizabeth Warren	195
	Write Ins:	4

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

	TOTAL VOTES	<u>223</u>
Governor <i>(Vote for One)</i>		
	Blanks	40
	Jay M. Gonzalez	125
	Bob Massie	57
	Write Ins:	<u>1</u>
	TOTAL VOTES	<u>223</u>
Lieutenant Governor <i>(Vote for One)</i>		
	Blanks	51
	Quentin Palfrey	125
	Jimmy Tingle	47
	Write Ins:	<u>0</u>
	TOTAL VOTES	<u>223</u>
Attorney General <i>(Vote for One)</i>		
	Blanks	32
	Maura Healey	187
	Write Ins:	<u>4</u>
	TOTAL VOTES	<u>223</u>
Secretary of State <i>(Vote for One)</i>		
	Blanks	16
	William Francis Galvin	144
	Josh Zakim	63
	Write Ins:	<u>0</u>
	TOTAL VOTES	<u>223</u>
Treasurer <i>(Vote for One)</i>		
	Blanks	46
	Deborah B. Goldberg	177
	Write Ins:	<u>0</u>
	TOTAL VOTES	<u>223</u>
Auditor <i>(Vote for One)</i>		
	Blanks	49
	Suzanne M. Bump	174
	Write Ins:	<u>0</u>
	TOTAL VOTES	<u>223</u>
Representative in Congress, First District <i>(Vote for One)</i>		
	Blanks	9
	Richard E. Neal	138
	Tahirah Amatul-Wadud	76
	Write Ins:	<u>0</u>
	TOTAL VOTES	<u>223</u>
Councillor, Eighth District <i>(Vote for One)</i>		
	Blanks	44
	Mary E. Hurley	179
	Write Ins:	<u>0</u>
	TOTAL VOTES	<u>223</u>
Senator in General Court, Berkshire, Hampshire Franklin and Hampden District <i>(Vote for One)</i>		
	Blanks	6
	Adam G. Hinds	174
	Thomas P. Wickham	43

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

	Write Ins:	<u>0</u>
	TOTAL VOTES	<u><u>223</u></u>
Representative in General Court, Second Berkshire District		
<i>(Vote for One)</i>		
	Blanks	23
	William Pignatelli	200
	Write Ins:	<u>0</u>
	TOTAL VOTES	<u><u>223</u></u>
District Attorney, Berkshire District <i>(Vote for One)</i>		
	Blanks	2
	Paul J. Caccaviello	53
	Andrea C. Harrington	57
	Judith C. Knight	109
	Write Ins:	<u>2</u>
	TOTAL VOTES	<u><u>223</u></u>
Clerk of Courts Berkshire County		
	Blanks	52
	Deborah S. Capeless	169
	Write Ins:	<u>2</u>
	TOTAL VOTES	<u><u>223</u></u>
Register of Deeds Berkshire Middle District		
	Blanks	38
	Patsy Harris	185
	Write Ins:	<u>0</u>
	TOTAL VOTES	<u><u>223</u></u>

REPUBLICAN	VOTES	Ballots Cast
<hr/>		
Senator in Congress <i>(Vote for One)</i>		
	Blanks	3
	Geoff Diehl	21
	John Kingston	20
	Beth Joyce Lindstrom	4
	Write Ins:	<u>1</u>
	TOTAL VOTES	<u><u>49</u></u>
Governor <i>(Vote for One)</i>		
	Blanks	1
	Charles D. Baker	18
	Scott D. Lively	30
	Write Ins:	<u>0</u>
	TOTAL VOTES	<u><u>49</u></u>
Lieutenant Governor <i>(Vote for One)</i>		
	Blanks	9
	Karyn E. Polito	38
	Write Ins:	<u>2</u>
	TOTAL VOTES	<u><u>49</u></u>
Attorney General <i>(Vote for One)</i>		
	Blanks	8
	James R. McMahon, III	26

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

	Daniel L. Shores	15
	Write Ins:	0
	TOTAL VOTES	49
Secretary of State <i>(Vote for One)</i>		
	Blanks	12
	Anthony M. Amore	37
	Write Ins:	0
	TOTAL VOTES	49
Treasurer <i>(Vote for One)</i>		
	Blanks	12
	Keiko M. Orrall	37
	Write Ins:	0
	TOTAL VOTES	49
Auditor <i>(Vote for One)</i>		
	Blanks	14
	Helen Brady	35
	Write Ins:	0
	TOTAL VOTES	49
Representative in Congress, First District <i>(Vote for One)</i>		
	Blanks	45
	Write Ins:	4
	TOTAL VOTES	49
Councillor, Eighth District <i>(Vote for One)</i>		
	Blanks	46
	Write Ins:	3
	TOTAL VOTES	49
Senator in General Court, Berkshire, Hampshire & Franklin District <i>(Vote for One)</i>		
	Blanks	45
	Write Ins:	4
	TOTAL VOTES	49
Representative in General Court, Second Berkshire District <i>(Vote for One)</i>		
	Blanks	46
	Write Ins:	3
	TOTAL VOTES	49
District Attorney, Berkshire District <i>(Vote for One)</i>		
	Blanks	43
	Write Ins:	6
	TOTAL VOTES	49
Clerk of Courts Berkshire County <i>(Vote for One)</i>		
	Blanks	47
	Write Ins:	2
	TOTAL VOTES	49
Register of Deeds Berkshire Middle District <i>(Vote for One)</i>		
	Blanks	47
	Write Ins:	2
	TOTAL VOTES	49

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

LIBERTARIAN		VOTES	Ballots Cast
Senator in Congress (Vote for One)			
	Blanks	1	
	Write Ins:	1	
	TOTAL VOTES	2	
Governor (Vote for One)			
	Blanks	1	
	Write Ins:	1	
	TOTAL VOTES	2	
Lieutenant Governor (Vote for One)			
	Blanks	1	
	Write Ins:	0	
	TOTAL VOTES	1	
Attorney General (Vote for One)			
	Blanks	1	
	Write Ins:	1	
	TOTAL VOTES	2	
Secretary of State (Vote for One)			
	Blanks	1	
	Write Ins:	1	
	TOTAL VOTES	2	
Treasurer (Vote for One)			
	Blanks	2	
	Write Ins:	0	
	TOTAL VOTES	2	
Auditor (Vote for One)			
	Blanks	2	
	Daniel Fishman	0	
	Write Ins:	0	
	TOTAL VOTES	2	
Representative in Congress, First District (Vote for One)			
	Blanks	2	
	Write Ins:	0	
	TOTAL VOTES	2	
Councillor, Eighth District (Vote for One)			
	Blanks	2	
	Write Ins:	0	
	TOTAL VOTES	2	
Senator in General Court, Berkshire, Hampshire & Franklin District (Vote for One)			
	Blanks	2	
	Write Ins:	0	
	TOTAL VOTES	2	
Representative in General Court, Second Berkshire District (Vote for One)			
	Blanks	2	
	Write Ins:	0	
	TOTAL VOTES	2	

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

District Attorney, Berkshire District (*Vote for One*)

Blanks	2
Write Ins:	0
TOTAL VOTES	<u>2</u>

Clerk of Courts Berkshire County (*Vote for One*)

Blanks	2
Write Ins:	0
TOTAL VOTES	<u>2</u>

Register of Deeds Berkshire Middle District (*Vote for One*)

Blanks	2
Write Ins:	0
TOTAL VOTES	<u>2</u>

Town of Becket, Total Registered Voters:	1514
Ballots cast:	274
Percent Voting	18.10%

A total of 274 ballots were cast. There were 6 absentee ballots, 1 Provisional ballots and 9 spoiled ballots. The AutoMARK voter assist terminal was tested at 7:00 a.m. and 4:05 p.m. Election Officials were: Gale LaBelle (Warden), Patricia Clemons (Clerk), Charles Francis, Julia Kay-Grace, Barbara Craft-Reiss, Al Blake, Ann Krawet, Charles Garman, and Pricilla McEwen. The Police Officers were Charlene Lamb, Chad Heath. And Steven Parkington. The polls closed at 8:00 p.m. and the unofficial results were printed and posted.

STATE ELECTION, NOVEMBER 6, 2018

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, the State Election was held in the Becket Town Hall, 557 Main Street, on November 6, 2018. The polling hours were 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Prior to the polls opening, the Ballot Box was publicly opened, examined and found to be empty; the register was set at zero. The results of the election are as follows:

OFFICES/CANDIDATES	VOTES
Senator in Congress (<i>Vote for One</i>)	
Blanks	8
Elizabeth A. Warren	509
Geoff Diehl	261
Shiva Ayyadurai	26
Write-Ins:	1
TOTAL VOTES	<u>805</u>
Governor and Lieutenant Governor (<i>Vote for One</i>)	
Blanks	21
Baker and Polito	425
Gonzalez and Palfrey	356
Write-Ins:	3
TOTAL VOTES	<u>805</u>
Attorney General (<i>Vote for One</i>)	
Blanks	17
Maura Healey	525
James R. McMahon, III	258
Write-Ins:	5
TOTAL VOTES	<u>805</u>

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

Secretary of State (*Vote for One*)

Blanks	24
William F. Galvin	516
Anthony M. Amore	227
Juan G. Sanchez, Jr.	38
Write-Ins:	0

TOTAL VOTES	805
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Treasurer (*Vote for One*)

Blanks	38
Deborah B. Goldberg	498
Keiko M. Orrall	228
Jamie M. Guerin	41
Write-Ins:	0

TOTAL VOTES	805
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Auditor (*Vote for One*)

Blanks	41
Suzan M. Bump	475
Hellen Brady	228
Daniel Fishman	28
Edward J. Stamas	33
Write-Ins:	0

TOTAL VOTES	805
-------------	-----

Representative in Congress

Blanks	183
Richard E. Neal	602
Write-Ins:	20

TOTAL VOTES	805
-------------	-----

Councillor(*Vote for One*)

Blanks	100
Mary E. Hurley	504
Mike Franco	198
Write-Ins:	3

TOTAL VOTES	805
-------------	-----

Senator in General Court

Blanks	183
Adam G. Hinds	605
Write-Ins:	17

TOTAL VOTES	805
-------------	-----

Representative in General Court

Blanks	165
William "Smitty" Pignatelli	625
Write-Ins:	15

TOTAL VOTES	805
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Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

District Attorney

Blanks	127
Andrea C. Harrington	468
Paul Caccaviello (write-in)	202
Write-Ins:	8

TOTAL VOTES	805
-------------	-----

Clerk of Courts

Blanks	202
Deborah S. Capeless	593
Write-Ins:	10

TOTAL VOTES	805
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Register of Deeds

Blanks	185
Patsy Harris	610
Write-Ins:	10

TOTAL VOTES	805
-------------	-----

Regional School Committee, BECKET

(Vote for not more than one)

Blanks	225
Barbara Craft-Reiss	576
Write-Ins:	4

TOTAL VOTES	805
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Regional School Committee, CUMMINGTON

(Vote for not more than one)

Blanks	790
Todd Emerson (write-in)	6
Write-Ins:	9

TOTAL VOTES	805
-------------	-----

Regional School Committee, DALTON

(Vote for not more than four)

Blanks	2510
Michael Hagmaier	338
Ellen Lattizzori	339
Mike Hinkley (write-in)	9
Robert Dilaio (write-in)	8
Write-Ins:	16

TOTAL VOTES	3220
-------------	------

Regional School Committee, HINSDALE

(Vote for One)

Blanks	357
Shawn Armacost	447
Write-Ins:	1

TOTAL VOTES	805
-------------	-----

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

QUESTION 1 (Law Proposed by Initiative Petition)

This proposed law would limit how many patients could be assigned to each registered nurse in Massachusetts hospitals on ascertain other healthcare facilities.

Blanks	22
Yes	244
No	539
TOTAL VOTES	805

QUESTION 2 (Law Proposed by Initiative Petition)

This proposed law would create a citizens commission to consider and recommend potential amendments to the United States Constitution to establish that corporations do not have the same Constitutional rights as human beings and that campaign contributions and expenditures may be regulated.

Blanks	30
Yes	560
No	215
TOTAL VOTES	805

QUESTION 3 (Referendum on an Existing Law)

This law adds gender identity to the list of prohibited grounds for discrimination in places of public accommodation, resort, or amusement.

Blanks	24
Yes	557
No	224
TOTAL VOTES	805

Town of Becket, Total Registered Voters:	1479
Ballots cast:	805
Percent Voting	54.4%

A total of 805 votes were cast. There were 36 Absen tee Ballots, 8 3 Early Ballots, 7 Provisional Ballots, and 12 Spoiled ballots. The AutoMARK voter-assist terminal was tested at 7:00 a.m. and 3:50 p.m. Election Officials were, (Clerk) Patricia Clemons (Warden), Gale LaBelle (Clerk), Beth VanNess, Ruth Rosenthal Alvin Blake, Ann Krawet, Meredyth Babcock, Adrienne Metcalf, Josh Schwartzbach, Charles Garman and Priscilla McEwen. The Police Officers were Stephen Parkington and Charlene Lamb. The Constable was Michael Hunt. The polls closed at 8:00 p.m. and the unofficial results were printed and posted.

Respectfully submitted,

George E. Roberts,
Town Clerk

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

APPENDIX A -- FY 2019 OPERATING BUDGET									
		ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	FIN COM	DOLLARS	PERCENT
		EXPENDITURES	EXPENDITURES	APPROVED	EXPENDITURES	REQUEST	SELECTMEN	INCREASE	INCREASE
					AS OF		RECOMMENDED	(DECREASE)	(DECREASE)
		FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	3/15/18	FY2019	FY2019	FROM 2018	FROM 2018
GENERAL GOVERNMENT									
1	ADVERTISING	3,659	7,245	4,500	2,075	4,500	4,000	-500	-11.1%
2	SELECTMEN'S SALARIES	6,000	6,000	6,120	4,080	6,240	6,240	120	2.0%
3	SELECTMEN'S EXPENSES	1,547	878	1,800	2,086	2,060	1,900	100	5.6%
4	TOWN MEETING EXPENSES	1,530	1,801	3,500	1,870	6,000	6,000	2,500	71.4%
5	TOWN ADMIN. SALARY	62,998	64,999	68,500	47,119	68,500	72,000	3,500	5.1%
6	TOWN ADMIN. EXPENSES	1,341	1,213	1,400	1,225	1,400	1,400	-	0.0%
7	STAFF COVERAGE	2,263	4,012	3,200	351	3,200	2,000	-1200	-37.5%
8	CLERK OF COMMITTEES	-	-	32,757	22,269	32,787	33,443	686	2.1%
9	FINANCE COMMITTEE	129	129	650	135	650	600	-50	-7.7%
10	TOWN ACCOUNTANT SALARIES	23,046	23,500	23,885	16,472	23,885	24,363	478	2.0%
11	OUTSIDE PAYROLL SERVICES	4,543	4,795	5,000	3,410	5,250	5,250	250	5.0%
12	TOWN ACCOUNTANT EXPENSES	380	50	400	340	400	400	-	0.0%
13	ASSESSORS SALARIES	72,738	58,718	72,178	31,591	72,178	63,622	(8,556)	-11.9%
14	ASSESSORS EXPENSE	55,918	58,451	63,610	41,621	62,427	62,427	(1,183)	-1.9%
15	TOWN TREASURER SALARY	41,622	43,364	44,229	30,620	44,229	45,114	885	2.0%
16	TOWN TREASURER EXP.	3,791	2,002	5,530	1,948	5,530	5,000	-530	-9.6%
17	TAX COLLECTOR SALARY	53,448	54,309	55,390	38,203	55,390	56,498	1,108	2.0%
18	ASSIST. TAX COLLECTOR	44,498	45,205	46,108	31,795	46,108	47,031	922	2.0%
19	TAX COLLECTOR EXPENSE	6,290	4,482	7,580	4,382	8,180	8,180	600	7.9%
20	TAX TITLE EXPENSES	11,891	36,952	10,000	25,182	25,000	10,000	-	0.0%
21	TOWN ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	37,161	40,606	42,786	30,701	44,346	45,233	2,447	5.7%
22	TOWN COUNSEL	22,045	15,423	18,000	7,520	18,000	18,000	-	0.0%
23	AUDIT EXPENSES	17,964	14,000	18,500	2,500	18,500	18,500	-	0.0%
24	POSTAGE	9,685	9,637	12,000	5,557	12,000	12,000	-	0.0%
25	TOWN REPORTS	3,090	2,745	3,500	-	3,500	3,500	-	0.0%
26	TOWN CLERK SALARY	27,150	27,517	28,055	19,423	31,200	28,616	561	2.0%
27	TOWN CLERK EXPENSE	2,046	1,834	2,145	991	2,145	2,145	-	0.0%
28	ELECTION-REGISTRATION	5,103	8,140	11,102	1,144	17,727	17,727	6,625	59.7%
29	CONSERVATION COMM.	12,852	14,839	19,894	10,471	19,894	19,894	-	0.0%
30	PLANNING BOARD EXPENSES	5,299	4,747	2,225	1,090	2,225	2,225	0	0.0%
31	ZONING BOARD of APPEALS	3,743	3,492	1,500	379	1,500	1,500	-	0.0%
32	BERKSHIRE REGIONAL PLAN COMM.	1,284	1,316	1,349	1,349	1,383	1,383	34	2.5%
33	MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS LABOR	45,567	46,291	47,217	32,558	47,217	48,161	945	2.0%
34	MUNICIPAL UTILITIES	56,819	51,937	61,000	36,602	61,000	61,000	-	0.0%
35	MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS EXPENSES	51,999	66,897	54,975	39,243	54,975	54,975	-	0.0%
36	WIRED WEST	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	-	0.0%
37	MUNICIPAL BUILDING REPAIRS	7,798	14,738	9,500	9,278	9,500	12,000	2,500	26.3%
38	SOFTWARE MAINT. AGREEMENT	20,367	23,096	24,167	24,086	25,134	25,134	967	4.0%
39	RESERVE FUND	-	-	35,000	-	35,000	35,000	-	0.0%
General Government Total		728,604	766,360	850,253	529,667	880,160	863,460	13,207	1.6%

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

	PUBLIC SAFETY								
40	POLICE DEPT. SALARIES	250,014	277,032	319,811	202,947	319,810	326,206	6,396	2.0%
41	POLICE DEPT. EXPENSE	16,641	25,799	15,876	22,289	16,679	16,679	803	5.1%
42	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT EXPENS	345	855	1,000	318	1,000	1,000	-	0.0%
43	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TRAININ	-	-	2,000	-	2,000	1,000	(1,000)	-50.0%
44	CONSTABLE EXPENSE	-	-	300	-	300	300	-	0.0%
45	FIRE DEPT. SALARIES/ CHIEF	4,004	4,084	4,165	2,083	4,165	4,248	83	2.0%
46	FIREFIGHTER STIPENDS	550	21,700	14,000	700	14,000	14,000	-	0.0%
47	FIRE DEPT. EXPENSES	35,111	27,089	30,600	21,188	31,200	31,200	600	2.0%
48	E911 COMMUNICATION	11,269	11,607	11,955	11,955	12,314	32,114	20,159	168.6%
48	BUILDING INSP. SALARY	50,960	51,772	52,596	35,629	52,595	53,647	1,051	2.0%
50	BUILDING & CODE INSP. EXP	2,417	3,243	2,215	335	2,215	2,215	-	0.0%
51	ANIMAL CONTROL SALARIES	7,884	8,010	8,041	5,567	8,041	8,202	161	2.0%
52	ANIMAL CONTROL EXPENSES	2,290	1,217	2,500	485	2,500	2,500	-	0.0%
53	HARBOR MASTER	1,240	967	1,426	83	1,426	1,455	29	2.0%
54	DEMOLITION FUND	31,150	-	19,800	3,220	19,800	15,000	(4,800)	-24.2%
	Public Safety	413,876	433,374	486,285	306,799	488,045	509,766	23,481	4.8%
	EDUCATION								
56	CBRSD OPERATING ASSESSMENT	1,914,640	1,897,741	2,041,390	1,531,043	2,134,973	2,134,973	93,583	4.6%
57	VOCATIONAL TUITION	146,300	146,797	167,560	118,211	167,560	167,560	-	0.0%
58	VOCATIONAL TRANSPORT.	38,859	44,197	75,000	23,018	75,000	65,000	(10,000)	-13.3%
	Education Total	2,099,799	2,088,735	2,283,950	1,672,272	2,377,533	2,367,533	83,583	3.7%
	FORESTRY								
59	TREE ACCOUNT	10,000	10,000	15,000	7,560	15,000	15,000	-	0.0%
60	FORESTRY	500	500	500	-	500	500	-	0.0%
	Forestry Total	10,500	10,500	15,500	7,560	15,500	15,500	-	0.0%
	HIGHWAY								
	SALARIES & WAGES	173,690	212,016	222,320	150,746	226,765	226,765	4,445	2.0%
61	Salaries and Wages Subtotal	173,690	212,016	222,320	150,746	226,765	226,765	4,445	2.0%
	GENERAL MAINTENANCE								
62	Mowing	2,500		1,500		1,500	1,500	-	0.0%
63	Line Painting	9,638		10,690		10,690	10,690	-	0.0%
64	Gravel/Stone	16,000		50,000		50,000	50,000	-	0.0%
65	Hot Mix Patch	14,000		15,950		15,950	15,950	-	0.0%
66	Rental Equipment	1,500		1,650		1,650	1,650	-	0.0%
67	Signs	3,000		3,300		3,300	3,300	-	0.0%
68	Culverts	3,000		3,100		3,100	3,100	-	0.0%
69	Beaver Maintenance	5,000		2,850		2,850	2,850	-	0.0%
70	Guardrail	1,500		1,700		1,700	1,700	-	0.0%
71	Crack Seal	14,250		15,700		15,700	15,700	-	0.0%
72	Catch Basin Cleaning	1,500		4,800		4,800	4,800	-	0.0%
73	Sweeping	6,900		7,660		7,660	7,660	-	0.0%
74	Hand Tools	700		730		730	730	-	0.0%
75	Misc.	1,500		1,600		1,600	1,600	-	0.0%
76	Road Improvement			51,000		51,000	41,000	(10,000)	-19.6%

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

77	Inspections	760		912		1,000	1,000	88	9.6%
78	Tires	8,000		8,900		9,100	9,100	200	2.2%
79	Oil/Lubricants	3,245		3,450		3,500	3,500	50	1.4%
80	Repairs/Equipment	22,785		19,000		19,450	19,450	450	2.4%
81	Parts/Supplies	18,540		27,500		28,100	28,100	600	2.2%
82	Welding Supplies	2,000		2,000		2,000	2,000	-	0.0%
83	Radios	500		1,000		1,000	1,000	-	0.0%
84	Scanner Updates			825		850	850	25	3.0%
85	Fleet Software Maintenance/Updates			2,200		2,200	2,200	-	0.0%
86	Tools/Safety	1,500		3,000		3,075	3,075	75	2.5%
	Machinery Subtotal	68,019	60,351	68,787	46,435	70,275	70,275	1,488	2.2%
	FUEL								
87	Fuel	92,300		87,750		87,750	87,750	-	0.0%
88	Operator Contract	1,800		1,850		1,850	1,850	-	0.0%
89	Maintenance/Repair	2,500		2,900		1,500	2,900	-	0.0%
90	DEF Fluid			2,000		2,000	2,000	-	0.0%
91	Regulatory Compliance			-		2,000	-	-	
92	Fuel System			-		400	-	-	
	Fuel Subtotal	59,210	64,713	94,500	45,755	95,500	94,500	-	0.0%
	HIGHWAY GARAGE								
93	Legal Ads	900		900		500	900	-	0.0%
94	Drug Testing	250		400		400	400	-	0.0%
95	License Reimbursement	420		600		600	600	-	0.0%
96	Repairs/Supplies	3,000		3,100		2,000	3,100	-	0.0%
97	Berkshire County Purchasing Group	300		600		600	600	-	0.0%
98	Office Supplies	600		640		650	640	-	0.0%
99	Education & Training	1,500		1,600		1,625	1,600	-	0.0%
100	Meeting/Dues Expenses	600		600		610	600	-	0.0%
101	Compliance/First Aid			-		2,000	-	-	
102	Safety Gear	2,400		2,550		2,600	2,550	-	0.0%
	Highway Garage Subtotal	5,703	9,540	10,990	5,368	11,585	10,990	-	0.0%
	WINTER ROADS								
103	Wages - B/G			3,844		3,921	3,921	77	2.0%
104	Wages - Highway			145,699		148,613	148,613	2,914	2.0%
105	Sand	7,850		8,400		8,600	8,400	-	0.0%
106	Stone Chips	12,610		13,650		13,990	13,650	-	0.0%
107	Salt	44,125		47,900		49,050	47,900	-	0.0%
108	Plow Blades	4,000		4,300		4,400	4,300	-	0.0%
109	Cold Patch	1,100		1,200		1,200	1,200	-	0.0%
110	Parts	3,000		3,200		3,250	3,200	-	0.0%
111	Sander Chains	4,000		4,300		4,400	4,300	-	0.0%
	Winter Roads Total	212,697	275,665	232,493	227,021	237,424	235,484	2,991	1.3%
	HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT TOTAL	634,052	804,994	801,320	551,777	813,779	800,244	(1,076)	-0.1%
	STREET LIGHTS	9,540	7,408	8,500	4,257	8,500	8,000	(500)	-5.9%
112	Street Lights Total	9,540	7,408	8,500	4,257	8,500	8,000	(500)	-5.9%

Report of the Town Clerk (Continued)

	TRANSFER STATION								
113	Transfer Station Labor	23,547	27,112	30,892		31,230	31,230	338	1.1%
114	South Berkshire Solid Waste	7,692	7,732	8,328		8,328	8,328	-	0.0%
115	Rental Compactor	3,000		3,600		3,600	3,600	-	0.0%
116	Rental Open Container (2)	1,200		2,700		2,700	2,700	-	0.0%
117	Trucking Compactor	6,300		7,000		8,750	8,750	1,750	25.0%
118	Trucking Open Container	5,400		6,000		7,500	7,500	1,500	25.0%
119	Trucking Cans & Bottles	4,200		4,620		5,775	5,775	1,155	25.0%
120	Trucking Scrap Metal	2,520		2,800		3,500	3,500	700	25.0%
121	Trucking Paper Cardboard	3,000		3,300		4,125	4,125	825	25.0%
122	Trucking Rigid Plastics	-		2,640		3,300	3,300	660	25.0%
123	Trucking Fuel Surcharge	1,400		1,400		1,400	1,400	-	0.0%
124	Disposal Solid Waste	22,800		24,300		26,400	26,400	2,100	8.6%
125	Disposal Bulky Waste	14,400		15,390		16,720	16,720	1,330	8.6%
126	Disposal Haz Mat	3,000		3,250		9,250	9,250	6,000	184.6%
127	Chemicals	300		300		300	300	-	0.0%
128	Permits	1,300		1,850		1,850	1,850	-	0.0%
129	MRF education	100		100		100	100	-	0.0%
130	Maintenance	1,000		1,500		1,500	1,500	-	0.0%
131	Inspections/Testing		72,310	0		2,500	2,500	2,500	
	Transfer Station Total	101,159	107,154	119,970	85,559	138,828	138,828	18,858	15.7%
	CEMETERIES								
132	BECKET CENTER CEMETERY	4,310	4,601	4,697	2,732	4,697	4,791	94	2.0%
133	NORTH CEMETERY	11,445	11,284	11,515	9,612	11,515	11,746	230	2.0%
134	WEST CEMETERY	870	633	1,299	423	1,299	1,325	26	2.0%
	Cemeteries Total	16,625	16,518	17,511	12,768	17,511	17,861	350	2.0%
	HEALTH & COMMUNITY SERVICES								
135	BOARD of HEALTH SALARIES	13,768	10,637	9,180	869	11,000	9,364	184	2.0%
136	BOARD of HEALTH EXPENSES	14,313	26,174	25,160	13,903	25,820	25,820	660	2.6%
137	INSPECTOR of ANIMALS	318	325	331	-	331	338	7	2.0%
138	NURSING SERVICES	4,961	4,961	4,962	-	4,962	5,061	99	2.0%
139	COUNCIL on AGING	4,627	4,093	5,000	2,591	5,000	5,000	-	0.0%
140	OUTREACH	-	-	500	500	500	500	-	0.0%
141	VETERANS AGENT SALARY	2,016	2,057	2,098	1,399	2,098	2,140	42	2.0%
142	VETERANS BENEFITS	26,459	26,449	28,000	34,470	37,200	37,200	9,200	32.9%
143	VETERANS AGENT EXPENSE	-	-	100	-	100	100	-	0.0%
	Health & Community Services Total	66,463	74,696	75,331	53,731	87,011	85,522	10,191	13.5%
								0	
	LIBRARY								
144	LIBRARY	45,560	46,700	47,868	47,868	49,065	49,065	1,197	2.5%
145	CHILDRENS HOLIDAY PARTY		500	500	500	500	500	-	0.0%
	Library Total	45,560	47,200	48,368	48,368	49,565	49,565	1,197	2.5%
								0	
	PARKS AND RECREATION								
146	WEED CENTER POND	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	2,500	1,000	66.7%
147	PARKS & RECREATION	19,738	19,614	30,000	16,650	30,610	30,610	610	2.0%
	Parks & Recreation Total	21,238	21,114	31,500	18,150	32,110	33,110	1,610	5.1%

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

	HISTORICAL COMMISSION								
148	HISTORICAL COMMISSION	1,700	1,583	2,157	494	2,017	2,017	(140)	-6.5%
	Historical Commission Total	1,700	1,583	2,157	494	2,017	2,017	(140)	-6.5%
								0	
	MEMORIAL DAY								
149	MEMORIAL/VETERANS DAY	955	1,463	1,200	175	1,700	1,500	300	25.0%
	Memorial/Veterans Day Total	955	1,463	1,200	175	1,700	1,500	300	25.0%
								0	
	BENEFITS								
150	HEALTH/LIFE INSURANCE	358,029	401,711	425,360	336,531	425,360	425,360	-	0.0%
151	COUNTY RETIREMENT	204,432	203,669	201,455	201,455	217,821	217,821	16,366	8.1%
152	PAYROLL TAX ACCOUNT	20,422	22,368	26,082	26,082	27,386	26,604	522	2.0%
153	UNEMPLOYMENT EXPENSE	10,596	0	5,000	-	5,000	5,000	-	0.0%
154	GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE	97,544	114,532	116,484	106,725	118,814	118,814	2,330	2.0%
	Benefits Total	691,023	742,280	774,381	670,792	794,381	793,599	19,218	2.5%
								-	
								-	
155	TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET	4,841,092	5,123,381	5,516,225	3,962,370	5,706,640	5,686,505	170,280	3.1%
	FUNDED THROUGH WARRANT ARTICLES								
	CAPITAL								
156	From Free Cash & Overlay Surplus	49,868	326,181	213,338	213,338	616,816	239,090	25,751	12.1%
	DEBT SERVICE								
157	Town & School Debt Service	378,158	174,679	227,607	227,607	294,487	294,487	66,880	29.4%
	STABILIZATION								
158		400,000	108,638	208,671	208,671	100,000	50,000	(158,671)	-76.0%
	AMBULANCE								
159	From the General Fund	225,467	238,696	270,574	242,234	313,501	300,574	30,000	11.1%
160	TOTAL GENERAL FUND BUDGET INCLUDING WARRANT ARTICLES	5,844,717	5,645,394	6,223,077	4,640,882	6,414,628	6,331,566	108,489	1.7%

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

REVENUE				
	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
TAXATION				
Previous Year Levy Limit Base	5,238,149	5,412,540	5,586,763	5,781,022
Previous Year Amended Growth				
(Line 1 + Line 2) * 2.5%	130,954	135,314	139,669	144,526
Fiscal Year New Growth	43,437	38,909	54,590	60,000
General Override	-	-	-	-
Sub-Total	5,412,540	5,586,763	5,781,022	5,985,548
Debt Exclusion	167,656	115,090	105,586	103,171
TOTAL TAXATION	5,580,196	5,701,853	5,886,608	6,088,719
STATE AID				
State Aid Cherry Sheet	240,854	251,831	259,121	256,879
LOCAL RECEIPTS				
Local Receipts Not Allocated	457,000	483,000	526,000	536,520
AVAILABLE FUNDS				
2. Free Cash - Reduce Tax Rate	-	-	39,911	-
6. Solar PILOT	-	-	-	53,212
7. Stabilization Fund	-	-	-	-
TOTAL: NON-TAXATION	697,854	734,831	825,032	846,611
TOTAL RECURRING REVENUE	6,278,050	6,436,684	6,711,640	6,935,330
ONE-TIME REVENUES FOR CAPITAL PURCHASES				
1) Free Cash	484,022	213,965	417,342	146,523
2) Overlay Surplus	31,000	187,300	35,000	115,000
TOTAL: REVENUES FOR CAPITAL PURCHASES	515,022	401,265	452,342	261,523
EXPENDITURES				
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	5,844,717	5,645,394	6,223,077	6,331,566
OTHER AMOUNTS TO BE RAISED				
1. Tax Title/Debt and Interest	-	-	-	-
2. Overlay Deficits	53	79	-	-
3. Cherry Sheet Offsets	1,994	1,977	2,029	2,100
4. Snow & Ice Deficit	-	-	-	-
5. Prior Year Unpaid Bills	-	127	-	-
6. Overlay	110,000	88,084	89,397	88,000
7. RMV Surcharges	2,560	2,600	2,600	2,600
8. Air Pollution	847	868	552	837
9. Regional Transit Authority	10	948	1,435	1,046
10. School Choice Tuition	15,000	10,000	8,385	14,000
TOTAL	130,464	104,683	104,398	108,583
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	5,975,181	5,750,077	6,327,475	6,440,149

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

	CAPITAL PROJECTS - BONDED			
		DEBT	DEBT	DEBT
FINAL		SERVICE	SERVICE	SERVICE
PAYMENT		FY2017	FY2018	FY2019
2025	BECKET WASHINGTON SCHOOL	110,896	103,171	103,867
2022	KITTREDGE MSBA WINDOWS	359	321	456
	CRANEVILLE ROOF			161
	CRANEVILLE AIR HANDLER			41
2022	WACONAH RHS SIDEWALKS	280	905	838
2025	DISTRICT SECURITY	917	955	999
2029	WAHCONAH RHS RENOVATION	6,967	7,947	7,876
	School Debt Service	119,419	113,299	114,238
2020	TOWN HALL ROOF			25,284
Not Bonded	TOWN HALL HVAC			
Not Bonded	HIGH SPEED BROADBAND			
2021	AMBULANCE			43,209
2020	HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT LOADER		60,200	58,800
2021	HIGHWAY DUMP TRUCK & PLOW	53,760	52,608	51,456
	INTEREST on SHORT-TERM DEBT	1500	1,500	1,500
	Town Debt Service	55,260	114,308	180,249
	DEBT SERVICE TOTAL	174,679	227,607	294,487
	CAPITAL PURCHASES - GENERAL FUND			
	FY 2017	APPROVED	EXPENDED	
	REPLACE FRONT/REAR DOORS	6,692	6,692	
	21 MAPLE STREET	154,300	154,300	
	TOWN HALL RAMPS & HANDRAILS	37,000	61,500	
	COMPUTER HARDWARE/SOFTWARE	7,000	8,554	
	TOWN HALL FIRE ESCAPES	-	6,575	
	TOWN HALL STORAGE SHED	8,900	8,695	
	POOLED USE VEHICLE	18,000	17,900	
	POLICE CRUISER	38,600	38,600	
	FIRE STATION #1 REPLACE WINDOWS	8,900	-	
	FIRE STATION #1 FOUNDATION	10,000	9,450	
	DRY HYDRANT PARTS	7,000	-	
	BECKET ARTS CENTER -ELECTRICAL	3,700	3,500	
	BECKET ATHENAEUM CAPITAL	10,000	10,415	
		310,092	326,181	
	FY 2018	APPROVED	EXPENDED	
	PRINT & BIND BYLAWS	5,000	-	
	TELEPHONE SYSTEM	12,200		
	TWO FURNACES	38,000		
	FIRE STATION #1 REPLACE WINDOWS	23,900	18,025	
	TRUCK	48,000		
	GRADER	117,740	117,740	
	DUMP TRUCK	52,608		

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

	LOADER	60,200	60,200	
	MOWER AND GRASS CATCHER	5,000	4,316	
	BECKET ARTS CENTER - ADA LIFT	7,000	7,000	
	BECKET ARTS CENTER - REPAIR STAIRS	5,350		
	BECKET ATHENAEUM CAPITAL	10,000	6,058	
	PARKS - DRAINAGE/EROSION CONTROL	6,900		
		391,898	213,338	
	FY 2019	REQUESTED	FUNDED	AMBULANCE STABILIZATION ACCOUNT
	BECKET ATHENAEUM CAPITAL	10,000	10,000	
	POLICE - 2018 FORD UTILITY INTERCEPTOR	48,867	48,867	
	POLICE - IMC MOBILE SOFTWARE	26,223	26,223	
	AMBULANCE - EVACUATION CHAIR	4,760		4,760
	AMBULANCE - CHEST COMPRESSION SYST.	14,712		14,712
	AMBULANCE - SOFTWARE	1,755		1,755
	REPLACEMENT TURNOUT GEAR - FIRE	27,000	27,000	21,227
	HIGHWAY - BACKHOE	127,500	127,000	
	HIGHWAY - ONE TON DUMP TRUCK	55,000		
	HIGHWAY - LARGE TRUCK	254,000		
	HIGHWAY - PICKUP TRUCK	47,000		
		616,816	239,090	

TAX RATE			
	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
REVENUE FROM TAXATION	5,701,853	5,886,608	6,088,719
AVAILABLE FUNDS	734,831	452,342	846,611
TOTAL REVENUE & AVAILABLE FUNDS	6,436,684	6,338,950	6,935,330
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	5,750,077	6,327,475	6,440,149
TOTAL TAXABLE VALUE	501,436,466	504,390,183	504,450,183
TAX LEVY	5,285,140	5,482,721	5,593,538
TAX RATE	FY'16 =10.46	10.54	10.87
% RATE INCREASE		0.76%	3.13%



◆ **REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE** ◆

The Community Preservation Act is a state law that allows cities and towns to create a dedicated fund for open space, historic preservation, senior housing and recreation. The decision to adopt the CPA is made by each community in the Commonwealth. Any town can enact a surcharge of 1.5%-3% on property tax bills to create the Community Preservation Fund. The money raised locally is matched by the state and the combined fund is spent in three core areas: open space preservation, affordable housing, and historic preservation. Each of these areas must receive a minimum of 10% of the total fund each year, but the remaining 70% can be spent or reserved for future spending in any of the three core areas as well as an additional area of public recreation.

In 2008, the voters of Becket passed the CPA proposal for 1.5% of the annual real estate levy against real property, and the town voted to accept the following exemptions to the CPA: property owned as a domicile by any person who qualifies for low income housing, or low and moderate income senior housing, class 3 commercial and class 4 industrial, and \$100,000 of the value of each taxable parcel of residential real property.

The CPA provides a dedicated funding source for desirable and innovative projects that the community wants but can otherwise not afford. The CPA also brings state matching funds to local projects. The state funds are raised through fee surcharges at the registry of deeds in every county in the Commonwealth. The CPA brings these much needed

funds back into the community. The CPA is a very flexible funding mechanism. The types of projects it can be used for are very broad, and can include many projects that are hard to fund through other means. CPA funds can be used to purchase open space or conservation restrictions, to broaden housing opportunities for residents, to help senior citizens repair their homes, to build playgrounds, athletic fields, trails, or restore historic buildings and landscapes. The CPA funds can also be used as local leverage for state and federal grants, and communities can issue bonds in anticipation of future CPA proceeds. Each community also has control over how the money is spent, since each disbursement of CPA funds needs to be approved by town meeting.

Anyone interested in funding a project through the CPA should contact the committee through the town website, and follow up by attending a CPC meeting, where they will receive information regarding funding criteria and procedures. This information is also on the town website.

I would like to thank the townspeople and the administrative staff at the town hall for their support of the CPA and look forward to future project proposals.

Respectfully submitted,

Neil F. Toomey, ***Chairman***
Community Preservation Committee



◆ COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT ◆
FY 2018 REPORT

FY 2018 Appropriated by Category	Community Housing	Historical	Open Space	Recreation	Budget Reserves	Committee Admin Expenses	Total Appropriation
Project:							
Committee Administrative Expenses Article 23						\$500.00	
Repairs and exterior painting of Becket Arts Center Art 24		\$5,000.00			\$30,000.00		
Historic and Antique Paintings Art 25		\$3,500.00					
Block Grant Art 26	\$29,000.00						
Total Appropriated for Projects for FY 2018	\$29,000.00	\$8,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30,000.00	\$500.00	\$68,000.00
FY 2018 Expenses against approved Projects:							
Committee Administrative Expenses Article 23						\$300.00	
Repairs and exterior painting of Becket Arts Center Art 24		\$4,495.00			\$30,000.00		
Historic and Antique Paintings Art 25		\$3,500.00					
Block Grant Art 26	\$20,000.00						
Playscape					\$60.00		
Refinishing and restoration of wood floors in historic Becket Athenaeum		\$3,000.00			\$3,000.00		
Repair of and restoration of historic headstones					\$15,650.00		
Total Expended during FY 2018	\$20,000.00	\$10,995.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$48,710.00	\$300.00	\$80,005.00
FY 2018 Est. Revenues Appropriated to Reserves	Community Housing Reserves	Historical Preservation Reserves	Open Space Reserves	Recreation Reserves	Undesignated Budget Reserves		Total Budgeted Reserves
Estimated Revenues to Reserves	\$4,859.00	\$4,859.00	\$4,859.00	\$0.00	\$34,011.00		
2018	Estimated	Actual	Actual vs. Budget				
FY 2018 Local Revenue CPA 1.5%	\$40,907.00	\$43,214.18	\$2,307.18				
FY 2018 State Percentage Match of Local Revenue	\$8,181.00	\$7,170.00	-\$1,011.00				
Totals	\$49,088.00	\$50,384.18	\$1,296.18				

◆ *REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON AGING* ◆

Hello from the Becket Seniors!

The Becket Seniors had a great year. We started with visits from the Porchlight Visiting Nurse Association (VNA). They had obtained a grant for a two-week exercise program for our seniors. This program was well-intended.

The VNA regularly appears on the third Tuesday of each month for blood pressure testing and a presentation on general health issues.

The seniors participated in several traditional events. In February, we celebrated a Valentine's Day Dinner. In April, Rev. Kevin Smail and his wonderful Congregation hosted the seniors with a wonderful lunch. They also hosted a terrific summer cookout. We held our annual Christmas Party at Ozzie's Restaurant in Hinsdale; the baked stuffed shrimp and the prime rib were over the top.

In March, The Becket Council on Aging has a party at Papa Bob's to celebrate 35 years of existence with our on-site Director and Treasurer Herbert "Sonny" Nelson who has been there for 30 of the 35 years. Sonny, thank you for your dedication to the seniors!

One of our guest speakers was from the Medicare Fraud Department; this was so informative. A representative from Rite Aid Pharmaceutical stopped by with loads of information and samples. A massage therapist surprised us with a visit and provided us with relaxing massages; the only problem was we all wanted to take a nap.

Lunch, Potluck, and Bingo:

Our pot luck lunches continue to be a great success. They occur on the third Friday of each month. Lunch is served at 11:00 a.m. every Tuesday and Thursday with Bingo to follow. All are to welcome to join.

As usual, our programming continues to be a great success. I would like to thank the Town of Becket for all the support provided to us throughout the year to help us improve our programs and services to the community.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Moylan, **Director**



◆ *REPORT OF THE CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS* ◆

The Cemetery Commission would like to thank all individuals, companies, and town departments who assisted us in the past year. Your help was greatly appreciated.

At the North Becket Cemetery: Weather conditions and equipment failure delayed maintenance a couple of times this season. This contributed to one of the most challenging seasons in years. We can only hope for better luck in the future.

At the West Becket Cemetery: All normal maintenance repairs were performed this past season with nothing out of the norm to report.

At the Center Becket Cemetery: Everything is well at Center Cemetery.

Respectfully submitted,

Cemetery Commissioners

Michelle Smith, *West Becket*

William Cavanaugh, *North Becket*

Dean Williams, *Center*

◆ **REPORT OF THE ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER** ◆

It is a pleasure to serve the town by investigating and responding to your calls. This is a reminder that in accordance with the provisions of Section 137 of Chapter 140 of the General Laws, all dogs housed within the Town of Becket must be licensed through the Town Clerk's Office.

Seeing the dog tag (license) on the collar aids with identifying and reuniting owners with their furry friends.

The Massachusetts Animal Fund dedicates a significant portion of its funds to help low-income residents who receive assistance through state or federal programs (TAFDC, SSI,

VS, SNAP, WIC, etc.) obtain spay/neuter surgery for companion animals free of charge through the Spay/Neuter Voucher Program. Those wishing to participate must submit proof of eligibility. This year twelve cats and one dog participated.

Thank you,

Respectfully submitted,

Albert Goodermote,
Animal Control Officer

Animal Control Calls for 2018 were as follows:

Dogs	17
Dogs (barking)	6
Dog (dead)	6
Llamas	30

◆ **REPORT OF THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS** ◆

In 2018, the Zoning Board of Appeals met in February, May, and November. The Board received two new applications: one requested a dimensional special permit and the other requested a variance. Both applications were approved.

Karen Karlberg and George Roberts resigned this year after many years as board members. Additionally, George served as clerk on the board and Karen served as chairperson during many years of their service. We are grateful to Karen and George for their contributions to the Board and their dedication to serving the Town of Becket.

Katherine Warden was appointed as alternate member this year. She has been a welcomed addition to the Board.

Given the recent resignations, the Board is currently looking for additional members. Interested parties may submit an appointment application (available on the town website www.townofbecket.org) to the Board of Selectmen via Beverly Gilbert at adminasst@townofbecket.org.

The Public is invited to review the Becket Zoning By-Laws, guidelines, applications, agendas, and meeting minutes at the Town of Becket website, www.townofbecket.org. Applications to the Zoning Board of Appeals should be submitted to the Town Clerk. Meetings are held as needed on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Bleier, *Chairperson*

Board Members:

Victoria Bleier, *Chairperson*

Jeffrey Wilkinson

Joy Lennartz

Alvin Blake, *Associate Member*

Katherine Warden, *Associate Member*

Clerk of Committees: Jessica Perotti

◆ *REPORT OF THE TRANSFER STATION* ◆

The Transfer Station hours of operation during May 15th to October 15th are Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm. From October 16th to May 14th the hours are Tuesday and Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm. A vehicle permit is required for entry to the Transfer Station. Vehicle permits may be purchased at the Town Hall or town website www.townofbecket.org. A bag sticker must be affixed to each bag of household trash prior to disposal into the compactor. Bag stickers (\$1 each) may be purchased at the Town Hall, through the town's website, or through several businesses in town (listed on the town's website). Bag stickers are not available for purchase at the Transfer Station.

Disposing of recyclables (paper, cardboard, cans, bottles, plastic containers and scrap metals) is free of charge. Tires, CRT's, mattresses, box springs, stuffed chairs, couches, bulky waste, and appliances containing Freon require a separate disposal fee payable by check only because the Transfer Station does not accept cash. Please check with the attendant about items and their fees before unloading. All scrap metal must be free of wood, plastic, tires, gas and oil.

The Town of Becket is a member of the Southern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District (SBSWMD), which assists with recycling, waste reduction and household hazardous waste collection programs. The Center for Ecological Technology (CET) coordinates district activities and Department of Environmental Protection required inspections CET visited the Transfer Station to distribute information re: recycling, and hazardous waste collection events for residents at various locations in the county.

CET's representative which ran the SBSWMD has retired and they will not replace that position. The SBSWMD voted to disband in December of 2018. We are recruiting for an inspector and we will determine if we can continue providing household hazardous waste collection programs for the residents. If we can offer this program, we will post signs at the Transfer Station (where else?), and list information on the town website.

This report is an opportunity to provide a reminder that the Town has a recycling bylaw. By recycling, we reduce our disposal expenses and use of natural resources. This year we recycled, collected and processed:

- Over 48 tons of paper and cardboard
- 45 tons of cans, bottles, and plastics
- 39 tons of scrap metals
- 79 mattresses
- 1.5 tons of clothing
- 335 tires
- 350 fluorescent light bulbs
- 4 tons of electronics
- 322 tons of Solid waste (Household trash)
- 152 tons of Bulky waste

We received a grant to purchase a container to collect and haul Bulky Rigid plastics. During 2018 we have hauled two loads. We encourage collection of these items to further reduce our solid waste.

Siegfried Hoppe retired from the Transfer Station after devoting 10 years service to the town. Enjoy Ziggy! I would like to also express appreciation to Mark White, Bob Will and Dean Williams for their hard work and dedication to the Transfer Station.

The Becket Highway Department operates the Transfer Station which is under the authority of the Becket Board of Health. If residents have questions or concerns please call the Town Hall (Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm) at 623-8934 or the Highway Department office (Monday through Friday 7 am to 3:30 pm) at 623-8988.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher J. Bouchard
Highway Superintendent

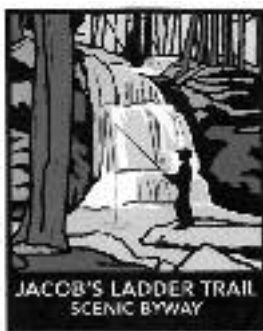


◆ **REPORT OF THE JACOB'S LADDER TRAIL SCENIC BYWAY, INC.** ◆

The past year brought many changes to the makeup of the JLTSB Advisory Board. In June, our long-time Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) representative Erica Johnson announced that she was taking maternity leave and, due to changing priorities at the planning commission, would likely not be returning. We will miss the partnership we have enjoyed with PVPC since the inception of the byway project in 1992. We will especially miss Erica, who contributed so much energy, determination and continuity to the board.

In October, our Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) representative, Lauren Gaherty, announced that she would be retiring as of the end of the year. Lauren has been invaluable, both as our advocate in Berkshire County and as our clerk. She was successful in arranging for a new BRPC representative, so while we are saddened by Lauren's departure, we welcome Eammon Coughlin.

Lastly, our sole Russell representative, Liz Massa, relocated to Chester where she joins Bryan Farr and takes the



place of that town's other representative, John Garvey. John is now living in and representing Becket. Liz's move leaves us with no representation for Russell.

Besides the changes to the board, we had an eventful year. After a long and arduous process, our joint project with the Lee Land Trust and the Trustees of Reservations – the walking path and parking area at Barlow Acres in Lee – was largely completed. Thank you and congratulations to Erica Johnson and Linda Czys for shepherding the project to a successful outcome.

We continue our involvement in the Highlands Footpath project (thank you Jeff Penn) and the Lee/Lenox bike path project. We also replaced the deteriorated gateway sign in Lee.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Gaherty, **Clerk**
Jacob's Ladder Trail Scenic Byway, Inc.



◆ **REPORT OF THE BECKET SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION** ◆

The Becket Scholarship Foundation was pleased to award scholarships to three graduating seniors for 2018 totaling \$2,600. These excellent students are Thomas Cook, Kelsey LaFreniere and Jessica Warren. These scholarships are made possible in part through the generous donations of Becket residents.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Rodhouse
Secretary
Becket Scholarship Foundation

REPORT OF THE WESTFIELD RIVER

◆ WILD & SCENIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE ◆

The Wild & Scenic Westfield River Committee celebrated not one but two significant anniversaries. Fifty years ago Congress established the Wild & Scenic Program to recognize the nation's remarkable wild rivers. Twenty-five years ago the Westfield River became Massachusetts' first Wild & Scenic River following an intense study and nomination process. These dual anniversaries provided a great excuse to celebrate with several special events squeezed into our usual activities, programs, and support for our Wild & Scenic communities and partners.

The big celebratory event this year was a Wild & Scenic Film Festival. The Committee joined with several local groups and partners to carefully select a fascinating line-up of short environmental films to show for appreciative audiences at five separate venues around the region in Huntington, Westfield, Northampton, Great Barrington and Pittsfield.

The Westfield River W&S was one of only three Wild & Scenic Rivers to be selected to receive funding from Patagonia and River Network to offer a special program for the W&S anniversary. The funds were used to partner with Becket and Huntington libraries to offer a fanciful two-part family program. Younger children and their parents headed to the river to search for and learn about the unique organisms adapted to living in running water. The second part of this program was to take over a section of the library to make shadow puppets with all the neat creatures they found as their inspiration. The kids and their parents worked together to perform some truly amusing vignettes on a fancy shadow puppet stage.

The Committee was fortunate to be allocated a second grant to honor the 50th anniversary of W&S Rivers. This funding from the National Park Foundation is being used to continue the work of the Highlands Footpath initiative to create a network of trails across our region. This funding is focusing on the East Branch Trail portion of the Highlands Footpath initiative. The funding will help with planning and trail improvements. It is a great boost for this exciting new trail system for our region and will provide some TLC to a trail the Committee inaugurated nearly two decades ago.

The annual Watershed Blitz capped a great season of special programs. There was a special focus on native bees in the wetlands and river meadows. While our native bee populations are dropping, the summer survey did find two rare bees in Cummington. This significant find is an indication of the healthy biodiversity of our watershed. Each year the Committee offers internships to college students. This year one student intern focused on the special native bee project by cataloging

species in the river corridor of the West Branch while our second intern tackled a small water quality project. Both students joined our Stream Team Coordinator to walk the lower West Branch in preparation for the day-long Watershed Blitz- a gathering of specialists and river lovers to learn more about the river and document special attributes.

There was plenty other trail work done by our loyal volunteer trail crews. Throughout the summer there is a variety of educational, recreational and work days. Together people learn more about our great natural resource, work to preserve and improve key trails and open spaces and have lots of fun.

The Committee also funds a great number of activities in support of our conservation priorities. Funding was provided to the Friends of the Keystone Arches for a special video history of the arches. Windsor received funding to help with a pollinator project in the town. Becket-Washington School received funding to once again offer the after school Stream Explorers program. Funding to the Franklin Land Trust helped with a Swift River land protection project.

Over the years, student interns have assessed road-stream crossing to identify culverts and bridges causing significant barriers to flow and passage. These inadequate crossings are also vulnerable to damage and even complete failure during flood events. This summer the Committee entered into agreements with Becket, Cummington and Windsor to begin the process of redesigning the worst of these road stream crossings.

Knowing our W&S towns have limited capacity to manage contracts and projects, the Committee both provided over \$40,000 in funds and managed the contracts and projects from beginning to end. The work also included preparation of grant applications to help fund the next phases of the culvert replacements. The Windsor application was awarded significant funds and another just missed being selected. With last year's application as a starting point, the towns are in good shape to apply for the next round of funding to fix their degraded culverts.

If you are interested in becoming involved in the Wild & Scenic River Committee, please let us know: wildscenicwestfieldriver@gmail.com. Becket is currently without a representative on the Committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Thompson, *Chair*
Wild & Scenic Westfield River Committee

◆ *REPORT OF THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION* ◆

The Historical Commission (HC) meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 3 P.M. at its office in the basement of Town Hall. The members are: Sandra Jarvis (2021)-Chair, W. Katherine Hoak (2020)-Secretary, Rita Furlong (2019)-Treasurer, and Gail Kusek (2021)-CPC representative.

- Information requests:
- Wade Inn (a.k.a. The Center Lake Inn): Formerly located at the RT.8 (north) end of the present Wade Inn Road. The HC provided photos, news articles and a post card image. Additionally, Rod Wheeler, who bought the framework of the Wade Inn in 1980, sent photos of the frame at the time. He also provided information and photos about the framing now, at his family home rebuilt in West Charlton, New York.
- Billiard/pool halls in Becket: The query from Tom Deveno who has a family vintage billiard table stamped “Becket” on the underside. Research shows a lunch room and billiard operation located on Main Street in the 1926 City Directory, listed with Earl Geary. He also requested information about his grandfather, Zoel LaMountagne: He was superintendent at the Becket basket factory, M.E. Ballou & Son, according to Becket City Directories between 1926 and 1942.
- Boulder Grange, 198 Leland Road (recently the Kushi Institute) from Bob Banas. The HC provided him with the Massachusetts Inventory form, newspaper articles and photos, in particular images from a Boulder Grange booklet Brenda Podolski previously shared with the HC. Mr. Banas also inquired if Mt. St. Lawrence School, was a part of the Franciscan Father’s monastery at Boulder Grange. The HC had no information about the seminary.
- Buckley (Bulkley) Dunton Reservoir on County Road: David Dunton inquired about the name. The body of water was named for Edwin & Lewis Bulkley partners with William C. Dunton, in the Bulkley Dunton Company. The company built a dam in 1870 to support its paper mill in town. The Bulkley Dunton Company lowered the dam gate after the Flood of 1927 when the Wheeler dam broke, and destroyed parts of the North Becket Village. In 1953 the dam was intentionally breached to provide a “permanent” drawdown until 1965 when the Commonwealth rebuilt the dam. At some point the name Bulkley was changed or transcribed to Buckley.
- Main Street Post Office history including postmaster Matthew D. E. Tower: request from Jim Mason, Greylock Camp. He was given (1) information from the "Postal History of Berkshire County Massachusetts 1790-1981" published in 1982, (2) newspaper clippings of Tower Golden Anniversary 1939, (3) retirement article 1940, (4) an August 1947 copy of “The Greylock Beacon” newsletter-honoring Mr. Tower, (5) family obituaries, and (6) numerous photos. HC sources for the Main Street, Becket Post Office photo, with a gentleman standing out front, had conflicting captions. The HC believes the photo on page 9 from "Postal History of Berkshire County Massachusetts 1790-1981" incorrectly identifies the man as Matthew Tower. Another copy of the same photo from "A Bicentennial History of Becket" 1964 identifies the man as Frank Prentice. The Historical Commission has an original of this photo with "Frank Prentice" written on the back. Gertrude Ballou Noble is given credit for the photo in the Bicentennial book. She was the daughter of J.C. Ballou and Gertrude Smith born in 1900. Her family lived on Main Street on the site of the present Ballou/Memorial Park across from the Athenaeum. Her father owned the basket factory, grist mill and dam. The dam broke causing the 1927 Flood that wiped out much of lower Main St., including the little post office building. She would most likely have known both men. In addition, Jim’s uncle, Arthur Mason, who is 93 and knew Matthew Tower personally says the fellow in the post office photo is "definitely not Matthew Tower." This leads the HC to conclude that it is Frank Prentice in the photo. Another photo of the destroyed post office after the flood was also shared. In addition, Jim was able to share a photo of Matthew Tower and another with his wife for their Golden Wedding Anniversary.
- Richardson family: research found an 1855 reference in town.
- Paul Sneeringer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Division, asked if there are any known historical properties in or adjacent to the Crystal Pond Dam area which could potentially be impacted by a proposed repair project. The HC is not aware of any historical properties that would be impacted.
- Mike Steben asked for information about Hayes Farm Slopes, a ski area that operated in the 1930s and was accessible from Benton Hill Road. He also believes that

Report of the Historical Commission

(Continued)

there was a snow train depot nearby and he wanted to know more about its location. The HC has no information on a Hayes Farm Slopes property in Becket. There were several train stations on Depot Street, in North Becket Village starting in the 1840s when the railroad came to Becket. The Flood of 1927 wiped-out one station. A new station was built but North Becket businesses never truly recovered. Becket eventually became a resort area, drawing tourists from the cities, who built elaborate summer homes and summer camps for children. The last passenger train to stop in Becket was on April 26, 1952. Freight service continued until 1955, after which the last station was removed. The Claflin Hotel on Maple Street (now site of the Becket Washington School) provided a recreational area called Dreamland along the steep Brooker Hill Road. Benton Hill Road would have been further away from the train station; however, many of Becket's hillsides had been stripped of trees for the tanning, lumbering and basket-making businesses. This removal of trees created bare slopes for sledding and possibly skiing. Today there is a cross country ski area at the historic Canterbury Farm on Fred Snow Road, named after one of Becket's early residents; the Snows owned several houses around town, including the Snow sisters' house on Pleasant Street, adjacent to Depot Street. A new book, *Lost Ski Areas of the Berkshires* by Jeremy K. Davis has information on the Snow train and Happyland's ski slope (1959), located across from the present Bonny Rigg Campground.

- Philip Smith, a contributing writer to Berkshire Magazine inquired about the early days of Dream Away Lodge, especially about the rumors that have circulated about it. The HC had no additional information to share with Mr. Smith.

Donations:

The Historical Commission wishes to thank those who donated to the preservation of Becket's history during the year.

- Tom (son of Tom Van Buren Murray born 1911) and Shirley Murray presented the HC with items from Tom's mother's home. The collection included the Civil War Discharge paper for Private William Fuller who served for three years starting on August 1, 1862. Additional items donated were: deeds, mortgage discharge from First Congregational Church Society in 1941, 1930s tax receipts, a 1925 electric easement agreement, logging

agreements from 1918 (\$1), 1922 (\$5) and 1934 (\$6) per 1,000 feet, North Becket cemetery plot \$25, 1908 & 1913 for burial charges from a general store, 1939 W. H. Fuller's Driver's License, 1942 Wartime Commodities letter, a family photo album, and photos of a Tyringham parade, blacksmith shop and Camp Chimney Corners in 1959.

Eric Twining, owner of the former Bartsch house at 986 Main Street, donated some of the items he found in the attic including Masonic items, books, Bartsch family photos and a Boy Scout manual.

Bill Mulholland donated a Class of 1958 Becket Consolidated School 8th grade graduation program and a photo of Becket Center Rural Historic District. Rita Furlong identified most of the people in the photo.

Barbara Hamilton donated a set of small snuff jars from the Frank Andrews Farm.

Karen Karlberg, local photographer, donated two photos, one of the Kushi Institute (Boulder Grange) and one of Camp Lenox sailboats on Shaw Pond; both photos appear in the Bicentennial history book.

Darlene Demarest, of YMCA Road donated a Camp Becket photo book, a 200th Anniversary plate, and an ink print of the Congregational Church.

We received three postcards of Camp Becket from the Easthampton Historical Society, Inc.

John Garvey donated an original M.E. Ballou and Son Price List #35, from the year 1935.

Sue Deacon, a realtor, donated artwork painted by local artist Bernadette Van Wert.

Sylvia and Dennis Gargan, donated February & September 1912 Lyman receipts for wood hangers.

Actions:

We have two old microfilm/microfiche machines formerly used to view early town records going back to the 1700s. The HC is looking at our microfilm/microfiche to convert them to a digital format to enable computer access (possibly on the town website), while preserving the information.

Report of the Historical Commission

(Continued)

- Two display cases were purchased to provide additional room to exhibit artifacts. The new cases are in the Town Hall hallway on the basement level by the HC office. The HC also has artifacts on display in the Becket Room and center hallway on the Town Hall main floor, and at the Mullen House.
- Previously the Higley Apothecary (1850s) was offered to the town by the owner of this property on Pleasant Street. The HC voted Gail Kusek as its representative and liaison in regard to the Higley Apothecary and other town properties. Gail is working on a preliminary evaluation. The town may be able to apply for a 50/50 MHC Grant to conduct a feasibility study, but it cannot be done unless the town owns the property. No further action has been taken by the HC regarding the Apothecary's future. Leonard Spencer, former Becket resident, expressed interest in saving the Apothecary.
- September 28, Ofer Zaarur, owner of the Becket Motel and the building on the corner lot at the intersection of Routes 8 north & 20, proposed developing a visitor center here, along with the town. The HC spoke with Mr. Zaarur by phone during our November meeting; Guest John Garvey, Jacob's Ladder Scenic Highway, expressed concern that there is a visitor center already in the neighboring town of Chester. In December we made a site visit. Mr. Zaarur is following-up with the Building Inspector and the HC is inquiring about the interest in town.
- The HC is looking into replacing the original "Welcome to Becket" pole flags purchased by the 250th Anniversary Committee in 2015.
- The HC is researching the deeds and history of the former Bidwell property and Baptist parsonage at 21 Maple Street. The HC plans to install a park bench and an informational sign, in accord with the town's long-range plan, to commemorate the historic house removed by the town in 2018.
- Gail attended the Western Massachusetts Local Historical Commission Workshop focusing on historical wood window restoration.
- Rita and Katherine met regularly to organize the HC files according to topic and interest; next the files need to be scanned and cross-filed. The HC postcard collection was cleared of non-Becket cards; Rita returned them to the municipalities from which they came. We received thank you responses from Dalton, MA, Old Orchard Beach Historical Society, ME and Lakewood, NJ. Gail transferred a vintage Monterey Ledger to the Monterey Town Hall.

The Commission is looking for new members to assist in preserving Becket's history. Please join us at our monthly meetings.

Respectively submitted,

Sandra L. Jarvis, Chair



◆ **TOWN OF BECKET TAX COLLECTOR - SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS** ◆

July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

Fiscal Year/Tax	Balance 07/01/2017	Commitments	Collected	Refunds	Abatements	Tax Title Transfers	Balance 06/30/2018
2018							
Real Estate		\$5,178,127.19	\$4,890,666.84		\$32,070.65		\$255,389.70
Personal Property		\$304,706.02	\$301,353.13		\$90.66		\$3,262.23
Motor Vehicle		\$233,722.98	\$216,433.20	\$2,186.63	\$4,112.04		\$15,364.37
Fees			\$9,596.71				\$9,596.71
Interest			\$13,112.17				\$13,112.17
2017							
Real Estate	\$249,433.52		\$79,577.31		\$1,477.71	\$76,050.83	\$92,327.67
Personal Property	\$3,079.09		\$840.12				\$2,238.97
Motor Vehicle	\$10,591.94	\$30,496.95	\$36,327.41	\$1,987.86	\$2,659.84		\$4,089.50
Fees			\$9,701.03				
Interest			\$9,378.83				
2016							
Real Estate	\$80,995.69		\$22,343.84			\$9,571.04	\$49,080.81
Personal Property	\$2,368.54		\$325.21				\$2,043.33
Motor Vehicle	\$2,536.59		\$1,727.22		\$5.00		\$804.37
Fees			\$2,745.60				
Interest			\$6,659.31				
2015							
Real Estate	\$44,790.15		\$13,497.76			\$9,130.33	\$22,162.06
Personal Property	\$1,938.10		\$284.55				\$1,653.55
Motor Vehicle	\$1,044.80		\$360.21				\$684.59
Fees			\$1,046.88				
Interest			\$5,527.88				
Pre 2015 Years							
Real Estate	\$19,848.20		\$5,371.11	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,182.33	\$7,294.76
Personal Property	\$4,156.14		\$121.77	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,034.37
Motor Vehicle	\$7,776.15		\$588.12	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,188.03
Fees			\$881.65				
Interest			\$3,274.23				

◆ **TOWN OF BECKET FINANCIAL REPORT** ◆

July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018

GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>CARRY FWD.</u>	<u>ORIG. BUD.</u>	<u>AMENDED</u>	<u>ENCUM.</u>	<u>EXPEND.</u>	<u>UNENCUM. BALANCE</u>	<u>% EXP.</u>
ADVERTISING		\$4,500.00			\$2,725.83	\$1,774.17	60.57
ADVERTISING TOTAL		\$4,500.00			\$2,725.83	\$1,774.17	60.57
SELECTMEN SALARIES		\$6,120.00			\$6,120.00		100.00
SELECTMEN EXPENSES		\$1,800.00	\$510.14		\$2,310.14		100.00
TOWN MEETING EXPENSE		\$3,500.00			\$3,496.94	\$3.06	99.91
PRINT AND BIND BYLAWS		\$5,000.00				\$5,000.00	0.00
SELECTMEN TOTAL		\$16,420.00	\$510.14		\$11,927.08	\$5,003.06	70.44
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR SALARIES		\$68,500.00			\$67,262.33	\$1,237.67	98.19
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR EXPENSES		\$1,400.00			\$1,224.73	\$175.27	87.48
STAFF COVERAGE		\$3,200.00			\$1,078.59	\$2,121.41	33.70
CLERK OF COMMITTEES		\$32,756.87			\$32,317.13	\$439.74	98.65
250TH ANNIVERSARY	\$784.20					\$784.20	0.00
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TOTAL	\$784.20	\$105,856.87			\$101,882.78	\$4,758.29	95.53
FINANCE COMM. EXPENSES		\$650.00			\$135.00	\$515.00	20.76
FINANCE COMMITTEE TOTAL		\$650.00			\$135.00		20.76
TOWN ACCOUNTANT SALARIES		\$23,885.26			\$23,792.60	\$92.66	99.61
OUTSIDE PAYROLL EXPENSES		\$5,000.00			\$4,695.22	\$304.78	93.90
TOWN ACCOUNTANT EXPENSE		\$400.00			\$390.00	\$10.00	97.50
TOWN ACCOUNTANT TOTAL		\$29,285.26			\$28,877.82	\$407.44	98.60
ASSESSOR SALARIES		\$72,178.37	\$-14,575.15		\$45,905.59	\$11,697.63	79.69
ASSESSOR EXPENSES	\$46.70	\$63,610.00			\$59,588.63	\$4,068.07	93.60
ASSESSOR TOTAL	\$46.70	\$135,788.37	\$-14,575.15		\$105,494.22	\$15,765.70	86.99
TREASURER SALARIES		\$44,229.12			\$44,229.12		100.00
TREASURER EXPENSES	\$2,500.00	\$5,530.00	\$-5,000.00		\$2,562.93	\$467.07	84.58
TREASURER TOTAL	\$2,500.00	\$49,759.12	\$-5,000.00		\$46,792.05	\$467.07	99.01
TAX COLLECTOR SALARIES		\$55,390.40			\$55,182.40	\$208.00	99.62
ASST TAX COLLECTOR SALARIES		\$46,108.40			\$45,926.40	\$182.00	99.60
TAX COLLECTOR EXPENSES		\$7,580.00			\$6,370.86	\$1,209.14	84.04
KVS SOFTWARE UPGRADE	\$4,045.00					\$4,045.00	0.00
TAX COLLECTOR TOTAL	\$4,045.00	\$109,078.80			\$107,479.66	\$5,644.14	95.01
TAX TITLE EXPENSES	\$18,213.86	\$10,000.00	\$3,946.08		\$33,092.74	\$-932.80	102.90
TAX TITLE TOTAL	\$18,213.86	\$10,000.00	\$3,946.08		\$33,092.74	\$-932.80	102.90
TOWN SECRETARY SALARIES		\$42,785.60	\$1,560.00		\$44,345.62	\$-0.02	100.00
TOWN SECRETARY TOTAL		\$42,785.60	\$1,560.00		\$44,345.62	\$-0.02	100.00

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>CARRY FWD</u>	<u>ORIG. BUD.</u>	<u>AMENDED</u>	<u>ENCUM.</u>	<u>EXPEND.</u>	<u>UNENCUM. BALANCE</u>	<u>% EXP.</u>
TOWN COUNSEL EXPENSES	\$3,000.00	\$18,000.00			\$13,860.61	\$7,139.39	66.00
TOWN COUNSEL TOTAL	\$3,000.00	\$18,000.00			\$13,860.61	\$7,139.39	66.00
AUDIT EXPENSES	\$9,000.00	\$18,500.00	\$-9,500.00		\$12,500.00	\$5,500.00	69.44
AUDIT TOTAL	\$9,000.00	\$18,500.00	\$-9,500.00		\$12,500.00	\$5,500.00	69.44
POSTAGE EXPENSES		\$12,000.00			\$10,553.42	\$1,446.58	87.94
POSTAGE TOTAL		\$12,000.00			\$10,553.42	\$1,446.58	87.94
TOWN REPORT EXPENSES		\$3,500.00			\$2,753.85	\$746.15	78.68
TOWN REPORT TOTAL		\$3,500.00			\$2,753.85	\$746.15	78.68
TOWN CLERK SALARIES		\$28,055.04			\$28,055.04		100.00
TOWN CLERK EXPENSES	\$1,030.40	\$2,145.00			\$3,990.92	\$-815.52	125.68
TOWN CLERK TOTAL	\$1,030.40	\$30,200.04			\$32,045.96	\$-815.52	102.61
ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION EXPENSES		\$11,102.00			\$2,833.41	\$8,268.59	25.52
ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION TOTAL		\$11,102.00			\$2,833.41	\$8,268.59	25.52
CON COMM EXPENSES		\$19,894.00			\$15,831.90	\$4,062.10	96.92
CON COMM TOTAL		\$19,894.00			\$15,831.90	\$4,062.10	96.92
PLANNING BOARD EXPENSES	\$260.98	\$2,224.81			\$1,976.50	\$509.29	79.51
PLANNING BOARD TOTAL	\$260.98	\$2,224.81			\$1,976.50	\$509.29	79.51
BOARD OF APPEALS EXPENSES		\$1,500.00			\$410.88	\$1,089.12	27.39
ZONING BOARD TOTAL		\$1,500.00			\$410.88	\$1,089.12	27.39
BERK REGIONAL PLANNING COMM		\$1,349.15			\$1,349.15		100.00
BRPC TOTAL		\$1,349.15			\$1,349.15		100.00
MUNICIPAL BLDG LABOR		\$47,216.78			\$47,028.80	\$187.98	99.60
MUNICIPAL BLDG UTILITIES	\$750.99	\$61,000.00			\$49,455.42	\$12,295.57	80.08
MUNICIPAL BLDG EXPENSES	\$7,807.73	\$54,975.00	\$-6,935.95		\$53,968.13	\$1,878.65	96.63
TELEPHONE SYSTEM		\$12,200.00				\$12,200.00	0.00
WIREDWEST MEMBERSHIP		\$1,000.00			\$1,000.00		100.00
MUNICIPAL BLDG REPAIRS	\$4,257.00	\$9,500.00	\$7,300.00		\$9,451.37	\$11,605.63	44.88
TWO FURNACES		\$38,000.00				38,000.00	0.00
TRUCK FY18		\$48,000.00			\$48,564.05	\$-564.05	101.17
MUNICIPAL BLDG TOTAL	\$12,815.72	\$271,891.78	\$364.05		\$209,467.77	\$75,603.78	73.47
COMPUTER HARD/SOFTWARE UPGRADES	\$2,567.55				\$1,672.30	\$895.25	65.13
MUNICIPAL BLDG TOWN HALL CNTRL AIR	\$62,500.00				\$13,479.83	\$49,020.17	21.56
SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE AGREEMENTS		\$24,167.33			\$24,085.54	\$81.79	99.66
MUNICIPAL BLDG ARTICLES TOTAL	\$65,067.55	\$24,167.33			\$39,237.67	\$49,997.21	43.97

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>CARRY FWD</u>	<u>ORIG. BUD.</u>	<u>AMENDED</u>	<u>ENCUM.</u>	<u>EXPEND.</u>	<u>UNENCUM. BALANCE</u>	<u>% EXP.</u>
RESERVE FUND		\$35,000.00	\$-33,110.00			\$1,890.00	0.00
RESERVE FUND TOTAL		\$35,000.00	\$-33,110.00			\$1,890.00	0.00
POLICE DEPT SALARIES		\$319,810.64			\$294,078.64	\$25,732.00	91.95
POLICE DEPT EXPENSES	\$2,758.79	\$15,876.00	\$6,250.00		\$24,879.07	\$5.72	99.97
POLICE DEPT TOTAL	\$2,758.79	\$335,686.64	\$6,250.00		\$318,957.71	\$25,737.72	92.53
EMERG MANAGEMENT EXPENSES	\$107.64	\$1,000.00			\$317.61	\$790.03	28.67
EMERG MGT TRAINING	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00				\$4,000.00	0.00
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TOTAL	\$2,107.64	\$3,000.00			\$317.61	\$4,790.03	6.21
CONSTABLE EXPENSES		\$300.00				\$300.00	0.00
CONSTABLE EXPENSES TOTAL		\$300.00				\$300.00	0.00
FIRE DEPARTMENT SALARIES		\$4,165.00			\$4,165.00		100.00
FIREFIGHTER STIPENDS	\$2,400.00	\$14,000.00			\$9,100.00	\$7,300.00	55.48
FIRE DEPARTMENT EXPENSES	\$9,101.67	\$30,600.00			\$36,422.92	\$3,278.75	91.74
DRY HYDRANTS	\$6,886.85					\$6,886.85	0.00
FIRE STATION #1 REPLACE/INSTALL WIN	\$23,900.00				\$18,025.09	\$5,874.91	75.41
FIRE DEPARTMENT TOTAL	\$42,288.52	\$48,765.00			\$67,713.01	\$23,340.51	74.36
DRY HYDRANT PARTS	\$7,000.00					\$7,000.00	0.00
FIRE DEPARTMENT ARTICLES TOTAL	\$7,000.00					\$7,000.00	0.00
E911 COMMUNICATIONS		\$11,954.82			\$11,954.82		100.00
E911 COMMUNICATIONS TOTAL		\$11,954.82					100.00
BUILDING DEPARTMENT SALARIES		\$52,595.84			\$52,595.88	\$-0.04	100.00
BUILDING DEPARTMENT EXPENSES		\$2,215.00			\$1,427.68	\$787.32	64.45
BUILDING DEPARTMENT TOTAL		\$54,810.84			\$54,023.56	\$787.28	98.56
ANIMAL CONTROL SALARIES		\$8,041.26			\$8,041.28	\$-0.02	100.00
ANIMAL CONTROL EXPENSES	\$187.49	\$2,500.00			\$675.75	\$2,011.74	25.14
ANIMAL CONTROL TOTAL	\$187.49	\$10,541.26			\$8,717.03	\$2,011.72	81.24
HARBOR MASTER EXPENSES		\$1,426.00			\$1,166.43	\$259.57	81.79
HARBOR MASTER TOTAL		\$1,426.00			\$1,166.43	\$259.57	81.79
DEMOLITION FUND	\$69,177.82	\$19,800.00			\$3,275.93	\$85,701.89	3.68
DEMOLITION TOTAL	\$69,177.82	\$19,800.00			\$3,275.93	\$85,701.89	3.68
SCHOOL OPERATING BUDGET		\$2,041,390.00			\$2,041,390.00		100.00
VOCATIONAL TUITION		\$221,013.00	\$-33,000.00		\$176,759.48	\$11,253.52	94.01
VOCATIONAL TRANSPORTATION		\$45,000.00			\$40,521.36	\$4,478.64	90.04
EDUCATION TOTAL		\$2,307,403.00	\$-33,000.00		\$2,258,670.84	\$15,732.16	99.30
TREE ACCOUNT EXPENSES		\$15,000.00			\$14,458.00	\$542.00	96.38

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>CARRY FWD</u>	<u>ORIG. BUD.</u>	<u>AMENDED</u>	<u>ENCUM.</u>	<u>EXPEND.</u>	<u>UNENCUM. BALANCE</u>	<u>% EXP.</u>
<i>TREE ACCOUNT TOTAL</i>		<i>\$15,000.00</i>			<i>\$14,458.00</i>	<i>\$542.00</i>	<i>96.38</i>
FORESTRY		\$500.00			\$500.00		100.00
<i>FORESTRY TOTAL</i>		<i>\$500.00</i>			<i>\$500.00</i>	<i>100.00</i>	<i>100.00</i>
HIGHWAY DEPT SALARIES		\$222,319.59			\$204,454.20	\$17,865.39	91.96
GENERAL MAINTENANCE		\$165,790.00	\$-10,000.00		\$125,300.50	\$30,489.50	80.42
MACHINERY ACCOUNT	\$5,540.00	\$68,787.00			\$65,750.93	\$8,576.07	88.46
FUEL ACCOUNT		\$94,500.00	\$-21,000.00		\$70,972.39	\$2,527.61	96.56
HIGHWAY GARAGE		\$10,990.00	\$-2,400.00		\$8,397.42	\$192.58	97.75
<i>HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT TOTAL</i>	<i>\$5,540.00</i>	<i>\$562,386.59</i>	<i>\$-33,400.00</i>		<i>\$474,875.44</i>	<i>\$59,651.15</i>	<i>88.84</i>
GRADER		\$117,740.00			\$117,740.00		100.00
FY16 DUMP TRUCK		\$52,608.00			\$52,608.00		100.00
<i>HIGHWAY ARTICLES TOTAL</i>		<i>\$170,348.00</i>			<i>\$170,348.00</i>	<i>100.00</i>	<i>100.00</i>
WINTER ROADS SALARIES		\$149,543.13	\$12,305.62		\$161,848.75		100.00
WINTER ROADS		\$82,950.00	\$48,203.03		\$131,153.03		100.00
<i>WINTER ROADS TOTAL</i>		<i>\$232,493.13</i>	<i>\$60,508.65</i>		<i>\$293,001.78</i>	<i>100.00</i>	<i>100.00</i>
STREET LIGHTING		\$8,500.00			\$7,145.87	\$1,354.13	84.06
<i>STREET LIGHTING TOTAL</i>		<i>\$8,500.00</i>			<i>\$7,145.87</i>	<i>\$1,354.13</i>	<i>84.06</i>
TRANSFER STATION SALARIES	\$850.00	\$30,017.76			\$28,784.32	\$2,083.44	93.25
TRANSFER STATION EXPENSES	\$1,200.00	\$80,750.00	\$11,900.00		\$91,778.43	\$2,071.57	97.79
<i>TRANSFER STATION TOTAL</i>	<i>\$2,050.00</i>	<i>\$110,767.76</i>	<i>\$11,900.00</i>		<i>\$120,562.75</i>	<i>\$4,155.01</i>	<i>96.66</i>
BECKET CENTER CEMETERY		\$4,696.62			\$4,707.45	\$-10.83	100.23
NORTH BECKET CEMETERY		\$11,515.44	\$2,195.36		\$15,596.75	\$-1,885.95	113.75
WEST BECKET CEMETERY		\$1,298.94			\$720.23	\$578.71	55.44
MOWER AND GRASS CATCHER		\$5,000.00			\$4,315.72	\$684.28	86.31
<i>CEMETERY TOTAL</i>		<i>\$22,511.00</i>	<i>\$2,195.36</i>		<i>\$25,340.15</i>	<i>\$-633.79</i>	<i>102.56</i>
SO BERK SOLID WASTE		\$8,328.15			\$8,167.15	\$161.00	98.06
<i>TRANSFER STATION TOTAL</i>		<i>\$8,328.15</i>			<i>\$8,167.15</i>	<i>\$161.00</i>	<i>98.06</i>
BOARD OF HEALTH SALARIES		\$9,180.00	\$-1,307.80		\$1,351.36	\$6,520.84	17.16
BOARD OF HEALTH EXPENSES	\$195.00	\$25,160.00	\$1,308.80		\$27,092.94	\$-429.14	101.60
<i>BOARD OF HEALTH TOTAL</i>	<i>\$195.00</i>	<i>\$34,340.00</i>	<i>\$1.00</i>		<i>\$28,444.30</i>	<i>\$6,091.70</i>	<i>82.36</i>
INSPECTOR OF ANIMALS		\$331.23			\$331.23		100.00
<i>INSPECTOR OF ANIMALS TOTAL</i>		<i>\$331.23</i>			<i>\$331.23</i>	<i>100.00</i>	<i>100.00</i>
NURSING SERVICES		\$4,962.00			\$4,961.25	\$0.75	99.98
<i>VISITING NURSE TOTAL</i>		<i>\$4,962.00</i>			<i>\$4,961.25</i>	<i>\$0.75</i>	<i>99.98</i>

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>CARRY FWD</u>	<u>ORIG. BUD.</u>	<u>AMENDED</u>	<u>ENCUM.</u>	<u>EXPEND.</u>	<u>UNENCUM. BALANCE</u>	<u>% EXP.</u>
COUNCIL ON AGING EXPENSES		\$5,000.00			\$4,999.60	\$0.40	99.99
OUTREACH PROGRAMS		\$500.00				\$500.00	0.00
COUNCIL ON AGING TOTAL		\$5,500.00			\$4,999.60	\$500.40	90.90
VETERANS AGENT SALARIES		\$2,097.84			\$2,097.84		100.00
VETERANS BENEFITS		\$28,000.00	\$19,248.98		\$47,248.98		100.00
VETERANS AGENT EXPENSE		\$100.00				\$100.00	0.00
VETERANS TOTAL		\$30,197.84	\$19,248.98		\$49,346.82	\$100.00	99.79
ADA LIFT	\$7,000.00				\$7,000.00		100.00
UPGRADE & IMPROVE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM	\$200.00					\$200.00	0.00
REPAIR AND REFURBISH STAIRS		\$5,350.00				\$5,350.00	0.00
ARTS CENTER TOTAL	\$7,200.00	\$5,350.00			\$7,000.00	\$5,550.00	55.77
WOMEN'S AUX CHILDREN'S PARTY		\$500.00			\$500.00		100.00
WOMEN'S AUX TOTAL		\$500.00			\$500.00		100.00
LIBRARY EXPENSES		\$47,868.00			\$47,868.00		100.00
LIBRARY TOTAL		\$47,868.00			\$47,868.00		100.00
LIBRARY CAPITAL	\$6,718.88	\$10,000.00			\$6,057.50	\$10,661.38	36.23
LIBRARY CAPITAL TOTAL	\$6,718.88	\$10,000.00			\$6,057.50	\$10,661.38	36.23
WEED TREATMENT CENTER POND		\$1,500.00			\$1,500.00		100.00
CENTER POND TOTAL		\$1,500.00			\$1,500.00		100.00
PARKS AND REC COMM EXPENSES	\$225.00	\$30,000.00			\$27,138.83	\$3,086.17	89.78
EROSION CONTROL/DRAINAGE		\$6,900.00				\$6,900.00	0.00
PARKS COMM TOTAL	\$225.00	\$36,900.00			\$27,138.83	\$9,986.17	73.10
HISTORICAL COMM EXPENSES		\$2,157.00			\$920.98	\$1,236.02	42.69
HISTORICAL COMM TOTAL		\$2,157.00			\$920.98	\$1,236.02	42.69
MEMORIAL/VETERAN'S DAY EXPENSES		\$1,200.00	\$100.89		\$1,300.89		100.00
MEMORIAL/VETERAN'S DAY TOTAL		\$1,200.00	\$100.89		\$1,300.89		100.00
WAHCONAH REGIONAL FEASIBILITY STUDY		\$861.00			\$861.00		100.00
BECKET WASHINGTON SCHOOL		\$103,171.00			\$103,171.00		100.00
NESSACUS SCHOOL DEBT		\$2,415.00			\$2,415.00		100.00
INTEREST ON SHORT TERM DEBT		\$1,500.00	\$-1,500.00				100.00
WAHCONAH REGIONAL HS DEBT		\$7,947.00			\$7,947.00		100.00
KITTERIDGE MSBA WINDOWS		\$321.00			\$321.00		100.00
FY14 DISTRICT SECURITY		\$955.00			\$955.00		100.00
WAHCONAH REGIONAL HS SIDEWALKS		\$905.00			\$905.00		100.00
LOADER		\$60,200.00			\$60,200.00		100.00
DEBT TOTAL		\$178,275.00	\$-1,500.00		\$176,775.00		100.00

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>CARRY FWD</u>	<u>ORIG. BUD.</u>	<u>AMENDED</u>	<u>ENCUM.</u>	<u>EXPEND.</u>	<u>UNENCUM. BALANCE</u>	<u>% EXP.</u>
RMV SURCHARGES			\$2,600.00		\$2,600.00		100.00
AIR POLLUTION			\$819.00		\$819.00		100.00
REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY			\$1,435.00		\$1,435.00		100.00
SCHOOL CHOICE TUITION			\$10,000.00		\$11,494.00	\$-1,494.00	114.94
TOTAL			\$14,854.00		\$16,348.00	\$-1,494.00	110.05
HEALTH/LIFE INSURANCE	\$14,634.98	\$425,360.00	\$13,500.00		\$450,407.56	\$3,087.42	99.31
RETIREMENT		\$201,455.00			\$201,455.00		100.00
PAYROLL TAXES		\$26,082.00			\$22,581.49	\$3,500.51	86.57
UNEMPLOYMENT		\$5,000.00			\$5,000.00		0.00
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS TOTAL	\$14,634.98	\$657,897.00	\$13,500.00		\$674,444.05	\$11,587.93	98.31
LIABILITY INSURANCE	\$2,500.00	\$116,484.00			\$107,593.13	\$11,390.87	90.42
LIABILITY INSURANCE TOTAL	\$2,500.00	\$116,484.00			\$107,593.13	\$11,390.87	90.42
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$279,348.53	\$6,011,437.39	\$4,854.00		\$5,820,299.58	\$475,340.34	92.44
GRAND TOTAL	\$279,348.53	\$6,011,437.39	\$4,854.00	\$0.00	\$5,820,299.58	\$475,340.34	92.44

◆ **TOWN OF BECKET - COMBINED BALANCE SHEET** ◆

July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018

ALL FUND TYPES AND ACCOUNT GROUP

	General Fund	Special Revenue Funds	Govern Grant Funds	Capital Project Funds	Ambul Fund	Trust Fund	Agency Fund	Long Term Debt Group	Memo Only
<u>ASSETS</u>									
Cash	1,222,519.29	481,597.26	887,881.93	-311,261.06	44,186.60	1,004,507.10	129,272.89	0.00	3,458,704.01
Property Taxes	381,053.70	2,656.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	383,709.84
Allowance for Abate & Exempt	-240,250.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-240,250.60
Tax Liens	1,079,786.96	-869.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	639,821.30	0.00	1,718,739.19
Motor Vehicle Excise	32,727.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	32,727.92
User Charges/Liens	44,035.71	12,958.35	0.00	0.00	-106,637.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	-49,643.24
Amts Prov for Pay of Bonds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	326,658.00	326,658.00
TOTAL ASSETS	2,519,872.98	496,342.68	887,881.93	-311,261.06	-62,450.70	1,004,507.10	769,094.19	326,658.00	5,630,645.12
<u>LIABILITIES</u>									
Other Liabilities	4,861.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,861.67
Def Rev Prop Tax	140,803.10	2,656.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	143,459.24
Def Rev Tax Liens	1,079,786.96	-869.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	639,821.30	0.00	1,718,739.19
Def Rev MV Excise	32,727.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	32,727.92
Borrowing Authorized and Unissued	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-4,227,089.35	-4,227,089.35
Def Rev User Charges/Liens	44,035.71	12,958.35	0.00	0.00	-106,637.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	-49,643.24
Borrowing Authorized	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,227,089.35	4,227,089.35
Bonds Payable	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	326,658.00	326,658.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,302,215.36	14,745.42	0.00	0.00	-106,637.30	0.00	639,821.30	326,658.00	2,176,802.78
<u>FUND BALANCES</u>									
Reserved for Encumbrances	312,386.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	312,386.28
Reserved for Expenditures	124,589.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	124,589.55
Reserved for Appropriation Deficits	-4,638.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-4,638.29
Designated	115,000.00	42,632.05	0.00	0.00	44,186.60	974,149.16	0.00	0.00	1,175,967.81
Undesignated	670,320.08	438,965.21	887,881.93	-311,261.06	0.00	30,357.94	129,272.89	0.00	1,845,536.99
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	1,217,657.62	481,597.26	887,881.93	-311,261.06	44,186.60	1,004,507.10	129,272.89	0.00	3,453,842.34
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCES	2,519,872.98	496,342.68	887,881.93	-311,261.06	-62,450.70	1,004,507.10	769,094.19	326,658.00	5,630,645.12



◆ **WAGES PAID IN CALENDAR YEAR 2018** ◆

Board of Selectmen

Elovirta, William H.	\$ 1,886.65
Lavery, Michael S.	1,886.65
Ledoux, Nicole D.	1,886.65

Town Administrator

Gibson, Edward J.	\$ 5,795.88
Markel, Robert T. (Interim TA)	54,711.25

Board of Assessors

Walter, Geraldine L.	\$ 28,539.45
Will, Elizabeth A.	17,866.81

Treasurer

Bleau, Christine D.	\$ 44,636.16
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Tax Collector

Bilodeau, Kenneth	\$ 55,691.20
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Assistant Tax Collector

Weiler, Nina M.	\$ 46,348.80
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Deputy Collector

Shorey, David O.	\$ 2,482.00
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Administrative Assistant

Gilbert, Beverly A.	\$ 45,478.41
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Town Clerk/Elections

Roberts, George E.	\$ 29,744.50
Babcock, Meredyth A.	99.00
Blake, Alvin	253.00
Clemons, Margaret A.	44.00
Clemons, Patricia L.	616.00
Craft-Reiss, Barbara	71.50
Francis, Charles I.	429.00
Garman, Charles A.	176.00
Kay-Grace, Julia	316.25
Krawet, Ann L.	192.50
LaBelle, Gale L.	374.00
McEwen, Priscilla J.	159.50
Metcalf, Adrienne K.	77.00
Rosenthal, Ruth	308.00
Schwartzbach, Jerome H.	77.00
VanNess, Elizabeth P.	192.50

Police Department

Eckman, Kurtis L.	\$ 39,132.44
Forest, Cameron D.	2,549.70

Heath, Chad E.	21,694.61
Hunt, Michael	56,193.68
Jones, Craig	15,913.72
Lamb, Charlene F.	11,583.37
McDonough, Kristopher G.	68,650.93
Miller, Nicole M.	17,653.09
Parkington, Stephen J.	13,547.59
Pettibone, Kenneth E.	5,630.13
Virginia, Matthew	57,903.77

Constables

Nicole M. Miller	\$205.13
Mark Portieri	25.00

Conservation Commission

Parsons, Stacy A.	\$ 7,309.35
Robbins, Laura R.	5,231.76

Fire Chief/Chief Stipend & Fees

Hanford, Mark A.	\$ 6,816.50
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Ambulance Department

Breault, Haylie R.	\$ 38,905.16
Brennan, Emma	2,272.50
Cawthron, Danny R.	10,560.05
Cooper, Meredydd	6,095.82
Davidson, Erik R.	688.88
Drenen, Matthew L.	18,814.05
Falone, Carly E.	2,410.73
Ferrin, Raymond E.	57,231.39
Forsaith, Sarah R.	12,411.95
Garofoli, Vincent J.	47,464.45
Hart, Hillary T.	17,944.12
Hebert Jr., John	298.49
Hoppe Jr., Dean H.	9,016.44
Kelly, Gregory V.	5,554.87
Kibbe, Frances J.	27,975.13
Koivisto, Max W.	7,972.44
Lacas, Roseanna K.	7,633.83
Mansdoerfer, Shelby A.	241.12
McDonough, Morgan L.	12,512.34
Michaud, Lisa J.	2,147.57
Miller, Nicole L.	5,413.91
Mullany, Michael J.	16,679.13
David Norcross	8,721.27
Robillard Jr., Leo O.	739.20
Sorrentino, Victoria L.	256.19
Stanton, Diana L.	6,255.41
Trzcinka, Maria K.	10,374.93

◆ **WAGES PAID IN CALENDAR YEAR 2018** ◆

~ Continued ~

Van Deusen Crystal L.	301.58	Transfer Station	
Willey, Peter H.	13,623.71	Hoppe, Siegfried B.	\$ 1,813.08
		Robinson, Bernard	1,500.48
Building Inspectors		White, Mark D.	11,052.30
Danko, Gary	\$ 992.82	Will, Robert R.	6,670.00
Girard, William E.	53,091.93		
		Clerk of Committees	
Public Safety Inspectors		Perotti, Jessica M.	\$ 32,717.19
LaPier, James	\$ 1,350.00		
Levernoch, Mark A.	2,070.00	Recreation Program & Lifeguards	
Spring, Dana	6,210.00	Adams, Emma T.	\$ 742.50
Middleton, Brian E.	450.00	DeFoe, Michaela C.	410.75
		Elovirta, Madelaine	337.50
Highway Department		Frisbie, Melody A.	1,883.25
Cooper, Robert R.	\$ 60,558.22	Pineda, Emellin	553.00
Goodermote, Albert R.	60,765.25	Greenspan, Andrew	1,883.25
Morawiec, Nathan E.	62,102.07	Greenspan, Daniel	94.50
Murray, Donald L.	61,288.48	Greenspan, Zachary	317.75
Shorey, David O.	4,810.29	Shannon, Ariana A.	2,499.00
Waite, Jeffrey	57,147.57		
		Accountant	
Building & Grounds Technician		McClellan, Margaret A.	\$ 24,055.88
Shorey, David O.	\$ 48,949.51		
		Harbor Master	
Highway Superintendent		Rosenthal, Steven	\$ 630.00
Bouchard, Christopher	\$ 64,233.60		
		Fire Department Stipend	
Board of Health		Atwell, James R.	\$ 700.00
Burgwardt, Laurel L.	\$ 482.63	Beringer, Richard	1,117.25
		Bergeron Jr., Aurele	700.00
Animal Control Officer		Elovirta, Jan R.	700.00
Goodermote, Albert	\$ 8,115.44	Elovirta, Madelaine	700.00
		Elovirta, William H.	700.00
Animal Inspector		Goebel, Gene R.	700.00
Elovirta, Madelaine	\$ 331.23	Healey, Robert	700.00
		Isner, Christopher A.	700.00
Veterans' Agent		Massini, Kristopher M.	700.00
Mann, Lloyd D.	\$ 2,118.90	Mikaniewicz, Paul A.	700.00
Cemetery			
Cavanaugh, William F.	\$ 13,832.25		
Smith, Michelle S.	645.45		
Williams, Dean R.	13,153.42		

TOWN OF BECKET

557 Main St.
Becket, MA 01223
(413) 623-8934 ext. 10

Appointment Application

TO: Board of Selectmen:

Please accept this application for **1. Appointment** or **2. Reappointment** to:

(Committee/Board/Commission)

Name: _____

Residential Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Tel. No.: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Current employment: _____

1. If you are requesting Appointment, please complete the following questions:

- Have you ever attended a meeting of the committee/board/commission?

- Why are you interested in this committee/board/commission?

- What experience, skills or insight would you bring to the committee/board/commission?

- Are you prepared to commit to the meeting schedule of the committee/board/commission?

- What would you hope to accomplish on the committee/board/commission?

All original applicants or those seeking re-appointment: Please sign at the bottom of this page.

2. If you are requesting Re-appointment, please complete the following questions:

- What has been your level of attendance at committee/board/commission meetings?

- What have you brought to the committee/board/commission in terms of experience, skills, ideas, insight?

- How do you feel you have helped the committee/board/commission in its goal(s)/mission?

- Why do you want to continue serving on the committee/board/commission?

Signature

Date

NOTES

[illegible]