

Town of Becket, Massachusetts
2014
ANNUAL TOWN REPORT
of the
Town Officials



The Newest Apparatus for Fire Station #1
Photo by Edward J. Gibson, Town Administrator

IN MEMORIAM

*During the year, we were saddened by the passing of two former Town Officials.
We dedicate this Annual Report to their memory:*

CLAIRE DAIGLE
Council on Aging
Election Worker
February 25, 2014



STEPHEN LABELLE, JR.
Finance Committee
Ambulance Department
October 1, 2014

Town of Becket, Massachusetts

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Town Officials

♦ **2014** ♦



William H. Elovirta

Selectperson

Angela I. Hilton

Selectperson

Jeanne W. Pryor

Selectperson

Edward J. Gibson

Town Administrator

For the year ending December 31, 2014

◆ *Town Officers* ◆

Elected Officials

Board of Selectmen	Term Expiring
William H. Elovirta, Chair	2015
Jeanne W. Pryor	2017
Angela I. Hilton	2016

Planning Board	
Martin Schlanger	2019
Robert Ronzio, Chair	2015
Beth VanNess	2016
Gale LaBelle	2017
Ann Krawet	2018
Howard Lerner, Associate Member (appointed by the Board of Selectmen)	2015

Finance Committee	
Jeremy Dunn	term expired May 2014
Ann Spadafora	2015
Maria Wallington	2015
Stephen LaBelle, Sr., Chair	2016
Dan Parnell	2016
Mark Karlberg	2017

Board of Health	
Howard Lerner	2017
Laurel Burgwardt	2015
Gale LaBelle, Chair	2016

Town Clerk	
George Roberts	2017

Constables	
Marc Portieri	2015
Michael Sawyer	2015

Moderator	
Bruce Garlow	2017

Cemetery Commissioners	
Michelle Smith	2015
William Cavanaugh	2016
Dean Williams	2017

School Committee	
John Les	2016
Sheila Cyr	2018

Appointed Officials

Town Administrator	Term Expiring
Edward J. Gibson	2016

Chief Procurement Officer	
Edward J. Gibson	2016

Municipal Light Plant Manager	
Edward J. Gibson	2016

Tax Collector	
Kathleen Hayn,	resigned Dec. 5, 2014
Kenneth Bilodeau	2017

Assistant Tax Collector	
Kenneth Bilodeau	2015
Nina Weiler	2015

Deputy Tax Collector	
David Shorey	2015

Treasurer	
Christine Bleau	2016

Assistant Treasurer	
Kathleen Hayn	resigned Dec. 5, 2014
Kenneth Bilodeau	2015

Board of Assessors	
David Zagorski	resigned May 2014
Geraldine Walter	2015
Elizabeth Will	2016

Accountant	
Margaret McClellan	2015

Ambulance Director	
James Kupernik	2015

Animal Control Officer	
Albert Goodermote	2015

Animal Inspector	
Madelaine Elovirta	2015

Emergency Management Director	
Timothy Sullivan	2015

◆ *Town Officers* ◆

Fire Chief/Fire Warden		Audrey Schlanger	2016
Ray Tarjick	resigned May 2014	Sally Soluri	2016
Mark Hanford	2015	Ruth Glazerman	2016
Harbor Master		Barbara Wacholder	2016
Steve Rosenthal	2015	Ann Krawet	2016
Police Department		Tracy Wilson	2016
Kristopher McDonough, Chief	2015	Luz Bravo-Gleicher	2016
Marc Portieri, Sergeant	2015	Tommie Hutto-Blake	2016
Michael Sawyer	2015	Conservation Commission	
Nicole Miller	2015	Shep Evans, Agent	2015
Tyler Miller	2015	Alfred Moylan, resigned	2014
Michael Hunt	2015	Laurel Burgwardt	2017
Matt Virginia	2015	Martin Winters	2015
Adam Gonska	2015	Richard Pryor	2015
Kenneth Pettibone	2015	Scott Morley, Chair	2016
Inspector of Buildings/ Trench Inspector/Zoning Enforcement Officer		Priscilla McEwen	2016
William Girard	2015	Cindy DelPapa	2016
Assistant Building Inspector		Council on Aging	
Gary Danko	2015	Herbert Nelson	2017
Plumbing/Gas Inspector		Lorraine Dean	2017
Mark Levernoch	2015	Eva Bonney	2015
Assistant Plumbing/Gas Inspector		Paula Cianfarani	2015
Brian Middleton	2015	Marc Portieri	2015
Wiring Inspector		Lorraine Wechter	2015
Dana Spring	2015	Joan Moylan, Director	2016
Assistant Wiring Inspector		William Robinson	2016
Jim LaPier	2015	Marie Grull	2016
Highway Superintendent/Pest Control/Tree Warden		Franklin Daigle	2016
Christopher Bouchard	2015	Celine Godbout	2016
Zoning Board of Appeals		Phyllis Fitzgerald	2016
Joshua Lombard, Chair	2017	Historical Commission	
Susan Deacon	2015	Gail Kusek	2015
Jeff Wilkinson	2016	Rita Furlong	2016
Karen Karlberg	2016	Jennifer Beatty	2016
George Roberts (Associate Member)	2015	Aaron Beatty	2016
Alvin Blake (Associate Member)	2015	Sandra Jarvis	2015
Arts Lottery Council		Parks & Recreation Committee	
Roberta Goldman, Chair	2016	Rita Furlong, Chair	2017
		Madelaine Elovirta	2017
		Ginger Conner	2015
		Sean Raymer	2015
		Tina LeVasseur	2016
		Election Workers	
		Gale LaBelle	2015
		Eva Bonney	2015

◆ *Town Officers* ◆

Alymer Trivers	2015
Priscilla McEwen	2015
Charles Garman	2015
Ann Krawet	2015
Beth VanNess	2015
Adrienne Metcalf	2015
Meredyth Babcock	2015
Patricia Clemons	2015
Charles Francis	2015
Jerome Schwartzbach	2015
Julia Kay Grace	2015
Stephen LaBelle, Sr.	2015
Alvin Blake	2015
Joshua Lombard	2015
Joan Moylan	2015
Barbara Winters	2015
Katherine Hoak	2015

Registrar of Voters

Michelle Smith	2014
Colleen Cox	2015
Robin Greenspan	2016

Veterans' Agent

Doug Mann	2015
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Veterans' Grave Officer

William Mulholland	2015
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Westfield River Wild & Scenic Advisory Committee

Mercedes Gallagher	2015
William Babcock, Alternate	2015

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

Robert Ronzio, Delegate	2014
Ann Krawet, Alternate	2014

Berkshire Public Health Alliance

Laurel Burgwardt, Alternate

Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board

William H. Elovirta	2015
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Jacobs Ladder Trail Advisory Committee

William Robinson	2015
Ken Smith	2015

Agricultural Commission

Kristopher Massini	2016
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Neil Toomey	2016
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Community Preservation Committee

Rita Furlong	2016
Neil Toomey, Chair	2016
Robert Ronzio	
Jennifer Beatty	
Richard Pryor	

Massachusetts Broadband Initiative/Wired West

Robert Ronzio, Delegate
Jeff Piermont, Alternate

250th Anniversary Committee

Michel Richard
Sandi Jarvis
Rita Furlong, Presider
Barbara Roberts
Beth VanNess
Ann Spadafora
Karen Karlberg
George Roberts
Linda Bacon
Bruce Garlow

Town Meeting Bylaw Review Committee

Bruce Garlow, Chair
Jeanne Pryor
Ann Krawet

Public Relations Liaison/Officer

William H. Elovirta

Affordable Senior Housing Advisory Committee

Eva Bonney
William Cavanaugh
Beth VanNess
Ruth Glazerman
Jeanne Pryor

Housing Rehab Advisory Committee

Beth VanNess
Jeanne Pryor
Nina Weiler

Large Wind Turbine Bylaw Committee

Alvin Blake
Robert Gross
Ann Krawet, Chair
Robert Ronzio

◆ *Town Officers* ◆

Maria Wallington

Board of Survey

William Cavanaugh

Beth VanNess

Energy Committee

Catherine DeFoe, Chair 2017

Katherine Hoak 2015

Garth Klimchuk 2015

Alvin Blake 2016

Robert Gross 2016

Christopher Bouchard, Ex-Officio

Edward J. Gibson, Ex-Officio

William Girard, Ex-Officio

Dan Parnell, Ex-Officio

Town Employees

Town Secretary

NinaWeiler

Highway Department

Robert Cooper

Jeff Waite

Bert Goodermote

Mark White

George Fuller

Building and Grounds Technician

David Shorey

Clerk of Committees

Heather Hunt

Ambulance Department

Joseph Mechare

Vincent Garofoli

Volunteer Fire Department

Mark Hanford, Chief

Madelaine Elovirta, Assistant Chief

Paul Mikanicwicz, Deputy Chief

Kristopher Massini, Captain

Robert Healey, Sr., Sr. Lieutenant

James Atwell

Justin Elovirta

William H. Elovirta

Adam Giarolo

Gene Goebel

Robert Johnson

Paul Mazut

Tyler Miller

Michael Ozner

Sydney Tarjick

Aurele Bergeron

Christopher Isner

Robert Healey Jr.

Kyle Kelson

Richard Beringer



Town of Becket, Massachusetts
Annual Report
of the
Town Officials
◆ 2014 ◆

Fiscal Year July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014

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Parks Commission	17
Planning Board	10
Police Department	7
Porchlight Visiting Nurse Association	16
Recreation Committee	20
Tax Collector	70
Town Administrator	1
Town Clerk	28
Town Meeting Bylaw Review Committee	41
Town Meeting (Annual - May 10, 2014)	56
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Town of Becket – <i>Estimated to Actual</i>	81
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Transfer Station	46
Veterans' Agent	24
Wages Paid in Calender Year 2014	86
Westfield River Wild and Scenic Advisory Committee	48
Zoning Board of Appeals	50

****Town of Becket Appointment Application*** – At end of report

◆ **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR USE IN 2015** ◆

Governor

Charlie Baker
Massachusetts State House, Room 280
Boston, MA 02133
TEL: 617-725-4005

United States Senators

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

Edward J. Markey
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-2742
www.markey.senate.gov

Congressman

Richard E. Neal
Federal Building, 78 Center Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201
TEL: 413-442-0946

State Senator

Benjamin Downing
7 North Street, Suite 307
Pittsfield, MA 01201
TEL: 413-442-4008
Benjamin.downing@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	1,843 (Annual Town Census)
Registered Voters	1,381
Form of Government	Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator Open Town Meeting
Tax Rate	\$10.44 Fiscal Year 2014
Public Schools	Central Berkshire Regional School District
Police	Full-Time Chief, One Full-Time Sergeant, One Full-Time Police Officer and Five Part-Time Officers Non-Emergency Telephone: 623-6010
Fire	Fire Chief Non-Emergency Telephone: 623-6480 Burning Permits 623-6480 (January 15 – May 1 weather permitting) To apply for a burn permit online please go to the following link: http://www.bcburnpermits.com/
Ambulance Department	Fire Station #2 Non-Emergency Telephone: 623-5027
Public Library	Becket Athenaeum 3367 Main Street, Becket Telephone: 623-5483
Arts Center	Becket Arts Center 7 Brooker Hill Road, Becket Telephone: 623-6635
Post Office	Becket Post Office 623 Main Street, Becket Telephone: 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>. Thanks.

◆ **TELEPHONE DIRECTORY** ◆
OF TOWN SERVICES

Local Emergency Numbers

ALL EMERGENCIES	911
FIRE DEPARTMENT	623-8760
AMBULANCE	623-5027
POLICE	623-6010
STATE POLICE	243-0600

Becket Town Offices - 623-8934

Department	Extension
Selectmen's Office/Secretary	#10
Town Clerk	#11
Treasurer	#12
Town Administrator	#13
Building Inspector	#14
Tax Collector	#16
Assessors	#18
Planning Board/Zoning Board of Appeals	#20
Board of Health	#22
Council on Aging	#27
Conservation Commission	#29
Harbor Master	#40
Animal Control Officer	#56

◆ *REPORT OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR* ◆

I have very much enjoyed my short time here in Becket since starting as Town Administrator in May of 2013. I would like to thank the residents of Becket along with the staff at Town Hall and the members of the Boards and Committees for their open, courteous and professional working relationship.

2014 saw a number of changes in positions here in Becket. Ken Bilodeau was promoted from Assistant Tax Collector to Tax Collector when Kathleen Hayn retired after twenty-eight years of service in various positions for the town. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kathy for her twenty-eight years of service to the Town of Becket and wish her congratulations and the best of luck in her retirement. Our principal assessor left to take another position during the year and that position will be filled by a third party independent vendor. This will allow the Assessor's Department to function more efficiently with the Town's residents, property owners and businesses with an experienced and professional staff. Liz Will and Geri Walter will continue in their current roles in the Assessor's office and will be the faces you will see most often when visiting their office.

This was the first full calendar year for our new Building and Grounds Technician position. Having the Building and Grounds Technician has been a great asset to me and the town in keeping up and planning for needed repairs and identifying maintenance needs at town owned buildings and facilities. In the first year, Mr. Shorey has been able to spruce up the Town Hall through painting, electrical and plumbing upgrades as well as replacing the roofs at the sheds at the Transfer Station and adding a fresh coat of paint to those sheds and fresh stain to the Town Hall Pavilion. He has also done multiple repairs to improve the Fire Stations, the Ambulance Garage and the Highway Garage.

It has also been rewarding for me in obtaining a \$30,000.00 grant from the USDA to perform a Public Water Supply Feasibility Study here in Becket. The study will be finalized during 2015. Chris Bouchard, Highway Superintendent, has given a great deal of effort to secure a grant (almost \$400,000.00) to replace the Bonny Rigg Hill Road culvert from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. This improvement or upgrade was mandated by the Army Corps of Engineers after the 2011 Hurricane Sandy.

It has been a very interesting nineteen months for me in getting to know everyone here and learn what policies and procedures were in place and what new procedures and policies may be needed to be added and implemented. It has been exciting for me to participate in the completion of some larger projects such as the CDBG Grant and the North Becket Village Infrastructure project as well as picking up in the middle of the town's Green Community Grant. It was also an interesting process in helping the Board of Selectmen to apply for the FY 2015 CDBG Grant. We will now wait and see if our grant application is approved.

I would like to thank the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee for the confidence and faith they have bestowed upon me. Also thanks to Nina Weiler, Town Secretary, for being so helpful and a valuable source of information and history as well as being my right hand when researching topics and developing reports. I wish her the best of luck in her new position as the Assistant Tax Collector.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward J. Gibson
Town Administrator



◆ *REPORT OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN* ◆

This has been a very busy year for the Board of Selectmen. We would like to thank all town officers and employees for their help in making Becket a better place to work, live and enjoy. Throughout the year the board met with other departments, attended school board meetings, legislative sessions and attended seminars to keep more fully informed of new state regulations, laws and statutes.

The year started with approving the Financial Reserves Policy that was developed jointly with the Finance Committee. A five year capital plan was discussed in relation to an inventory of major items owned by the town.

The Becket 250th Anniversary Committee really geared up with plans for the celebration in May and June of 2015. Included will be a large Memorial Day Parade, a picnic and fireworks at Chimney Corners Camp, a tree planting ceremony at the Parade Grounds, an updated Becket History book and many more scheduled events that are listed elsewhere in this Town Report.

A Special Town Meeting was held on April 5th that approved combining the Parks and Recreation committees, established a By-law Review Committee, Community Preservation Committee, and amended the Town Meeting and Moderator articles of the existing town by-laws.

The proposed Fiscal Year 2015 budget was reviewed with the Finance Committee, adopted by the board and presented to the Annual Town Meeting on May 10th where it was approved. The approved budget increased the tax rate by one penny.

In March, a Rural Development Grant application was filed through the USDA to develop a Public Water Supply Master Plan Feasibility Study in Becket. Tighe and Bond submitted the successful application for \$30,000.00 and we are awaiting the nearly completed report.

Also in March, the Becket Affordable Senior Housing Feasibility 2013 Study was presented to the board. The town must appoint an Affordable Housing Committee to be eligible for further grants.

In April, Town Administrator Edward Gibson received a positive performance evaluation from the Selectmen conducted through surveys submitted by board members and staff personnel. Town Hall employee morale is up along with positive changes that have been made. In June, after attending training courses, Ed received his certification as a Certified Public Procurement Official (MCPPO).

Fire Chief Raymond Tarjick resigned on April 18th. Deputy Fire Chief Mark Hanford was appointed Acting Fire Chief. He was appointed Fire Chief as of July 1st. Thank you to all the volunteers, who get a small stipend, and give freely of their time to train and protect their fellow citizens. Becket also provides fire protection and ambulance service to the Town of Washington.

Jeanne Pryor was re-elected to the Board of Selectmen at the May annual town election. The board, as is done yearly, reorganized with Bill Elovirta being elected chairman, Angela Hilton vice-chairman and Jeanne Pryor clerk.

In July, board Chairman Bill Elovirta was appointed by the board to continue as Becket's representative to the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority.

Board member Jeanne Pryor was elected as an alternate Representative to the Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization to represent the towns of Becket, Lee, Lenox, Monterey, New Marlborough, Otis, Sandisfield, Tyringham and Washington. This is the body that organizes the TIP (Transportation Improvement Plan) funding for Berkshire County for the next three years.

On August 29th Margaret "Peg" Lynch Ronning, the oldest living resident, was presented the Boston Post Cane by the Selectmen at a ceremony in the Town Hall. Peg succeeded Frances Snow who passed away at the age of 100 on July 15, 2014.

A mediation session was held in August between the plaintiff, BRD, and the town of Becket to try and resolve the law suit brought by BRD against the town stemming from the December 2008 ice storm that crippled many hill towns. The final mediation was for \$500,000.00 that was ultimately approved at a Special Town Meeting in September. If mediation had not prevailed the town could have been responsible for up to \$2,000,000.00, including interest, if it had gone to trial and the town lost.

In September, Tax Collector Kathleen Hayn submitted her retirement resignation effective December 5th. Assistant Tax Collector Kenneth Bilodeau was appointed to replace Kathy who had more than twenty-eight years of service with the town, including having been Town Clerk. We wish Kathy well in her retirement.

In October, the town was awarded, through FEMA, a Hazard Mitigation grant in the amount of \$399,488.00 to

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

replace the Bonny Rigg Hill Rd. culvert. This is a 75% match with the town providing 25% through town funding, in kind services or Chapter 90 monies. Expected completion of the project is September 2016.

In November, the board reviewed the goals of the Town Administrator for the past year and goals for the coming year. Many goals have been completed, some are in process and new ones have been added. There have been many policies and regulations that either did not exist or that need updating and they are being addressed.

Policies that have been drafted, updated, approved by the board and implemented are: Financial Reserves Policy, Automatic Amusement Device License Regulations, Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy for town employees, Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace Policy, Accident and Towing Policy, Procurement Tie Bid Coin Toss Policy, Policy for Sherwood Forest Road Maintenance District Voter List, WiredWest Delegate Appointment Policy, Becket Employee Handbook as amended on 9/3/14 and Policy on use of town owned snow plows when highway employees go home to eat or sleep during winter storms.

Policies that are being considered and some that are in draft form for consideration by the board are: An amended Dog Control By-law that will add sections to our current By-law that are not reflected in recent changes to the Commonwealth's animal licensing and control laws, Policy on issuing One-day Liquor Licenses and Becket Town Hall Use Policy.

In November, Dr. Robert Putnam, CBRSD School Superintendent, addressed the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee regarding the FY2016 school budget. As a result of a school use study by New England School Development Council (NESDEC) it was found that Berkshire Trail in Cummington, Kittredge in Hinsdale and Becket-Washington schools are not at their capacity for students in each building. The study offered suggestions for closing one or more schools. At a subsequent CBRSD committee meeting it was voted to close the Berkshire Trail School in Cummington at the end of school in June 2015. We have concerns for the Becket-Washington school in the coming year(s).

In December, the board, on the recommendation of the Town Administrator voted not to appoint a full-time Principal Assessor to replace David Zagorski who resigned in the spring.

A third party vendor with experience in the State CAMA System will be contracted. Once the vendor has been chosen the Board of Selectmen will appoint a third member of the Board of Assessors to act in an administrative capacity only.

Also in December the board agreed to apply for a 2015 CDBG grant with the help of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. The grant will apply for a Housing Rehabilitation Grant, design money for replacement of the Maple St. Bridge near the school and a feasibility study for upgraded septic systems in North Becket Village.

Our long serving Town Secretary, Nina Weiler, applied for the open Assistant Tax Collector position. After formally applying for the position and going through the selection interview process she was recommended by the Town Administrator and Tax Collector and approved by the board. With her overall experience and knowledge we are thankful that we are not losing her from the Town Office.

During the year, the board worked in support of WiredWest's and MBI's last mile efforts to bring fiber to our town residents. Jeff Piemont was appointed as alternate delegate to WiredWest and the Selectmen voted to send a letter supporting WiredWest to the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative. On November 19th the Selectmen voted to approve a non-binding resolution to show our intent to support the WiredWest last mile project. We are preparing to include an article on the May 2015 Annual Town Meeting warrant to authorize the issuance of bonds to cover the town's share of construction costs above the funds contributed by MBI. We will participate in WiredWest's Subscribers campaign that will include a dynamic website to be used for sign ups, a mailing to all Becket full-time and part-time residents, and town information sessions. It is estimated that a 50% subscription rate will pay for the operating costs and debt service.

In closing, the board would like to thank Roger Peltier, owner of Pioneer Plumbing and Heating, for donating his time and material to install a water system at the North Becket Cemetery.

It has been our pleasure to serve you and have your support.

Board of Selectmen
William H. Elovirta, **Chairman**
Angela I. Hilton
Jeanne W. Pryor

◆ **REPORT OF THE BECKET AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT** ◆

We responded to 258 calls in 2014. The calls by town were:

Becket – 203

Otis – 21

Washington – 10

Lee – 8

Chester – 16

We are finishing up our training for the Advanced level EMT. This will give us a higher level of care that we can provide our patients. We had to do some training and buy some equipment to be prepared for an Ebola incident if one should happen here. The state wants us to be prepared even though the chances are slim of it happening.

Respectfully submitted,

James Kupernik, **Director**



◆ *REPORT OF THE BECKET LAND TRUST* ◆

The Becket Land Trust is working on several ambitious grant funded projects at the Historic Quarry and Forest, which resulted in 7 miles of trail improvement involving 3,400 hours of labor and the creation of a 40 acre Wildlife Habitat.

With support from you, our community, for our core operational expenses, we have been able to:

- Create new trails and upgrade adored existing trails through a state-funded project that we have undertaken with the help of the Appalachian Mountain Club.

- Launch a wildlife management project with funding from the US Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. This grant is being used to create much needed open shrub land on forty acres of Becket Land Trust property, an ideal habitat for the endangered New England Cottontail. In addition, this area will attract dozens of other species looking for this type of habitat that is rare in New England.

- Hire a security guard to curtail the abuse of the property by unwelcome cliff jumpers and hooligans that detract from the enjoyment of our responsible outdoor enthusiasts.

- Expand the Historic Quarry Museum's permanent exhibit at the Mullen House with new photographs, artifacts and maps.

- Receive a grant from Berkshire Taconic Foundation in the amount of \$4,000 for upgrading our Historic Quarry Interpretive Walk signage and create additional signage at our Habitat area.

- Lead guided hikes, open to the public, explaining the special historical and natural features of the property.

Like us on Facebook or send us an email to get on our list so you can stay current with our activities.

Becket Land Trust, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth Smith
President
Becket Land Trust



◆ *REPORT OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT* ◆

The Becket Volunteer Fire Department fire chief and members would like to thank former Fire Chief Raymond Tarjick for his years of service to the department. Ray resigned as the chief on April 18, 2014. On July 1, 2014 I was appointed fire chief for the Town of Becket.

The members of the fire department responded to 121 fire calls in the towns of Becket and Washington including 5 structure fires, 18 motor vehicle accidents, 18 medical calls, 6 CO2 detector alarms, 26 fire alarm activations, 6 brush/forest fire calls, 8 mutual aid calls, 3 chimney fires, 5 service calls and 26 miscellaneous calls. Miscellaneous calls can include wires down, water in basements, electric poles on fire, traffic assistance, missing or lost hikers/children, and animals through the ice on a pond.

This translates to approximately 2,500 hours of volunteer service given to the town over the last 12 months. There are 17 members of the department. Without these dedicated volunteer members responding to the calls for help, Becket would be burdened, both financially and with loss of life and

property. Members meet every Tuesday evening for training classes, maintenance on equipment and companionship. With an average of 13 to 15 members showing up at the Tuesday evening meetings, this adds another 1,352 hours in volunteer service for the town.

The members of the department submitted a grant request to the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation for monies to help in the repair of five dry fire hydrants. We were notified in August of our successful application. This grant helped purchase the supplies and once the weather permits the hydrants will be updated.

We would like to thank you, the taxpayers, for your continued support. I personally would like to thank my fellow firefighters for their support and dedication.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Hanford,
Fire Chief

Officers:

Mark Hanford, Chief
Paul Mikaniewicz, Deputy Chief
Madelaine Elovirta, Asst. Chief
Kristopher Massini, Captain
Robert Healey, Sr. Lieutenant

Firefighters:

James Atwell
Aurele Bergeron
Richard Beringer
Justin Elovirta
William Elovirta
Adam Giarolo
Gene Gobel
Robert Healey, Jr.
Christopher Isner
Robert Johnson, Jr.
Kyle Kelson
Paul Mazut
Tyler Miller
Michael Ozner
Sydney Tarjick



◆ **REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT** ◆

The 2014 yearly breakdown shows the Police Department responded to 2,890 calls. For the full year breakdown of calls and categories please see below. The statistics are gathered from our computer records management system, Precinct Connection. Every call that the Department receives gets put into this database and the Department can print out the statistics monthly.

In addition to the activity breakdown, Officers also issued citations for 85 civil motor vehicle violations, 11 criminal motor vehicle violations, 11 arrest violations, and 210 written warnings, for a total of 317 citations.

Officers made 19 arrests, including 4 for domestic assault & battery, 3 for operating under the influence of alcohol, 5 on warrants, 2 for breaking and entering, 1 for operating a motor vehicle without a license, 1 for indecent assault and battery, 1 for possession of class A drug (heroin), and 2 for receiving stolen property. Additionally, 11 individuals were summoned to court on 14 criminal charges.

The Becket Police Association sponsored a certified pistol course for firearms training and will continue to hold classes in the future. All of the Officers in the Department continue to be proactive and reactive 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. This past year the Department added two part-time

Officers. Adam Gonska and Kenneth Pettibone have been a great addition to the Department and it has been a pleasure working with them.

I want to reiterate that I have an open door policy for anyone wishing to speak to me in regards to any issue. My office hours for firearms renewals and new applicants are from five to seven o'clock on Thursday nights. However, if residents are unable to make this time frame an appointment with me can be made.

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, and Becket Highway Department 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

Becket Police Department Calls 2014

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept.	Oct.	Nov	Dec	Total
Abandoned Vehicles		1							2	1	1	1	6
Abuse									1				1
Alarm	8	3	4	8	7	16	10	19	12	14	12	13	126
Ambulance/Medical	8	8	8	8	10	18	15	21	16	8	10	6	136
Animal	5	2	21	16	16	19	15	10	11	3		2	120
Assault								1			1		2
Assault & Battery		1			1								2
Assist other Department	7	1	7	1	11	6	7	8	3	7	3	2	63
Attempted Burglary													0
Attempt to locate							1	4				1	6
Attempted Suicide													0
Attempted Theft													0
Atv Complaint				1	1			1					3
Bad Checks					1								1
BOLO	6	4	8	4	4	8	10	8	4	9	3	6	74
Breaking & Entering		1	1	2		3	3	4	1	2	1		18
Burglary		1	1	1			1		4	2	1		11
Call Return	18	22	21	18	12	16	27	16	20	16	15	21	222

Becket Police Department Calls 2014

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept.	Oct.	Nov	Dec	Total
Criminal Mischief				1				2					3
Car Off Roadway		5	1			1	2			1	5	3	18
Calls for Service	3	2	3	2	4	10	8	7	7	8	7	10	71
Check				1		1					1		3
Child Custody	1						2	2	3	1		4	13
Civil		3	3			5	4	4	3		2	6	30
Court	3	4	5	1	5	3	5	5	1	3	1	4	40
Credit Card Fraud	1												1
Destruction of Property		1	1				2						4
Disorderly Conduct			1				1						2
DOA Dead on Arrival													0
Detail	10	9	13	10	21	7	9	14	26	17	15	10	161
Disturbance			1	1	4	4	3	4	2	1	1		0
Drugs	1		1				3		3		1		9
Disabled Motor Vehicle	9	7	5	3	5	6	7	6	2		15	8	73
Escort	2	2			1					1			6
Explosives													0
Firearms		1	2	2	2	1	2	3	3		1	1	18
Fire	3	3	3	4	3	4		1	6	4	2	2	35
Follow Up Invest	1	7	9	7	12	3	4	3	12	15	4	1	78
Found Property	1	4	3	2	3	4	7	1	3	1		2	31
209A Order Service													0
Fraud					1							1	2
Gun Shots			1	1		1	1	2	1		1		8
Harassment	5	5	2	3	1	2	3	3	5	1	3		33
House Watch/Check	9	6	7	3	3	5	3		1		3	2	42
Indecent Exposure	1												1
Illegal Burn								1	2				3
Illegal Dumping			1	1	1					1			4
Information Request	22	19	25	15	26	41	39	28	22	27	22	17	303
Juvenile Calls			1	2					1		1	1	6
Larceny Under 250			2		2		3		1				8
Larceny Over 250		1			2		2	1		1	1		8
Littering							1						1
Lock Out	1	1			1	2	1	3	1	1	1	1	13
Lost				1		2		1		1		2	7
Mail Complaint									1	1			2
Mental Health Sec 12	5		2		2	1	1	1	1	1		1	15
Missing Persons		1				1							2
Motor Vehicle Accident	10	2	6	4	1	8	7	2	2	7	2	5	56
Motor Vehicle Accident (OUI)					1		1					1	3
Motor Vehicle Violation					1		1	2	1	6	2	1	14
Nuisance	2			1	2	2	2	4	1				14
Odor								1					
Open Burn													0
Operating under the Influence (oui)	1	1				3					1	6	
Paper Work	7	10	3	4	11	7	8	10	11	1	3	8	83
Parade													0

Becket Police Department Calls 2014

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept.	Oct.	Nov	Dec	Total
Permits (LTC/FID)	9	10	7	6	7	4	8	3	3	1	4	3	65
Parking Complaint				1			1	1	1		1		5
Patrol	2	3	6	1	13	14	78	34	24	12	6	9	202
Phone 911 Hang Up	2	1		2	3	3	3	1	1	4	1	4	25
Possible Scam			1										1
Property Damage	1	2						1	2				6
Property Return		1	6	3	2	1	1	2	1	5		1	23
Protect from abuse					1								1
Prowler Complaint													0
Rape	1												1
Radar Request	2	4	4	7	9	9	5	6	5	3	3	5	62
Reckless Driving		2	1	5			3	2	1	2	2	1	19
Records Request	3	2	9	3	2	4	2	1	6	3		5	40
Refer to other Dept.				1		1	1						3
Ride Along													0
Road Complaints	4	6	2	5	2	7	8	7	4	6	18	6	75
Runaway							1						1
Scam Complaints		1	2	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	2	16
Sensitive Call R	1	2	5		2	1	1	6	3	2	1		24
Sex Offender Registry				1			2	2	2	1	1	2	11
Snow Mobile Complaint		1											1
Speeding Complaints					2	1	1			3			7
Stolen Motor Vehicle							1		1			.	2
Stolen Property			1		1				1	1	3	1	8
Suicide													0
Summons Service			4	2	1	1	3		4	7	9	4	35
Suspicious Activity	1	4	1	4	3	2	10	5	3	3	2		38
Suspicious Persons	1	1	2	1	3	4	2	2	3		2		21
Suspicious Vehicle	2	3	3	4	6	2	4	6	3	4	2	5	44
Trespass	1		3	1			4	1	3	5	1	1	20
Town ordinance (TWPO)								2					
Theft		1		2									3
Unattended death											1		1
Unsecure Property										2	1	5	8
Underage Drinking			1	1									2
Unwanted Party	1		2						1				4
Vehicle Stop												1	1
Vehicles Towed	2	1	1										4
Warrant			2	3	3		1		2	3		2	16
Weather Advisory							2	1					3
Welfare Checks	3	3	1	2		8		1	1	4	3	5	31
Wires Down	1	1		2	1	1	3	1		3	2	1	16
													Total Calls
Total Calls Monthly for 2014	186	187	237	186	241	272	370	290	272	237	205	207	2890
Total Arrests 2014		1	3	4		1	3	1	2	3		1	19
Total Criminal Charges 2014		3	2		1		3	1		2		2	14

◆ *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 Selectman. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at the Becket Town Hall, 557 Main St. Additional meetings are scheduled on an as need basis.

First, I would like to acknowledge Marty Schlanger's re-election to the Board in May of 2014. Marty has willingly and unwaveringly volunteered to serve on the board for as long as I can remember. It is rare to find individuals who possess the knowledge, life experience and a sense of fairness when dealing with complex zoning rules and the idiosyncrasies of each application. Marty also served as the board's clerk this past year.

Ann Krawet also needs to be recognized for her willingness to chair the Large Scale Wind Energy sub-committee which was created to review the Large Wind Energy by-law in light of new scientific evidence surrounding potential detrimental health effects these devices could pose to the community.

The remaining members of the board are Gale LaBelle, the vice-chair, Beth VanNess the Clerk Pro Tem, Ann Krawet and Howard Lerner, the board's associate member. The associate member generally attends all board meetings and in the absence of a regular member assumes the duties of the absent individual when needed.

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 Approve 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 By-law and other land-use regulations.

In 2014, the Becket Planning Board convened for twelve regularly scheduled monthly meetings.

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.

One special permit application was presented for review and was approved.

This Special Permit enabled the applicant to modify an existing nonconforming structure on Old Pond Road, as it was determined that the change was no more detrimental to the character of the neighborhood than other existing structures located nearby.

A Definitive Subdivision Plan was presented to the Planning Board to create a new subdivision within Becket to be known as Hambledon Hill. After a thorough review of the plan by all town departments and the Board of Health the subdivision plan with specific conditions and a performance bond in place was approved.

Additional Actions

A hearing was held regarding medical marijuana and the town's ability to regulate where medical marijuana facilities could be located with the community in light of the Attorney General's ruling against an outright prohibition as well as the expiration of the moratorium period. During the hearing the board gathered community input but eventually decided to table the matter given the Department of Public Health's inability to establish clear guidance and award dispensary licenses throughout the state and in Berkshire County.

A second public hearing was convened pursuant to a Superior Court remand order to review a prior application for a special permit, which had been denied. Based on new evidence presented at the hearing the Planning Board determined that the applicant did not need a special permit as the structures modification was for an exempted agricultural use.

The planning board also decided to review the Small Scale Wind Energy by-law in light of the sub-committees recommended changes to the Large Scale Wind Energy by-law in light of new scientific evidence surrounding potential detrimental health effects these devices might pose to the community.

The Planning Board issued a release of covenants for a parcel of land in the Stoney Brook subdivision. This missing release document was uncovered when the attorney handling the property transfer discovered it in his title search.

The board established 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

◆ **REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD** ◆

~ Continued ~

constructive comments. Planning Board meetings are posted in Town Hall, and also for information, on the town Web site, www.townofbecket.org.

correspondence via USPS or email at planning@townofbecket.org with any questions.

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. 20, send

Respectfully submitted,

Robert T. Ronzio
Chair



◆ *REPORT OF THE BUILDING INSPECTOR* ◆

The Town of Becket has continued to be an interesting place to work and its people have always been grateful and cooperative. This has helped to keep my work meaningful and fun. As I go into my 10th year as Building Commissioner and Zoning Enforcement Officer I want to express my thanks to everyone who has either assisted me or has asked for my help.

I have been working with the Energy Committee which has been trying to figure out the best ways to save money as a town on energy costs and educate the public how they might save. We are also looking into alternative energy solutions which have so much potential as part of that answer.

Being a Green Community and a “Stretch Energy Code” town, the Commonwealth has given Becket the ability to upgrade its energy conservation measures at the Town Garage last year by providing a substantial grant as well as a new roof and siding.

Becket received a *Cross-Boundary Collaboration* award at the Massachusetts Digital Government Summit for its part with the Berkshire Online Municipal Building Permit Team. The online permitting software is a success with contractors and homeowners who have used it to apply for permits. It can be daunting at first for new comers so if I can be of any assistance with interpretation or any part of the building process, please call me or e-mail me at building@townofbecket.org. You can find out more at www.townofbecket.org.

It is a pleasure working with Wiring Inspectors Dana Spring and James LaPier and Plumbing Inspectors Mark Levernoch and Brian Middleton. I would like to thank them for their service and dedication as part-time employees.

Thanks also to Gary Danko my assistant building inspector, Nina Weiler, the executive assistant and Heather Hunt, the secretary of the Planning Board for their help.

The following permits were issued for the calendar year 2014:

Plumbing permits issued38
Fees collected\$ 3,120.00

Electrical permits issued87
Fees collected\$ 7,450.00

Gas permits issued70
Fees collected\$ 4,310.00

Total Fees Collected\$14,880.00

The amount of fees collected for building permit applications during this period totaled \$ 28,617.80

Accessory Buildings.....8
Additions to SFD6
Decks & Porches14
Demolition Permits3
Foundation Only.....2
Repair & Remodel18
Siding, Windows & Roofs41
Signs2
Temporary Membrane Structures.....12
Sheet Metal.....4
Miscellaneous.....27
Solid Fuel Burning Appliances31
Single Family Dwellings5
Certificates of Occupancy12
Certificates of Inspection78
Commercial Structures25
Including Camp Cabins
Total: Permits-143; Residential-118 and Commercial-25

Estimated value of construction was \$ 4,242,955.00

Respectfully Submitted,

William E. Girard
Building Inspector
Zoning Enforcement Officer



◆ *REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS* ◆

2014 was year of transition.

The current assessed values are based on sales in 2012 & 2013 as mandated by the Department of Revenue.

Our Board continues to inspect and photograph properties in town. As always, we appreciate the cooperation of Becket homeowners.

In Massachusetts, there are several exemptions available to residents. Becket has voted to offer exemptions for elderly, veterans and blind taxpayers. Call or visit our office to see if you are eligible.

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 or garaging changes.

Please remember to submit changes of address so tax bills will be forwarded appropriately.

Two web sites you may find helpful: www.massrmv.com and www.masslandrecords.com. A number of our forms, as well as property record cards and maps can also be found at www.townofbecket.org.

Total Appropriations	\$5,932,151.00
Other Charges	\$ 1,444.00
State and County charges	\$ 15,715.00
Allowance for Abatements and Exemptions	\$ 98,693.41
Total Appropriations and Charges	\$6,048,003.41

Estimated Receipts - State	\$ 253,253.00
Estimated Receipts - Local	\$ 606,223.00
Free Cash	\$ 57,193.00

Total Receipts \$ **916,669.00**

Total Amount to be Raised \$ **6,108,743.37**

CLASS	LEVY %	VALUATION	LEVY	PARCEL COUNT
Residential	90.4601	449,880.760	\$4,696,755.13	3,738
Commercial	3.7980	18,888,440	197,195.31	68
Industrial	0.2246	1,117,000	11,661.92	3
Personal Property	5.5173	27,438.932	286,462.45	922
Totals	100%	497,325,132	\$5,192,074.81	4,731

Tax Rate \$ **9.62**

The Board of Assessors processed:

Elderly and Veteran Exemptions	38
Blind	1
Senior Work-off Abatements	6
Personal Property /Real Estate Abatements	28
Motor Vehicle Abatements	83

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Will
Geraldine L. Walter

◆ *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 BOARD OF HEALTH* ◆

The Becket Board of Health has been diligently working this year to update office procedures. The BOH has applied for a computer program system to stream online applications, monitor yearly permitting, and assist in the billing process.

The Berkshire Public Health Alliance this year collaborated with the Becket Board of Health for public services needed. Scott Krzanik, health agent, provided assistance with Title V inspections, review of Title V footprints, and health inspections. His expertise was instrumental in assisting in the Waste Water Design Plan for Camp Watitoh.

Promotion of health programs to educate our elderly has been implemented this year. Porchlight VNA has monthly blood pressure clinics, and topics such as heart attacks, fall prevention, post hip surgery, tick bites and prevention have been very successful.

The Becket Board of Health worked with the Becket Ambulance Department, the Mass. Department of Public Health, and The Berkshire Alliance on implementation of protocols in event of Ebola patients in our community. Many teleconferences and updates were fulfilled.

There were a few beaver nuisance problems this year. A proposal to use Beaver Solutions as a consultant to our beaver problems was implemented. Beaver Solutions has assisted some town residents to use an ecological resolution to the problem.

Beach signs will be again available in 2015. Each beach will have a sign, permit number and person to contact. Each beach is tested weekly, from May to September, for each community by Housatonic Basin Sampling and Testing.

Many septic systems were inspected and updated this year, and some have not been installed yet:

Septic Systems and Title V Inspections: 55

Wells: 4

Beaver Permits: 5

Installers Permits: 19

Food Establishments: 20

Camps: 4

Beaches: 26

Revenue: \$21,000

Expenses: \$9,500

Our meeting schedule has changed:

1st and 3rd Wednesday: April – September

1st or 3rd Wednesday: October – March

Respectfully Submitted,

Gale LaBelle
Laurel Burgwardt
Howard Lerner



◆ **REPORT OF THE PORCHLIGHT VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION** ◆

The following is a report of the services performed in the Town of Becket from 1/01/2014 thru 12/31/2014:

HOME VISITS	1st Quarter 1/1/14 - 3/31/14	2nd Quarter 4/1/14 - 6/30/14	3rd Quarter 7/1/14 - 9/30/14	4th Quarter 10/1/14 - 12/31/14	Total
Skilled Nursing	51	127	90	72	268
Physical Therapy	36	86	62	63	184
Occupational Therapy	21	14	19	12	54
Speech Therapy	0	0	1	1	1
Medical Social Work	4	9	5	6	18
Maternal Child Health	3	0	0	0	3
Nutrition Services	0	1	1	0	2
Home Health Aide	3	7	8	1	18
Totals	118	244	186	155	548
NON-BILLABLE	0	0	0	0	0
Nurse-Practitioner Visits	0	0	2	0	2

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE	1st Quarter 1/1/14 - 3/31/14	2nd Quarter 4/1/14 - 6/30/14	3rd Quarter 7/1/14 - 9/30/14	4th Quarter 10/1/14 - 12/31/14	Total
Confirmed	4	1	1	2	8
Probable	0	0	0	0	0
Suspected	1	3	1	1	6
Revoked	0	0	0	0	0

CLINICS	# of Clinics Held / Attendance				
Flu	0	0	2/33	1/16	3/49
Blood Pressure	3/15	3/16	2/33	2/25	10/89
Presentations				2/25	2/25

Telehealth Monitoring	0	3	1	1	5
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Respectfully submitted,

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



◆ **REPORT OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION** ◆

This small committee worked hard this year to provide a great summer parks program, a well attended swimming lesson program and spruced the entrances of our town. The parks were mowed faithfully by Dave Shorey, the grounds and maintenance tech.

The Becket Center Park ball field was groomed and cared for by Bill and Maddy Elovirta. We had one of the light posts repaired by Dan Burke Electrical Company and the dugout roofs were repaired and had new shingles applied by contractor David Drugmand. Signs were made for the ball field stating that no alcoholic beverages were allowed on town property. The playground area received a new covering of appropriate wood chips and a load of sand was delivered and then spread by volunteer Bill Elovirta. A new bench was purchased and placed by the playground area for parents to sit while their children played on the playscape.

The four days a week summer parks program was supplied with new jump ropes, balls, and other equipment to allow for a truly fun and active summer that lasted seven weeks. Matt Baker and his assistant Jamie Pease were the program managers and they did an outstanding job. We hope that this coming summer will see a lot more kids taking advantage of this free program.

The beach continues to erode and another effort to repair it will happen this spring. Meanwhile, a free learn to swim program was led by lifeguard Moses Greenspan. Nearly twenty children and young adults attended. All ages are invited to come and learn this important skill. Moses was the lifeguard after lessons were completed and Matt Baker was the weekend lifeguard. Tina LeVasseur was the overseer of the beach program, a job that Tina has held for many years.

The tennis court in the village was used a lot. Volunteers Bill and Maddy Elovirta cleared the brush growing in the fences and painted the tennis backboard. They then put up a new sign that states the "Rules for the use of the tennis court".

The roadside gardens were cared for by Ginger Connor, Rita Furlong, and Maddy Elovirta. Mulch was purchased and spread to help control weeds.

Plans for the repair of the stonewall that was accidentally damaged is forth coming this spring and the walk/running path at the North Becket Village Park will be dug up and repaired after school is out. The entry walkway used by the school children will be cleaned up by our faithful highway crew when weather allows.

The playground at the Center Park will need to be replaced and an article will be on a future town meeting to approve this expenditure.

Respectfully submitted,

Parks and Recreation Committee Members:

Ginger Conner, Maddy Elovirta, Rita Furlong,
Tina Lavasseur, Sean Raymer



◆ **REPORT OF THE BECKET CONSERVATION COMMISSION** ◆

The Conservation Commission is composed of volunteers who are responsible for administering and enforcing the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and educating the citizens of Becket on the importance of preserving and protecting our wetlands and waterways. Commissioners conduct site visits and hold meetings and public hearings to issue permits. They also attend training sessions and participate in workshops organized by the Mass Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) when possible.

Applications for wetland permits are due on the first Friday of each month for that month's agenda. Regularly scheduled meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month beginning at 6:30 PM at the Becket Town Hall. Special meetings are held when necessary.

The Town website has a section devoted to answering frequently asked questions about the Wetlands Protection Act.

Agendas and meeting minutes are posted there as well. All legal notices are posted in the Country Journal.

To contact the Commission, call the office at Town Hall at 413-623-8934 Ext 29 or send an E-mail to conservation@townofbecket.org.

Commissioners: Scott Morley, Chairperson; Richard Pryor, Vice-Chairperson; Purr McEwen, Martin Winters, Bud Moylan, Laurel Burgwardt, Kathy Vsetecka, Shep Evans, Cindy Delpapa. Conservation Agents: Kathy Vsetecka & Shep Evans

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Morley
Chairperson

Permits Issued:

Order of Conditions – 15
Determination of Applicability – 19
Certificate of Compliance – 12
Site Visits – 34

Filing Fees Collected: \$2,925

Expenses:

Salaries – \$10,258
Legal Ads – \$844
MACC Dues & Conferences – \$422
Office, miscellaneous – \$385



◆ *REPORT OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT* ◆

It has been a busy year doing 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 not too severe thanks in part to the weather and our equipment. The multipurpose tractor's ability to smooth out the roads before the roads can support the weight of the grader helps to remove the excess water and ruts from the road.

In May, we received \$36,507.00 in Pothole Aid from the Governor's Office to help Towns deal with winter/spring road damage. We did extensive patching of black top roads in May and June, putting down 450 tons of hot mix asphalt, which has helped maintain the roads. (Smoother roads reduce winter costs, as it is easier to remove snow and ice.)

In May, we received the 2014 International dump truck to replace the 2000 International dump truck.

In late August, we received notice from the Governor's office that we would be receiving \$30,000.00 to fix the damage caused from severe rain events in June, July and August. These events had caused minor to extensive damage in different areas of town; we were able to complete all of the repair work before winter.

In September, using \$21,877.00 from Chapter 90 money, we chip sealed one mile of Yokum Pond Road from the Lee line to the top of the mountain, helping to seal the cracks and provide a new friction / wearing course.

In September, we received notice and contracts for the Hazard Mitigation Grant from FEMA / MEMA – we had applied for those funds last year to replace culverts on Bonny Rigg Hill Road. Late in December, we received the notice to proceed with this project and over the next 2 years we will be getting the final design / engineering, permitting and construction completed on this project.

In September and October, using \$431,455.33 of Chapter 90 money, we full-depth recycled with asphalt injection (base stabilizer) and paved one mile of Wade Inn Road, paved one and a half miles over the chip seal on Wade Inn Road and performed shoulder and drainage work.

In November, we received the ground speed computers in trucks #2, #4, and #6, which has helped reduce and control our salt usage.

In Late November, the dealer for the new grader took delivery from the factory of the new grader and shipped it to the plow manufacturer for the installation of the wing and front plows; delivery is expected for late winter.

During the winter of 2014 (January to April), we experienced a lot of snow events that were close together or multi day events; during November and December of 2014 we have had a lot of freezing rain or ice with only a few snow events. This year the group-purchasing co-op only received one bid for rock salt as companies bought each other out and increased the price by \$20.00 per ton, which increased our costs.

I would like to thank Bert, Bob, George, Heather, Jeff and Mark for their hard work and dedication to the Highway Department.

I would also like to thank the Administrator, Buildings and Grounds, Selectmen, Ambulance, Fire, and Police Departments for their support and dedication.

If residents have questions or concerns, please feel free to call the Highway Department office Monday through Friday 7:30 to 4:00 at 623-8988.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher J. Bouchard
Highway Superintendent



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

Thank you! Thank you residents of Becket. 2014 was a year of challenges and new tasks for the Becket Arts Center. Undoubtedly the biggest challenge was a financial one, finding a way to keep our doors open without utilizing paid staff. This was accomplished through the gallant efforts of many volunteers, who did everything from hanging works of art to maintaining the cleanliness of our rest rooms.

Perhaps you saw and experienced some of the Center's magical moments yourself during this past summer. Freya Segal's and Susan Miller's Exhibit drew record breaking numbers to view Freya's watercolor and mixed media portraits and Susan's musically inspired oil pastel paintings. Over 200 individuals applauded their work at the exhibit opening on August 30th.

It was standing room only at the opening night of the Marty Lasker Lecture Series on July 8. "The Life, Times and Music of Louis Armstrong" was performed by Dixieland Stomp, a 6 man instrumental group from Springfield. By popular request they will be returning for another performance during the upcoming 2015 season.

Equally as popular was the performance of Sarah Lee Guthrie and Johnny Irion on July 22. Their music combining Irion's love of pop, rock, and blues with Guthrie's roots in folk and country was most enthusiastically received.

The Gift Shop drew large numbers to view, admire, and purchase the Center's diverse and beautiful assortment of ceramic pieces, greeting cards, handbags, scarves, and jewelry, most of which was created right here in the Berkshires. Lucy Sandler contributed many, many hours of her time to ensure that the shop ran smoothly and efficiently.

Her artistic displays brought about many "ooh's and ah's." Our friendly and helpful volunteers were a huge asset in helping to keep our expenses to a minimum. Consequently, the Gift Shop demonstrated a small profit for the first time.

The Summer Solstice Bash, highlighted by a spectacular lighting display and musical entertainment by the Dana Welts Band, "Lady Di and the Dukes," provided an evening of lively music for dancing, an exciting Silent Auction, and community fellowship.

Looking ahead to 2015, as a result of a most successful fund drive, and the securing of a grant from the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, the Arts Center plans to hire a part time administrative coordinator in early March. The Center is most grateful and acknowledges enthusiastically the work of Ted Greenwood and his committee.

Funding for these programs and others is largely supported by membership contributions. Mass Cultural Council grants from the local Cultural Councils of Becket, Washington, Lee, Chester, Hinsdale-Peru, and Otis played a significant role in the funding for the Marty Lasker Lecture series and the Summer Solstice Bash.

The BAC welcomes all to visit, participate and share their ideas and talents. We especially want to thank again all those volunteers who worked so very hard creating and implementing our programs in 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Soluri,
President



◆ *REPORT OF THE MULLEN HOUSE EDUCATION CENTER* ◆

During the 2014 season, we continued to reach our goals of refurbishing and restoring the 1845 Mullen House, renting the offices and expanding the galleries. This past year renting the upstairs offices became a priority. There are five office spaces in the building. One first floor office is being rented year round to the Becket Land Trust. In an effort to occupy a more compact space near the back entry and near to the Barn Gallery and other exhibit spaces, the BLT moved from the second to the first floor. A small second floor office is being used by the MHEC. We have rented three upstairs offices. The tenants include an author, an architect, and a graphic designer, all of whom have accepted, in lieu of not being non-profits, the responsibility of donating time and effort to helping the community of Becket. We want to give a big thank you to Town of Becket Administrator Ed Gibson for overseeing our troubles with the water system and seeing that all is fixed. We would also like to thank the town's buildings and maintenance staff for helping with frozen pipes. As a town owned building, we are thankful for the help that we have received with these vital issues.

The barn, which has been totally renovated, continues to be transformed into an exhibit/museum space. In addition to the already donated quarry artifacts that have been placed in interesting groupings, we now have the beginnings of a Ballou and Sons Basket Company exhibit. This exhibit will serve to illuminate the history of basket making, both canvas and wood, in Becket. In addition to the three baskets that were donated by the Becket Historical Commission, we have acquired an envelope postmarked 1895 Becket, sent from Ballou to a client in Chicago.

We completed the hanging, narratives and signage for the Becket-Chester Railway exhibit. This exhibit, consisting of historic photographs is now permanently hung in the front gallery. Many of the photographs were provided by David Pierce - to whom we owe a great deal of thanks for helping us with this venture. The second phase of the Railway exhibit, focusing on the survey maps, has been completed, and will be hung in the Becket Land Trust office and the entrance hallway. Throughout the summer the MHEC once again coordinated open houses and receptions with the Becket Arts Center, so that community members and tourists could visit the galleries and go back and forth between the two organizations.

The Becket Land Trust Historic Quarry Permanent Exhibit has continued to occupy the main gallery on the first level along with the pictorial narrative about James Burwell Turner, entitled: "DIARY OF A QUARRY WORKER" – featuring the 1892 diary of a twenty year old quarryman who later became the foreman (a position he held for 50 years) of the Hudson-Chester Quarry, now the Becket Land Trust Historic Quarry and Forest. In addition, a tangential illustrated poetry exhibit was refurbished and expanded.

We thank the local cultural councils of Becket and Chester for funding the 2014 programs, as well as, the many volunteers who helped with this year's receptions and installations. We look forward to continuing our mission of serving the community with educational programming and maintaining rental offices for those in the arts and education.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy Napp Schindel,
Board of Directors



◆ **REPORT OF THE ENERGY COMMITTEE** ◆

Becket's Energy Committee has responsibility for a multi-faceted mission. The mission includes advising the Board of Selectmen, making recommendations in regard to both the energy efficiency of town buildings and operations, and renewable and alternate energy opportunities it has investigated for our municipal government. It ensures compliance with the Green Communities Program. It advises and assists the town and community in identifying and applying for energy and conservation-related grants and funding opportunities, provides residents with information on ways they can save energy and reduce energy payments. It also provides information on energy-related issues and recommends specific initiatives.

In order to accomplish this mission, the Committee has developed information that can be viewed as part of the Town of Becket website - www.townofbecket.org home page; Boards and Commissions, Energy Committee. This provides information on both the committee's short and long term goals, information packets, and workshops for residents, along with a large portfolio of available resources. It includes information on searches being done for both town and residential sites of significant size which might be used for projects such as commercial scale solar and wind, waste-to-energy, geothermal, small-scale hydro or other potential resources which the Town might be able to utilize.

The Energy Committee presented a well-attended informational meeting on June 21, 2014 and is planning another on June 20, 2015 from 10 -12 at the Town Hall. We have been involved with specialists from the Department of Energy Resources (DOER), The Center for EcoTechnology (CET), The Hampton Council of Governments, Energy Sage, Precision Decisions, the Otis Energy Committee and Berkshire Photovoltaic Services (BPVS) to gain additional information in fulfilling its mission.

The Committee has also been looking into potential alliances with nearby communities to reduce the cost of power purchases through wholesale bidding and to consider membership with them in the Solarize Mass program.

Committee Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
Cathy DeFoe	Chair
Garth Klimchuk	Co- Chair
Alvin Blake	Secretary
Robert Gross	Member
Katherine Hoak	Member
Chris Bouchard	Ex-Officio
Ed Gibson	Ex-Officio
Bill Girard	Ex-Officio
Dan Parnell	Ex-Officio

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy DeFoe	<i>Chair</i>
Garth Klimchuk	<i>Co-Chair</i>
Alvin Blake	<i>Secretary</i>
Robert Gross	<i>Member</i>
Katherine Hoak	<i>Member</i>



◆ *REPORT OF THE BECKET CULTURAL COUNCIL* ◆

The Becket Cultural Council is funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC), whose allocations are made to all of Massachusetts' 351 cities and towns to support community cultural activities.

The Becket Cultural Council (BCC) gives priority to projects and programs that directly benefit local organizations and local citizens of all ages. Other 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 community support.

BCC members for 2014 were Luz Bravo-Gleicher, Ruth Glazerman, Roberta Goldman, Tommie Hutto-Blake, Ann Krawet, Audrey Schlanger, Sally Soluri, Barbara Wacholder and Tracy Wilson. The Council welcomes inquiries for membership, especially from Becket residents with children attending the Becket Washington School.

For the grant year, July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014, the BCC met in November 2014 and carefully reviewed all submitted applications. The following grants, totaling \$4,241.00, were awarded for FY2014:

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Project Title</u>	<u>Award</u>
Becket Arts Center of the Hilltowns	Summer Solstice Celebration	\$300
Becket Arts Center of the Hilltowns	The Changing Forms of Art	\$370
Becket Arts Center of the Hilltowns	Drawing Landscape in Color	\$50
Becket Athenaeum, Inc.	2014 Museum Passes	\$500
Becket Athenaeum, Inc.	Town of Becket- Historical Archive Development	\$250
Becket Athenaeum, Inc.	Athenaeum Holiday Gala	\$50
Becket Land Trust	1896 Rail Line Survey Exhibit	\$150
Becket Washington School	BTG Performing Arts for Schools at the Colonial	\$250
Becket Washington School	Colonial Theater	\$250
Becket Washington School	Old Sturbridge Village	\$875
Becket Washington School	Berkshire Museum	\$96
Becket Washington School	Colonial Theater	\$150
Becket Washington School	Franklin Park Zoo's "In School"	\$100
Becket Washington School	BTG PLAYS! School Residency Program	\$500
Lisa and Abe Guthrie	Hilltown Hoot	\$50
Mullen House Education Center, Inc.	Becket Basket Industry Exhibit	\$150
Otis Police Department	Kops 'N Kids "The History of Baseball"	\$150

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Wilson, *BCC member*



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

This office serves the needs of the Veterans of Becket and their families. Again, this year, the case load of Veterans' Services increased slightly. This year \$16,998.69 was approved for Veterans' Benefits with 75%, or \$12,749.02, being returned by the State for a total cost to the Town of \$4,249.67. Citizens of the Town of Becket should be proud that they are able to help our veterans and their families in this way.

Several of the veterans being assisted fall under a category called "Medical Only". If a veteran's income is too high for regular monetary benefits, he/she may still be eligible for what is known as "Medical Only". This is part of the same program, but allows the veteran to be reimbursed for prescription co-pays, doctor co-pays, reimbursement of Medicare Part 'B' payments, and several other medical bills. Every veteran who lives in Massachusetts qualifies, with payments being based on how much their income compares to 200% of the Federal Poverty level.

One of the many duties of the Veterans' Services Office (VSO) is to assist veterans and their families with finding other agencies that can help them, assisting them where

needed in obtaining and completing the required paperwork. This includes both Massachusetts and Federal Programs. One resource the VSO uses, that can also be accessed by anyone, is a website found at www.MassVetsAdvisor.org. These are programs that would help them with food, shelter, and other assistance.

The Veterans' Services office is open Monday's from 10:00 to 1:00. If a veteran or their family needs help, information, or an appointment, they may do so by calling 243-5519 and leave a message, or email to LeeVetsAgent@wmconnect.com. They may also get information on the Becket Town website, under Town Departments - Veterans Services.

Respectfully Submitted,

Doug Mann

Becket Veterans' Service Officer (Veterans' Agent)



◆ **REPORT OF THE HARBOR MASTER** ◆

The 2014 Becket boating season was once again reportable accident free. Our boaters show great respect and courtesy for each other as well as behaving in a safe manner.

The newly defined raft registration program was fairly successful. There were still a handful of rafts and docks that needed proper registration. My goal for 2015 is to resolve any confusion that remains with this small population. I suggest that anyone who has a question contact me via town hall.

My thanks to the Highway Department for handling some needed repairs on our aging equipment.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Rosenthal
Harbor Master
Town of Becket

◆ *REPORT OF THE BECKET ATHENAEUM* ◆

At the Becket Athenaeum, our commitment to serving the communities of Becket and Washington remains strong. During 2014, 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 to the New York Community Trust for their support to upgrade and enhance our aging facility and infrastructure. Our local LCCs from both Becket and Washington, and the Libri Foundation from Oregon have also provided support for our materials we provide to our patrons all year long including but not limited to new books, movies, and museum passes to local attractions.

Our staff is similar to last year. Cathy DeFoe is our Director. Dawn Greene is our Assistant Librarian. Katelyn Hamling is working in our grant-funded position as After School Program Coordinator. Nancy Wilson, our long-serving librarian, continues in this role. Our Board of Trustees has grown by 3 with the addition of 2 Washington residents, Jan Nelson and Lisa Grogan, and Robert Gross from the Town of Becket.

Our after-school programming serves the needs of students from the local elementary, middle school and high schools with nutritious snacks, help with homework, and access to the internet. We serve up to 22 students on a single day with the help of a mix of 14 adult volunteers and interns. We request that the families of our program participants help support our program by donating time 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 with library tasks. We would like to acknowledge Williams College and the YMCA Berkshire Outdoor Center for their support and partnership in 2014.

We are very pleased to report that we have again received funding for our after-school programming for 2014-2015, allowing us to continue the essential staffing, programming and technology elements of this innovative and growing program. We give our heartfelt thanks to the New York Community Trust for their continued support of this program.

Our Story Craft program for the pre-school age group has been very successful. Designed to develop critical early-literacy skills, this program meets for an hour and a half one morning per week for stories, snacks, and a craft. Aaron Beatty and now Michelle Raymer have lead this effort devoting time, energy, and enthusiasm to this program. During the summer of 2014, the younger crowd did yoga,

danced with Jacob's Pillow Staff, sang with local musicians, and met Smokey the Bear at the Fire Station. We recently applied for and received a grant from the Central Berkshire Fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation to continue funding this program through the fall of 2015.

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. Please let us know how we can provide better services and activities.

We received LCC grants from both Washington and Becket to fund an effort to better catalogue and display our historical archive materials. This effort was led by Katherine Hoak with support from James Levy both of Becket as well as archivists and historians from the Berkshire Museum. The Barbara D. Davis Local History Room at the Athenaeum has many local artifacts on display as well as organized records of important milestones for our area and citizens. Katherine will continue this work in 2015 as we prepare for the 250th anniversary celebration for the Town of Becket.

The grant funded facilities project is now complete. It included replacement of our handicapped access ramp to make it ADA compliant; the addition of a vestibule; a new loft on the west side of the building to create more meeting and study space; and a new handicapped-accessible bath and kitchen to better address the needs of our patrons.

The capital appropriation from the Town of Becket for FY 2014 and FY 2015 has allowed us to complete adding insulation throughout the Library's exterior walls, which had no insulation whatsoever as well as adding additional insulation in the attic. The condition of our roof continues to be a concern. We had to use capital appropriation funds to remediate bats in the attic. We used the CPG funds from FY 2014 to replace our deteriorating front step and drafty front door. We will use the remaining CPG FY 2015 funds and FY 2015 capital appropriation funds to paint the building exterior, including re-glazing and painting the interior and exterior of all the single pane windows. Our future building plans include improving the energy efficiency of our 8 large single pane windows by adding storms and window quilts and replacing or repairing the roof edge if we are able to secure funding.

As an independent non-profit organization, we rely on and so appreciate the many supportive groups that help us

REPORT OF THE BECKET ATHENAEUM

(Continued)

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***

Nancy Wilson, ***Librarian***

Dawn Greene, ***Library Assistant***

Katelyn Hamling, ***After School Program Coordinator***

Becket Athenaeum Board of Trustees

Purr McEwen, ***Chair***

Aaron Beatty, ***Vice-Chair***

Lee Glazerman

Kelly Jourdain

Marcia Parnell, ***Treasurer***

Maria Wallington

Jan Nelson

Lisa Grogan, ***Secretary***

Robert Gross



◆ *REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE* ◆

The Year 2014 saw continued joint efforts between the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen for developing the 2015 town budget with the guidance and support of the Town Administrator Ed Gibson. Once again the budget was held below the 2.5% increase allowed by state statute by about \$255,000. Education expenses remain the largest item in the budget. Becket's assessment rose 1.97% this year which is a smaller increase than in the past. Vocational tuition for those students needing that option decreased by 13.33% due to a decrease in the number of students. Under the Town Administrator's recommendations some changes in the budget process were initiated. One adjustment was the creation, for the first time, of an overall budget item for property maintenance, in order to better track maintenance needs and assure ongoing repairs to the town's major assets. Another addition to the process was the creation of a capital plan to allow planning for future needs for replacement equipment and major property upkeep such as roof replacement. The plan allows for coordination of needs with the schedule of town debt retirement with the hope that impact on property taxes will be minimized.

Among the highlights of the items passed at the annual town meeting were cost of living raises for employees, acquisition of a zero-turn lawn mower, purchasing of new carpeting for town hall, replacement of front and rear double doors in town hall, and repair to the ramps and front steps of town hall to make them ADA compliant. In addition, the funding of the Board of Health's decision to use professional inspectors for some of their work was authorized. In preparation for the 250th anniversary celebration in 2015, \$25,000 was appropriated for the Becket 250th Anniversary Committee. It will be used for the celebration activities and to print an updated history of Becket which will be sold and the proceeds used to reimburse the town's appropriation. The stabilization fund was increased by \$97,157 from Free Cash. Support and funds for capital repairs for the Becket Athenaeum were again appropriated.

In addition to the zero-turn mower, funds were provided for purchasing a new all-wheel drive cruiser for the Police Department. Authorization was also granted for borrowing \$385,000 to purchase a new grader. Fortunately the grader was less expensive than expected and the bond was issued for \$350,000. The old grader will be sold. The need for a new dump truck and other new police cruiser is anticipated for the near future.

The other important action of 2014 was the resolution of the law suit involving brush and tree removal in 2009 in connection with a December 2008 ice storm. On the advice of counsel, the Finance Committee supported the Board of Selectmen's decision to reach a settlement thereby avoiding the expenses associated with pursuing lengthy court action. A special town meeting voted to accept the mediated settlement by appropriating \$500,000 from the stabilization fund. The Finance Committee is committed to replenishing the stabilization fund using available Free Cash.

The Finance Committee saw the retirement from the committee of long term member Jeremy Dunn and the addition of Mark Karlberg to fill the seat. We welcome Mark and appreciate his willingness to serve. We wish to thank Ed Gibson for his assistance and expertise in town finance issues which have made the Committee's work more efficient and enjoyable.

Respectfully,

Stephen LaBelle, Sr., *Chair*

Daniel Parnell

Ann Spadafora

Maria Wallington

Mark Karlberg



◆ **REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK - 2014** ◆

Elections and Town Meetings

New Voters Registered	72
Voters Deleted	66
Total Registered Voters as of 12/31/14	1,381

VOTER ATTENDANCE			
<u>Election</u>	<u>Registered Voters</u>	<u>Ballots Cast</u>	<u>Percent Voting</u>
Annual Town Caucus, April 8, 2014	1,375	53	4%
Annual Town Election, May 17, 2014	1,368	179	13%
State Primary, September 9, 2014	1,387	158	11.39%
State Election, November 6, 2014	1,385	593	43%

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Registered Voters</u>	<u>Voters Attending</u>	<u>Others Attending</u>	<u>% of Voters Attending</u>
Special Town Meeting, April 4, 2014	1,374	32	2	2%
Annual Town Meeting, May 10, 2014	1,362	74	22	5.43%
Special Town Meeting, September 22, 2014	1,382	37	1	3.0%

ANNUAL TOWN CAUCUS, APRIL 8, 2014

Pursuant to the foregoing notice, a Town Caucus was held in the Becket Town Hall on April 8, 2014. The meeting was called to order promptly at noon by Town Clerk George E. Roberts and the following Caucus Officers were elected: Eva Bonney, Chair (Presiding Officer); Patricia Clemons, Secretary. 53 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**:

For Member, Board of Selectmen (3-year term) Vote for One	<u>Votes</u>	%
Jeanne W. Pryor	47	89%
All Others (write-ins)	3	6%
Blanks	3	
Total Votes Cast	53	

For Member, Board of Health (3-year term) Vote for One	<u>Votes</u>	%
Howard Lerner (write-in)	6	11%
All Others (write-ins)	3	6%
Blanks	44	
Total Votes Cast	53	

For Cemetery Commissioner (3-year term) Vote for One	<u>Votes</u>	%
Robert Ronzio (write-in)	10	19%
All Others (write-ins)	2	4%
Blanks	41	
Total Votes Cast	53	

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

For Member, Finance Committee (3-year term) Vote for One	<u>Votes</u>	%
Mark L. Karlberg	22	42%
All Others (write-ins)	8	15%
Blanks	23	
Total Votes Cast	53	

For Member, Planning Board (5-year term) Vote for One	<u>Votes</u>	%
Mark L. Karlberg	16	30%
Martin Schlanger (write-ins)	27	51%
All Others (write-ins)	2	4%
Blanks	8	
Total Votes Cast	53	

For Moderator (3-year term) Vote for One	<u>Votes</u>	%
Bruce A. Garlow	44	83%
All Others (write-ins)	2	4%
Blanks	7	
Total Votes Cast	53	

For Town Clerk (3-year term) Vote for One	<u>Votes</u>	%
George E. Roberts	49	92%
All Others (write-ins)	0	
Blanks	4	
Total Votes Cast	53	

Registered voters	1,375
Ballots cast	53
Percent Voting	4%

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: Eva Bonney, Patricia Clemons, Beth VanNess, Charles Francis, Charles Garman, Purr McEwen. The Constable was Michael Sawyer, and the Police Officer was Nicole Miller.

Respectfully submitted,

George E. Roberts
Town Clerk

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTIONS, MAY 17, 2014

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, the Annual Town Election was held in the Becket Town Hall, 557 Main Street, on May 17, 2014. 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 179 voters participated and cast ballots for the election of candidates. The results of the election are as follows:

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

For Member, Board of Selectmen (3-year term) Vote for One	<u>Votes</u>	%
Jeanne W. Pryor	154	86%
George Fuller (write-in)	10	6%
All Others (write-ins)	6	3%
Blanks	9	5%
Total Votes Cast	179	

For Member, Board of Health (3-year term) Vote for One	<u>Votes</u>	%
Howard Lerner	119	66%
All Others (write-ins)	5	3%
Blanks	55	31%
Total Votes Cast	179	

For Cemetery Commissioner (3-year term) Vote for One	<u>Votes</u>	%
Robert T. Ronzio	47	26%
Dean Williams (write-in)	101	56%
All Others (write-ins)	6	3%
Blanks	25	14%
Total Votes Cast	179	

For Member, Finance Committee (3-year term) Vote for One	<u>Votes</u>	%
Mark L. Karlberg	74	41%
Ron DeFoe (write-in)	61	34%
All Others (write-ins)	5	3%
Blanks	39	22%
Total Votes Cast	179	

For Member, Planning Board (5-year term) Vote for One	<u>Votes</u>	%
Martin Schlanger	118	66%
Mark L. Karlberg	42	23%
All Others (write-ins)	0	0%
Blanks	19	
Total Votes Cast	179	

For Moderator (3-year term) Vote for One	<u>Votes</u>	%
Bruce Garlow	154	86%
All Others (write-ins)	1	1%
Blanks	24	13%
Total Votes Cast	179	

For Town Clerk (3-year term) Vote for One	<u>Votes</u>	%
George E. Roberts	141	79%
All Others (write-ins)	2	1%
Blanks	36	20%
Total Votes Cast	179	

Registered Voters:	1,368
Ballots cast:	179
Percent Voting	13%

A total of 179 ballots were cast. There were 18 absentee ballots and 9 spoiled ballots. The Auto-MARK voter assist terminal was tested at 10:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Election Officials were Gale LaBelle (Warden), Eva Bonney, (Clerk), Chuck Garman, Priscilla

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

McEwen, Charles Francis, Julia Kay-Grace, Patricia Clemons, and Beth VanNess. The Constable was Michael Sawyer. The polls closed at 7:00 p.m. and the unofficial results were printed and posted.

Respectfully Submitted,

George Roberts,
Town Clerk

MINUTES SEPTEMBER 9, 2014 **STATE PRIMARY TOWN OF BECKET**

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, the State Primary Election was held in the Becket Town Hall, 557 Main Street, on September 9, 2014. 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

Senator in Congress

	<u>Votes</u>
Blanks	22
Edward J. Markey	110
Write-ins	0
TOTAL VOTES	132

Governor (Vote for One)

	<u>Votes</u>
Blanks	0
Donald Berwick	51
Martha Coakley	44
Steven Grossman	37
Write-ins	0
TOTAL VOTES	132

Lieutenant Governor (Vote for One)

	<u>Votes</u>
Blanks	24
Leland Cheung	53
Stephen J. Kerrigan	38
Michael E. Lake	17
Write-ins	0
TOTAL VOTES	132

Attorney General (Vote for One)

	<u>Votes</u>
Blanks	3
Maura Healey	110
Warren E. Tolman	19
Write-ins	0
TOTAL VOTES	132

Secretary of State (Vote for One)

	<u>Votes</u>
Blanks	29
William Francis Galvin	102
Write-ins	1
TOTAL VOTES	132

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

Treasurer <i>(Vote for One)</i>	Votes
Blanks	16
Thomas P. Conroy	21
Barry R. Finegold	23
Deborah B. Goldberg	72
Write-ins	0
TOTAL VOTES	132

Auditor <i>(Vote for One)</i>	Votes
Blanks	32
Suzanne M. Bump	100
Write-ins	0
TOTAL VOTES	132

Representative in Congress, First District <i>(Vote for One)</i>	Votes
Blanks	26
Richard E. Neal	106
Write-ins	0
TOTAL VOTES	132

Councillor, Eighth District <i>(Vote for One)</i>	Votes
Blanks	41
Michael J. Albano	91
Write-ins	0
TOTAL VOTES	132

Senator in General Court, <i>(Vote for One)</i>	Votes
Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin, and Hampden District	Blanks 26
Benjamin Downing	106
Write-ins	0
TOTAL VOTES	132

Representative in General Court, <i>(Vote for One)</i>	Votes
Second Berkshire District	Blanks 27
William Pignatelli	104
Write-ins	1
TOTAL VOTES	132

District Attorney, Berkshire District <i>(Vote for One)</i>	Votes
Blanks	37
David F. Capeless	93
Write-ins	2
TOTAL VOTES	132

Register of Probate	Votes
Blanks	40
Frances B. Marinaro	92
Write-ins	0
TOTAL VOTES	132

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

REPUBLICAN

Senator in Congress (*Vote for One*)

	<u>Votes</u>
Blanks	9
Brian J. Herr	16
Write-ins	1
TOTAL VOTES	<u>26</u>

Governor (*Vote for One*)

	<u>Votes</u>
Blanks	
Charles D. Baker	4
Mark R. Fischer	22
Write-ins	0
TOTAL VOTES	<u>26</u>

Lieutenant Governor (*Vote for One*)

	<u>Votes</u>
Blanks	6
Karyn E. Plito	19
Write-ins	1
TOTAL VOTES	<u>26</u>

Attorney General (*Vote for One*)

	<u>Votes</u>
Blanks	7
John B. Miller	18
Write-ins	1
TOTAL VOTES	<u>26</u>

Secretary of State (*Vote for One*)

	<u>Votes</u>
Blanks	7
David D'Archangelo	18
Write-ins	1
TOTAL VOTES	<u>26</u>

Treasurer (*Vote for One*)

	<u>Votes</u>
Blanks	6
Michael James Heffernan	19
Write-ins	1
TOTAL VOTES	<u>26</u>

Auditor (*Vote for One*)

	<u>Votes</u>
Blanks	9
Patricia S. Saint Aubin	17
Write-ins	0
TOTAL VOTES	<u>26</u>

Representative in Congress (*Vote for One*)

First District

	<u>Votes</u>
Blanks	25
Write-ins	1
TOTAL VOTES	<u>26</u>

Councillor (*Vote for One*)

Eighth District

	<u>Votes</u>
Blanks	26
Write-ins	1
TOTAL VOTES	<u>26</u>

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

Senator in General Court (Vote for One)	<u>Votes</u>
Berkshire, Hampshire, and Franklin District	
Blanks	26
Write-ins	0
TOTAL VOTES	26

Representative in General Court (Vote for One)	<u>Votes</u>
Second Berkshire District	
Blanks	26
Write-ins	0
TOTAL VOTES	26

District Attorney (Vote for One)	<u>Votes</u>
Second Berkshire District	
Blanks	25
Write-ins	1
TOTAL VOTES	26

Register of Probate, Berkshire County (Vote for One)	<u>Votes</u>
Blanks	26
Write-ins	0
TOTAL VOTES	26

Town of Becket, Total Registered Voters:	1,387
Ballots cast:	158
Percent Voting	11.39%

A total of 158 votes were cast. There were 3 Absentee ballots, 0 Provisional ballots and 6 Spoiled ballots. The AutoMARK voter assist terminal was tested at 7:15 a.m. and 1:48 p.m. Election Officials were Eva Bonney, Patricia Clemons (Clerk), Chuck Garman, Gale LaBelle (Warden), Beth VanNess, Joan Moylan, Ruth Rosenthal Alvin Blake. The Constable was Michael Sawyer. The polls closed at 8:00 p.m. and the unofficial results were printed and posted.

Respectfully submitted,

George E. Roberts
Town Clerk

MINUTES NOVEMBER 4, 2014
STATE ELECTION TOWN OF BECKET

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, the State Election was held in the Becket Town Hall, 557 Main Street, on November 4, 2014. 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:

Senator in Congress (Vote for One)	<u>Votes</u>	593
Edward J. Markey	393	
Brian J. Herr	182	
All Other Votes	1	
Blank Votes	17	
Write-ins	1	
TOTAL VOTES	593	

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

Governor and Lieutenant Governor <i>(Vote for One)</i>	<u>Votes</u>
Baker and Polito	191
Coakley and Kerrigan	354
Falchuk and Jennings	17
Lively and Saunders	15
McCormick and Post	9
All Other Votes	0
Blank Votes	7
TOTAL VOTES	593

Attorney General <i>(Vote for One)</i>	<u>Votes</u>
Maura Healey	387
John B. Miller	188
All Other Votes	0
Blank Votes	18
TOTAL VOTES	593

Secretary of State <i>(Vote for One)</i>	<u>Votes</u>
William Francis Galvin	357
David D' Archangelo	175
Daniel L. Factor	47
All Other Votes	0
Blank Votes	14
TOTAL VOTES	593

Treasurer <i>(Vote for One)</i>	<u>Votes</u>
Deborah B. Goldberg	335
Michael James Heffernan	184
Ian T. Jackson	44
All Other Votes	1
Blank Votes	29
TOTAL VOTES	593

Auditor <i>(Vote for One)</i>	<u>Votes</u>
Suzanne M. Bump	349
Patricia S. Saint Aubin	170
MK Merelice	42
All Other Votes	0
Blank Votes	32
TOTAL VOTES	593

Representative in Congress, First District <i>(Vote for One)</i>	<u>Votes</u>
Richard E. Neal	442
All Other Votes	5
Blank Votes	146
TOTAL VOTES	593

Councillor, Eighth District <i>(Vote for One)</i>	<u>Votes</u>
Michael J. Albano	417
All Other Votes	2
Blank Votes	174
TOTAL VOTES	593

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

Senator in General Court, (Vote for One)		<u>Votes</u>
Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin & Hampden District	Benjamin Downing	451
	All Other Votes	2
	Blank Votes	140
	TOTAL VOTES	593

Representative in General Court, (Vote for One)		<u>Votes</u>
Fourth District Court	William “Smitty” Pignatelli	461
	All Other Votes	2
	Blank Votes	130
	TOTAL VOTES	593

District Attorney, Berkshire District (Vote for One)		<u>Votes</u>
	David F. Capeless	436
	All Other Votes	6
	Blank Votes	151
	TOTAL VOTES	593

Register of Probate, Berkshire County (Vote for One)		<u>Votes</u>
	Francis B. Marinaro	421
	All Other Votes	2
	Blank Votes	170
	TOTAL VOTES	593

Regional School Committee, Becket (Vote for One)		<u>Votes</u>
	Robert T. Ronzio (write-in)	33
	Sheila Cyr (write-in)	30
	Michael Jackson (write-in)	13
	All Other Votes	12
	Blank Votes	505
	TOTAL VOTES	593

Regional School Committee, Cummington (Vote for One)		<u>Votes</u>
	Patricia Keith (write-in)	26
	All Other Votes	5
	Blank Votes	562
	TOTAL VOTES	593

Regional School Committee, Dalton (Vote for not more than FOUR)		<u>Votes</u>
	Peter Gazzillo	266
	Billie J. Henderson	251
	Michael J. Hopper	255
	Jesse Robertson Dubois (write-in)	26
	All Other Votes	8
	Blank Votes	1,560
	TOTAL VOTES	2,366

Regional School Committee, Hinsdale (Vote for One)		<u>Votes</u>
	Shawn Armocost	307
	All Other Votes	5
	Blank Votes	281
	TOTAL VOTES	593

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

QUESTION 1 (Law Proposed by Initiative Petition)

This proposed law would eliminate the requirement that the state's gasoline tax, which was 24 cents per gallon as of September 2013, (1) be adjusted every year by the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index over the preceding year, but (2) not be adjusted below 21.5 cents per gallon.

Yes	262
No	294
Blanks	37
TOTAL VOTES	593

QUESTION 2 (Law Proposed by Initiative Petition)

This proposed law would expand the state's beverage container deposit law, also known as the Bottle Bill, to require deposits on containers for all non-alcoholic non-carbonated drinks in liquid form intended for human consumption, except beverages primarily derived from dairy products, infant formula, and FDA approved medicines. The proposed law would not cover containers made of paper-based biodegradable material and aseptic multi-material packages such as juice boxes or pouches.

The proposed law would require the state Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) to adjust the container deposit amount every five years to reflect (to the nearest whole cent) changes in the consumer price index, but the value could not be set below five cents.

The proposed law would increase the minimum handling fee that beverage distributors must pay dealers for each properly returned empty beverage container, which was 2¹/₄ cents as of September 2013, to 3¹/₂ cents. It would also increase the minimum handling fee that bottlers must pay distributors and dealers for each properly returned empty reusable beverage container, which was 1 cent as of September 2013, to 3¹/₂ cents. The Secretary of EEA would review the fee amounts every five years and make appropriate adjustments to reflect changes in the consumer price index as well as changes in the costs incurred by redemption centers. The proposed law defines a redemption center as any business whose primary purpose is the redemption of beverage containers and that is not ancillary to any other business.

The proposed law would direct the Secretary of EEA to issue regulations allowing small dealers to seek exemptions from accepting empty deposit containers. The proposed law would define small dealer as any person or business, including the operator of a vending machine, who sells beverages in beverage containers to consumers, with a contiguous retail space of 3,000 square feet or less, excluding office and stock room space; and fewer than four locations under the same ownership in the Commonwealth. The proposed law would require that the regulations consider at least the health, safety, and convenience of the public, including the distribution of dealers and redemption centers by population or by distance or both.

The proposed law would set up a state Clean Environment Fund to receive certain unclaimed container deposits. The Fund would be used, subject to appropriation by the state Legislature, to support programs such as the proper management of solid waste, water resource protection, parkland, urban forestry, air quality and climate protection.

The proposed law would allow a dealer, distributor, redemption center or bottler to refuse to accept any beverage container that is not marked as being refundable in Massachusetts.

The proposed law would take effect on April 22, 2015.

Yes	299
No	285
Blanks	39
TOTAL VOTES	593

QUESTION 3 (Law Proposed by Initiative Petition)

This proposed law would (1) prohibit the Massachusetts Gaming Commission from issuing any license for a casino or other gaming

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

establishment with table games and slot machines, or any license for a gaming establishment with slot machines; (2) prohibit any such casino or slots gaming under any such licenses that the Commission might have issued before the proposed law took effect; and (3) prohibit wagering on the simulcasting of live greyhound races.

The proposed law would change the definition of “illegal gaming” under Massachusetts law to include wagering on the simulcasting of live greyhound races, as well as table games and slot machines at Commission-licensed casinos, and slot machines at other Commission-licensed gaming establishments. This would make those types of gaming subject to existing state laws providing criminal penalties for, or otherwise regulating or prohibiting, activities involving illegal gaming.

The proposed law states that if any of its parts were declared invalid, the other parts would stay in effect.

Yes	293
No	<u>291</u>
Blanks	9
TOTAL VOTES	593

QUESTION 4 (Law Proposed by Initiative Petition)

This proposed law would entitle employees in Massachusetts to earn and use sick time according to certain conditions.

Employees who work for employers having eleven or more employees could earn and use up to 40 hours of paid sick time per calendar year, while employees working for smaller employers could earn and use up to 40 hours of unpaid sick time per calendar year.

An employee could use earned sick time if required to miss work in order (1) to care for a physical or mental illness, injury or medical condition affecting the employee or the employee’s child, spouse, parent, or parent of a spouse; (2) to attend routine medical appointments of the employee or the employee’s child, spouse, parent, or parent of a spouse; or (3) to address the effects of domestic violence on the employee or the employee’s dependent child. Employees would earn one hour of sick time for every 30 hours worked, and would begin accruing those hours on the date of hire or on July 1, 2015, whichever is later. Employees could begin to use earned sick time on the 90th day after hire.

The proposed law would cover both private and public employers, except that employees of a particular city or town would be covered only if, as required by the state constitution, the proposed law were made applicable by local or state legislative vote or by appropriation of sufficient funds to pay for the benefit. Earned paid sick time would be compensated at the same hourly rate paid to the employee when the sick time is used.

Employees could carry over up to 40 hours of unused sick time to the next calendar year, but could not use more than 40 hours in a calendar year. Employers would not have to pay employees for unused sick time at the end of their employment. If an employee missed work for a reason eligible for earned sick time, but agreed with the employer to work the same number of hours or shifts in the same or next pay period, the employee would not have to use earned sick time for the missed time, and the employer would not have to pay for that missed time. Employers would be prohibited from requiring such an employee to work additional hours to make up for missed time, or to find a replacement employee.

Employers could require certification of the need for sick time if an employee used sick time for more than 24 consecutively scheduled work hours. Employers could not delay the taking of or payment for earned sick time because they have not received the certification. Employees would have to make a good faith effort to notify the employer in advance if the need for earned sick time is foreseeable.

Employers would be prohibited from interfering with or retaliating based on an employee’s exercise of earned sick time rights, and from retaliating based on an employee’s support of another employee’s exercise of such rights.

The proposed law would not override employers’ obligations under any contract or benefit plan with more generous provisions than those in the proposed law. Employers that have their own policies providing as much paid time off, usable for the same purposes and under the same conditions, as the proposed law would not be required to provide additional paid sick time.

Report of the Town Clerk

(Continued)

The Attorney General would enforce the proposed law, using the same enforcement procedures applicable to other state wage laws, and employees could file suits in court to enforce their earned sick time rights. The Attorney General would have to prepare a multilingual notice regarding the right to earned sick time, and employers would be required to post the notice in a conspicuous location and to provide a copy to employees. The state Executive Office of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Attorney General, would develop a multilingual outreach program to inform the public of the availability of earned sick time.

The proposed law would take effect on July 1, 2015, and states that if any of its parts were declared invalid, the other parts would stay in effect.

Yes	382
No	199
Blanks	12
TOTAL VOTES	593

QUESTION 5 (This Question is Not Binding)

Shall the state representative from this district be instructed to vote in favor of legislation that would allow the state to regulate and tax marijuana in the same manner as alcohol?

Yes	405
No	138
Blanks	50
TOTAL VOTES	593

Town of Becket, Total Registered Voters:	1,385
Ballots cast:	593
Percent Voting:	43%

A total of 593 votes were cast. There were 37 Absentee ballots, 2 Provisional Ballots and 11 Spoiled ballots. The AutoMARK voter assist terminal was tested at 6:34 a.m. and 1:50 p.m. Election Officials were Eva Bonney, (Clerk) Patricia Clemons (Clerk), Gale LaBelle (Warden), Beth VanNess, Ruth Rosenthal Alvin Blake, Charles Francis, Julia Kay-Grace, and Ann Krawet. The Constables were Marc Portieri and Michael Sawyer. The polls closed at 8:00 p.m. and the unofficial results were printed and posted.

Respectfully submitted,

George E. Roberts
Town Clerk

The minutes from the Town's 2014 Annual Town Meeting and the Special Town Meetings, as recorded by the Town Clerk are included in a separate section of this Report.

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

Voter Registration Sessions	
Candidate Voter Lists prepared	0
Sherwood Forest Road District Voter Lists prepared	2

Census Results

Residents over age 16	1,642
All Residents	1,842

Report of the Town Clerk
(Continued)

Vital Records

Vitals recorded in Becket:

6 Births

12 Deaths

10 Marriages

	<u>Fees</u>
Marriage Intentions filed (7)	\$ 175.00
Certified copies prepared:	
13 birth certificates	\$ 65.00
59 death certificates	\$ 295.00
4 marriage certificates	\$ 20.00
Burial Permits issued: 8	\$ 0
Cemetery Deeds Recorded: 7	\$ 7.00
Genealogy requests: 0	<u>\$ 0</u>

Total Vitals Fees Collected	<u>\$ 562.00</u>
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Other Licenses, Permits, Recordings

<u>Issued</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Fees</u>
265	Dog Licenses (neutered & non-neutered)	\$ 1,590.00	\$ 198.75
4	Kennel licenses	\$ 203.00	\$ 3.00
	Dog License Late Fees		\$ 120.00
1	Raffle Permits (1 renewal)	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00
0	Physician Registration	\$	\$ 0
0	MGL 94C:32L Citations	\$ 0	\$ 0
	Civil Disp. Citation	\$ 0	\$ 0
0	Utility Pole Recording	\$ 0	\$ 0
5	Business Certificate applications:	\$ 100.00	<u>\$ 100.00</u>

<u>Total Other Fees Collected</u>	<u>\$ 431.75</u>
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Business Certificates recorded:

RED HORSE REAL ESTATE	2022 Main St.	Ginger Conner
L&M MECH.	2442 Main St.	Edward Mange
MOUNTAIN PASTURE FARM	818 Surriner Rd.	Raymond & Sherri Ellsworth
LEDOUX ENTERPRISES	175 Prince John Dr.	Nicole Ledoux
LAVOIE PAINTING	914 Benton Hill Rd.	John Lavoie

◆ *REPORT OF THE TOWN MEETING BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE* ◆

At a Special Town Meeting on April 5, 2014, voters approved several revisions to the bylaw that governs the conduct of Town Meetings. The key provisions include:

- Ensures the availability of the town moderator and town clerk and prohibits other boards and committees from meeting outside of Town Meeting while one is in session.
- Requires notification of Town Meetings to all fulltime and part time households and explanations for all articles.
- Clarifies the process for getting a petitioned article on the Town Meeting warrant.
- Requires a succinct financial summary of the town's finances by the Finance Committee.
- Requires every town official body to have a representative at Town Meeting if subject matter affecting that body is under consideration.
- Sets guidelines for the distribution of informational materials.
- Clarifies the role of the moderator, establishes "Town Meeting Time, A Handbook of Parliamentary Law" as the parliamentary guide for Town Meetings and permits voters and non-voters to speak with the permission of the moderator.
- Provides for no appeal of the moderator's rulings.
- Clarifies certain motions and limits increases in financial articles to five percent above the Finance Committee's recommendation.
- Establishes voting by voter card as the first method to be employed.
- Restricts the moderator from holding any other town office, but allows membership on committees only in an ex-officio or non-voting role and requires voters and other speakers to disclose conflicts of interest.

- Ensures all articles are disposed prior to meeting dissolution and ensures the only business that can be conducted without a quorum is a motion to adjourn to a date certain.
- Requires the town clerk to notify appropriate boards and officers of appropriations affecting those boards and officers and to take accurate minutes of Town Meetings.
- Establishes the position of deputy moderator, to be appointed annually by the moderator.

The purpose of the bylaw is to ensure a clear, fair and concise set of rules that puts all voters on the same footing, leaving less to chance or tradition.

The Massachusetts Attorney General approved the revised bylaw, along with other bylaw changes approved by the voters at the Special Town Meeting, but a few questions were raised that the Attorney General recommended be referred to the town's lawyer. At this time the town is waiting for the lawyer's response.

In addition, the committee is completing work on a Town Meeting Handbook that provides an informal and informative guide to how Becket Town Meetings are conducted and how voters may fully participate in the process. This task was put on hold, pending the town counsel's response to the questions raised by the state and the unavailability of the committee chair due to work he performed as editor of the new town history book.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Garlow, ***Chair***
Jeanne Pryor, ***Clerk***
Ann Krawet



◆ *REPORT OF THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE* ◆

The 250th Anniversary Committee continued fine tuning plans for Becket's upcoming celebration in 2015.

A major accomplishment for the year was led by Bruce Garlow, as editor of the book Becket, Massachusetts From Colonial Township to Modern Town 1765–2015. Bruce wrote and pursued articles, pulling together the submissions from all of the committee members and numerous townspeople to organize the updated history book. He was joined by photo editor, Sandi Jarvis, as they selected and coordinated the photos for the book. They worked with Worth International Media in designing the layout of the book, getting ready for the book launch planned for January 7, 2015. It was important to the Committee that they produce an enjoyable book with color pictures at a reasonable cost. The books are available at Town Hall and other locations at a cost of \$20.00.

Becket resident Kathy Garren was chosen to design the official 250th Anniversary logo, representing the town's beauty and diversity. Her wonderful design was adapted for the cover of the book as well as being used on flags, souvenirs and publicity items.

Karen Karlberg continued to do a fine job on the Becket 250th website. She maintained an event schedule, history and photo gallery of Becket, as well as geocache information. Please check on the 250th happenings at <http://becket250.org/>

George Roberts represented the Committee arranging the fireworks display by the Atlas Pyro Vision Productions, Inc. planned for June 6.

A special thank you to Dan Berg, our highly valued liaison from the Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA, who has attended numerous meetings, assisted the Committee in pricing flags and banners, and coordinated the activities planned for June 6 at Camp Chimney Corners.

The following events were organized during the year by the 250th Anniversary Committee:

- February 22, 2:00 **Becket History Presentation** at Town Hall given by Rita Furlong and Bruce Garlow, as part of the Becket Art Center's Marty Lasker Lectures
- May 22 **Becket Washington School Spaghetti Supper** and opening of the student's Art Show at the Becket Arts Center
- May 24, 10:00 **Ecumenical Church Service** at First

Congregational Church on YMCA Road with local religious leaders participating. Music and a tribute to Becket's history.

- May 25, 10:30-2:00 **Memorial Day Parade** down Main Street in North Becket Village. Parade starts at 10:30 with program at 11:00 at Ballou Memorial Park. Dedication of the obelisk to honor Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War veterans. Exhibits at the Becket Arts Center, Mullen House Education Center, the Becket Athenaeum and Becket Washington School. Historic tours of the village. Becket antique auto show on the Mullen House lawn. Free hot dogs on the Federated Church lawn. Period costumes welcome.
- June 6, 1:00-9:00 **Becket Day at Chimney Corners Camp**. Canoeing/kayaking, swimming, high ropes and alpine tower, arts and crafts, field games, DJ, line dancing at the arts center, basketball, tennis, volleyball, bingo at the dining hall, and for Becket residents a complimentary hot dog picnic supper donated by Camp Chimney Corners. The Town of Becket-sponsored fireworks will be at the camp lake at 9:00 (Fireworks only - Rain date June 7th).
- June 8 **Student Geocache** Becket Washington School students in Grades 3-5 will participate in a historic walking/bus tour of Becket sites. The Becket Cultural Council awarded the Committee a grant for the cost of the bus. *The Becket Cultural Council is a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.*
- June 13, 10:00-3:00 **Jacob's Pillow Day** Becket Musical Jamboree on the Inside-Outside stage with Becket musicians and singers. Bring or buy a lunch to picnic on the grounds.
- June 7, 14, 21, 28 Guided tours of the **Becket Historic Forest and Quarry** on Quarry Road. Hikes will be led by Becket Land Trust volunteers: Rene Laubach June 7, Allen Williams June 14, Forester Lincoln Fish June 21 and Ken Smith June 28.
- June 21, 2:00 **Tree planting on the Parade Ground** at Becket Center. Board of Selectmen, Becket 250th Anniversary Committee, dignitaries and public invited. Come and stand where it all began. Reception following at Guild Hall sponsored by the Ladies' Guild.
- June 28, 2:00 and 3:00 **Geocache 101 class and Pot luck supper** at the pavilion at Becket Center Park. At 2:00 a family introduction to Geocaching with novices paired with experienced geocachers to learn

Report of the 250th Anniversary Committee

(Continued)

this free, outdoor adventure sport. Learn about Becket's Geocache sites. Bring food to share at the pot luck supper to be held after the class.

The Committee encourages all townspeople and businesses to join in on the celebrations surrounding Becket's 250th Anniversary date of June 21, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandi Jarvis

Clerk, Becket 250th Anniversary Committee

Becket 250th Anniversary Committee Members

Linda Bacon
Rita Furlong, ***Presider***
Bruce Garlow
Sandi Jarvis, ***Clerk***
Karen Karlberg
Michel Paul Richard
Barbara Roberts
George Roberts
Ann Spadafora



◆ *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 2014 REPORT

FY 2014 Appropriated by Category	Community Housing	Historical Preservation	Open Space	Recreation	Undesignated Budget Reserves	Committee Admin. Expenses	Total Appropriation
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Project:

Committee Administrative Expenses Article 23						\$500.00	
Athenaeum Exterior Restoration & Painting Article 24		\$7,000.00			\$8,000.00		
Total Appropriated for Projects for FY 2014	\$0.00	\$7,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,000.00	\$500.00	\$15,500.00

FY 2014 Expenses against approved Projects:

Committee Administrative Expenses						\$250.00	
Total Expended FY 2014	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$250.00

FY 2014 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	\$4,800.00	\$4,800.00	\$4,800.00	\$0.00	\$33,100.00	\$47,500.00

	Estimated	Actual	Actual vs. Budget
FY 2014 Local Revenue CPA 1.5%	\$36,362.00	\$39,439.12	\$3,077.12
FY 2014 State Percentage Match of Local Revenue	\$11,638.00	\$21,063.00	\$9,425.00
Totals	\$48,000.00	\$60,502.12	\$12,502.12



◆ REPORT OF THE CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS ◆

The North Becket Cemetery is in good condition with ongoing maintenance having been performed throughout the year.

The Becket Center Cemetery remains in good condition with ongoing maintenance to the grounds. A new shed is scheduled to be installed when weather permits.

The West Becket Cemetery remains in very good condition with ongoing maintenance. The cemetery lacks records which limits the ability to open it to full plot sales and burials. Limited new cremation burial plots and burials in existing plots may be allowed at the discretion of the West Becket Cemetery Commissioner.

We would like to welcome Dean Williams to the Board. Dean will be attending to the Center Cemetery. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Center Cemetery's past Commissioner Bud Moylan for his years of excellent service to the Town.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Smith
Bill Cavanaugh
Dean Williams



◆ REPORT OF THE BECKET SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION ◆

The Becket Scholarship Foundation was pleased to award scholarships totaling \$4,200 to six graduating seniors in 2014. The students were David Fairchild, Chelsea Hurley, Jake Jourdain, Justine Spare, Alexys Tarjick and Cavanaugh Wolski. The scholarships are made possible in part through the generous donations of Becket residents which totaled \$1,780 in 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Rodhouse
Secretary
Becket Scholarship Foundation

◆ *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 can only be purchased at the Town Hall. Disposing of recyclables (paper, cardboard, cans, bottles, plastic containers and scrap metals) is free of charge. Household trash must have bag stickers affixed to the bags and be deposited into the compactor. Appliances containing freon, tires, CRT's, mattresses, box springs, stuffed chairs, couches and bulky waste require a separate disposal fee. Please check with the attendant before unloading. All scrap metals being disposed of 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 DEP required inspection; CET visited the Transfer Station to distribute information on recycling and hazardous waste collection events for residents at various locations in the county. We distributed recycling bins from the city of Springfield to residents.

We have switched vendors, which reduced our hauling and rental costs and set disposal costs for three years. We purchased a new paper container with a partial grant from Southern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District for \$2500.00 to offset the \$7200.00 cost. We also have a clothing donation box now to help recycle clothing, which removes them from the waste stream.

As a reminder, the Town has a recycling bylaw; by recycling we reduce our disposal expenses and use of natural resources. For this year, with the effort of the residents of Becket, we recycled over 55 tons of paper and cardboard, 52 tons of cans, bottles, and plastics, 50 tons of scrap metals, 2.2 tons of mattresses, 2 tons of clothing and 6 tons of electronics. Solid waste disposal was 322 tons for household trash and bulky waste was 136 tons. Residents also participated in 6 hazardous waste collections at various sites in Berkshire County.

I would like to thank Bud Moylan, Mark White and Siegfried Hoppe for their hard work and dedication to the Transfer Station.

The Transfer Station is under the authority of the Board of Health and operational control is handled by the Highway Department. If residents have questions or concerns, please feel free to call the Town Hall 623-8934 or the Highway Department office Monday through Friday 7:30 to 4:00 at 623-8988.

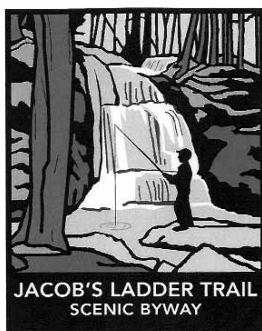
Respectfully submitted,

Christopher J. Bouchard
Highway Superintendent



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

The Jacob's Ladder Trail Scenic Byway, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that serves as the steward of the Jacob's Ladder Trail Scenic Byway, which is Route 20, as it travels through the towns of Lee, Becket, Chester, Huntington and Russell. The overall goal of our work is to entice people – local residents and tourists – to visit Jacob's Ladder Trail, learn a bit about our history, enjoy our natural and scenic areas, and patronize our local businesses.



During the past year, we oversaw installation of new interpretive signs for each of the towns along the roadway to inform people about the Trail. We invite you to stop by and enjoy them.

We are currently working with the Lee Land Trust to create a new access road and parking area on the former Blanch Barlow property in East Lee. The new parking area will provide access to an extensive hiking trail system owned by The Trustees of Reservation and the Land Trust, with views of Goose Pond and access to the Appalachian Trail. Accessible picnic tables and interpretive signage will be

added at the site, highlighting the history of the land and its inhabitants. Construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2015. This work is supported with funds from the National Scenic Byways Program and the Mass. Department of Transportation.

During the past year we also joined a regional effort to investigate local interest in creating trail linkages along the Jacob's Ladder Trail and Route 112 Scenic Byways to connect the area's trails to village centers. This project is inspired by the British concept of linking communities to one another so that visitors can plan multi-day hikes, traversing large expanses of publicly accessible lands to go from village to village. We will be updating town boards of our progress as this project continues through the spring and summer of 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

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



REPORT OF THE WESTFIELD RIVER

◆ WILD & SCENIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE ◆

Our Committee's mission is to preserve, protect, and enhance the special qualities and natural resources of the Westfield River Watershed in concert with local communities. In Becket, the West Branch and Shaker Mill, Depot, and Center Pond Brooks are nationally recognized as Wild & Scenic Rivers. They are part of a federal designation of 78 miles of the Westfield River and its tributaries in ten towns.

The Partnership Wild & Scenic Rivers Program again provided funding to the Committee in 2014 to support projects enhancing the "outstandingly remarkable values" associated with our Wild & Scenic Rivers. Highlights of our activities in 2014 are as follows:

Our Stream Team Project Coordinator, Meredyth Babcock of Becket, continued the Wild & Scenic Saturday trainings and workdays, and we launched our first Watershed Blitz. On one beautiful day in September, 58 community volunteers, committee members and specialists formed into teams led by wildlife and river experts. Collectively they walked more than 20 river miles, discovering what makes this watershed unique and recording observations, cataloging assets and recommending priorities for action. The community spirit and opportunity to share knowledge and expertise infused the day with enthusiasm and excitement. Look for another Watershed Blitz in 2015.

Volunteers have also formed Stream Teams to survey additional tributaries. The Committee provides training, maps, GPS units, and digital and wildlife cameras. Stream Teams have formed for Yokum Brook (Becket), Walker Brook (Becket/Chester), Kinne Brook (Worthington/Chester), and the Dead Branch (Chesterfield/Huntington).

In collaboration with the Westfield River Invasive Species Partnership, the Committee printed Invasive Species Guides and distributed them to town Highway Departments, Conservation Commissions and volunteers. These guides assist in identification of more common invasives, as well as some early-detection species which have not yet become established in the watershed.

As follow up to the inventory of rare and invasive plants along the river that we sponsored in 2013, we secured permits from the Conservation Commissions in Becket and Middlefield to remove invasives in those towns. In 2014 we began to implement the recommendations in that report with the removal of Norway Maples along the Keystone Arch Bridge Trail.

A small dam on Kinne Brook in Chester was removed in 2014. In two previous years Trout Unlimited received funds from the Committee to support the removal of this dam and the replacement of two culverts. When completed, this project will eliminate these three stream barriers opening up 10 miles of coldwater habitat for Eastern Brook Trout.

Our Community grant of \$4900 to the Town of Becket in 2013 to complete preliminary designs and make the application for a Hazard Mitigation Grant paid off in 2014. The replacement of the Bonny Rigg Hill Road crossing over Walker Brook received an award of \$399,375 of FEMA funding. This project will replace culverts that have washed out numerous times with a flood resilient, fish friendly crossing.

Through our Riparian Conservation Grants program, the Committee has provided small grants over the last 5 years to support protection of lands important to the river. The projects we have supported to date have resulted in the permanent protection of 420 acres of forests and farmlands, including 9,200 feet of streams. In 2014 an Agricultural Preservation Restriction was completed for a 54 acre family farm in Chesterfield. These projects we have supported provide critical habitat and help protect some of the best coldwater streams in Southern New England that are right here in our Wild & Scenic towns.

Thanks to Bill Babcock for all his years serving as Alternate Representative. Bill continues to be one of our great volunteers and we are sure to see him out on the river getting things done.

The Wild & Scenic Westfield River Committee meets once a month and all meetings are open to the public. Please take part in any of our activities, including workshops, river monitoring and land protection. To learn more visit our website at www.wildscenicwestfieldriver.org.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mercedes Gallagher
Town of Becket Representative

Karen Karlberg
Town of Becket Representative, Alternate

◆ *REPORT OF THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION* ◆

It was a busy and productive year for the Becket Historical Commission in 2014. From fielding numerous inquiries regarding historic people and places in Becket, reviewing ZBA requests for historic impact and continuing to catalog and maintain important historic documents related to Becket, the Commission was kept quite busy.

Specifically, here are some of the highlights from the work we accomplished in 2014:

- Welcomed new member Sandi Jarvis to the Commission
- Appointed a member (Jenn Beatty) to serve on the Community Preservation Committee
- Appointed a member (Sandi Jarvis) to serve on the ad hoc Athenaeum Committee (to explore the option of the town purchasing the Becket Athenaeum building)
- Researched the names of the veterans from Becket who served in the Civil War, Revolutionary War and War of 1812 in preparation for the granite obelisk (to be placed in Ballou Park) to honor those veterans.
- Investigated the historical significance of the old Higley Apothecary on Pleasant Street, which has been abandoned since August of 2013 and is in disrepair. We had the building inspector evaluate the structure and toured the inside, which has been stripped of any significant historical artifacts.
- Rita Furlong and Sandi Jarvis served on the 250th Anniversary Planning Committee, organizing events for the 250th celebration and gathering information to update the book of Becket's history with information from the past 50 years (the last time it was published).

Leadership Change

2014 brought about change in the leadership of the Becket Historical Commission. Aaron Beatty and Jenn Beatty were nominated and appointed as co-chairs for the Commission and co-secretaries for the Commission as well. Rita Furlong maintained her position as treasurer.

In 2015 the Commission looks forward to:

- Completing repair of the Becket Center and West Becket Map Signs on Route 8 and Route 20
- Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of Becket's founding
- The installation of a granite obelisk in Ballou Park honoring Becket veterans of the Civil War, Revolutionary War and the War of 1812
- Moving toward digitizing historic artifacts and papers

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron Beatty



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

Once again, it has been a very busy year. A very special thank you to the Hilltown Vet and the Blandford Animal Hospital for their continuing help and support. Also a heartfelt thank you to all who donated food and blankets, your generosity is very much appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Albert Goodermote,
Animal Control Officer

Animal Control Calls for 2014 were as follows:

Dog	(90)	Lamb	(3)
Dogs signed over to the ACO	(3)	Porcupine	(1)
Dogs adopted out	(2)	Cat	(3)
Barking Dogs	(6)	Bear	(2)
Dead dogs	(1)	Skunk	(1)
Raccoon	(9)	Woodchuck	(1)
Rabbit	(1)	Chicken	(1)
Beaver	(1)	Peacock	(1)
Moose	(1)	Cockatoo	(1)
Fox	(1)	Horse	(4)



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

The Becket Zoning Board of Appeals processed one (1) application for a variance, as well as two (2) applications for Dimensional Special Permits. One of the applications received is still in progress with a continuance of the public hearing, the other two requests were granted.

Please visit us at the Town of Becket Website: www.townofbecket.org. Find links to the Zoning Bylaws, guidelines, applications, and meeting minutes too.

The Zoning Board of Appeals would like to thank Mr. Joshua Lombard for serving the Board as the Chairperson for many years. Ms. Karen Karlberg will take over as Chairperson.

The Zoning Board of Appeals continues to look for Becket residents that may be interested in joining the Board. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm

at the Town Hall; the public is invited to attend all meetings and welcome to join in as well.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Karlberg, *Chairman*

Board Members:

Joshua Lombard, *Chairperson 2014*

Sue Deacon

Jeffrey Wilkinson

Karen Karlberg, *Chairperson 2015*

George Roberts, *Associate Member*

Alvin Blake, *Associate Member*

Heather Hunt, *Secretary*

◆ *REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON AGING* ◆

Hi from “The Fun Group of Becket Seniors”

Our year started off slow due to bad weather, but once the weather cleared we were on the go.

We had our first pot luck where Sergeant Marc Portieri cooked the meal and it was great. If you don’t know by now, Marc is the best cook around.

Our first trip of the season was to The Newport Dinner Theater in Newport, R.I. Everyone enjoyed it so much we went back three more times. We are invited each year to Otis MA for a Valentines Dinner sponsored by the Otis Veterans. The Russell VFW also invites us for a Ham Dinner in April. The lunch Bunch went out several times and as always they have a good time.

On the third Tuesday of every month, the Porchlight VNA comes to do blood pressure and then gives a presentation on older health issues ie: heart issues, what to look for when you think someone is having a stroke, knee and hip replacement, and nutrition which is so important. The seniors enjoy their visits and feel they are learning a lot.

We lost a very special person this year, Claire Daigle, who had been the COA Secretary for over 15 years. She was a big asset to the group and we all miss her very much. We also lost Art Johansen who was a very unique gentleman. He made the best fruit cake and cookies and was always ready to help anyone out. We miss them both.

This fall, Andre Ledoux, a long time Becket resident, came to the seniors and made pizza. Not only did he make it, he showed the seniors how it is done. It was delicious.

In December, Marc and I did our annual Christmas Dinner at the center. Marc made Prime Rib and I made Baked Stuffed Shrimp. Marc’s sister Robin made her famous Italian Cookies, and Pat, Marc’s wife, make cupcakes and also cookies. We also had a grab bag which is always a lot of fun.

As usual, our program continues to be a great success. Lunch is served every Tuesday and Thursday at 11:00 am and bingo follows. Pot Luck is every third Friday of the month at 12:00 pm.

All Becket seniors are welcome to attend any of our functions, so watch the Berkshire Eagle and the Country Journal for information.

I personally want to thank the Town of Becket for all the support they have given us throughout the year in helping us improve our programs and support to our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Moylan, ***Director***



◆ **SPECIAL TOWN MEETING** ◆

April 5, 2014 - 7:00 p.m.

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, the Special Town Meeting was called on April 5, 2014 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 7:00 p.m. by the Moderator. There were 32 registered voters present (2% of 1,374 registered voters) and a total of 34 people attended the meeting. Town Officials Present: Bruce Garlow, Moderator; Jeanne Pryor, William Elovirta, and Angela Hilton, Selectmen; Jeremy Dunn, Finance Committee Member; George E. Roberts, Town Clerk; Edward Gibson, Town Administrator.

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 Moderator also noted that he would need to recuse himself for Articles 5 and 6 as he was conflicted, and he explained the procedure for electing a temporary Moderator for those Articles.

The following articles were voted on:

ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town Bylaws by creating a new ARTICLE 16B--BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE as shown on a document on file with the Town Clerk and on the Town's website.

Majority Vote Required.

Article 1 Was moved and seconded from the floor. Selectman Jeanne Pryor gave a brief explanation of the need for a BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE. Madeleine Swindlehurst moved that Section 4 be amended to read "The Committee shall meet on a regular basis in compliance with the Open Meeting Law. George Roberts and Jeremy Dunn observed that such an addition would be redundant as the Law requires that all meetings be conducted pursuant to the Open Meeting Law. Mr. Dunn observed further that her objective could be achieved by deleting the word "public" from the Sentence "Minutes shall be kept of all public meetings." Ms. Swindlehurst withdrew her first motion to amend and moved that the word "public" be removed as set forth supra. The motion to amend was seconded from the floor. There was no further discussion on the motion to amend. A vote was taken on the motion to amend and the motion to amend passed unanimously. Ms. Kay-Grace moved to change the appointment members of BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE from being appointed by the Board of Selectmen to being elected at the first Annual Town Election after the election of the selectboard. The

Moderator declared the motion out of order as it was far astray from the intent of the Article to create an appointed board. He observed that any proposed article that sought to create a new elected board would have to be in a different form, seeking a change to the Town's Charter. There was no further discussion.

A vote was taken and the motion on
Article 1 as Amended Passed Unanimously.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town Bylaws by creating a new ARTICLE 21--COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE BYLAW as shown on a document on file with the Town Clerk and on the Town's website.
Majority Vote Required

Article 2 Was moved and seconded from the floor. Selectman Jeanne Pryor gave a brief background of the Community Preservation Committee history noting that the ballot question in the May 17th 2008 Annual Town Election that approved the formation of the Committee, required that the Community Preservation Committee be established by By-law. Selectman Pryor noted that such a By-law had not been proposed until now. There was no further discussion.

A vote was taken and the motion on
Article 2 Passed Unanimously.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of Section 8 of Article 89 of the Massachusetts Constitution, to authorize the Selectmen to petition the General Court for special legislation to amend Chapter 662 of the Acts of 1989, as most recently amended, with said amendments to become effective upon the passage of the Act by the Legislature, as follows:

To delete from ARTICLE 2B, SECTION 4 (the list of officers and boards appointed by the Selectmen) Items (n) **Parks Commission** and (p) **Recreation Committee** and renumber the remaining items to take into account those deletions,

and to

add to ARTICLE 2B, SECTION 4 (the list of officers and boards appointed by the Selectmen) an Item **Parks and Recreation Committee** and renumber items to take into account this addition.

Majority Vote Required

Article 3 Was moved and seconded from the floor. Selectman Jeanne Pryor explained that the Parks Commission and

Special Town Meeting – April 5, 2014

~ Continued ~

Recreation Committee started working together because there was only one member of the Recreation Committee, and there was no way to establish a quorum. She explained that combining the functions of the two into a single committee would streamline their operations and ensure that there were enough members to establish a quorum. Rita Furlong wanted to know what the difference between a committee and a commission was. The Moderator stated that he was not able to determine if there was any distinction between a committee and a commission. There was no further discussion.

A vote was taken and the motion on

Article 3 Passed Unanimously.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town Bylaws by creating a new ARTICLE 16C-- PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE as shown on a document on file with the Town Clerk and on the Town's website.

Majority Vote Required

Article 4 Was moved and seconded from the floor.

A motion was made to amend Section 4 to delete the word "public" from the sentence "Minutes shall be kept of all public meetings." The motion to amend was seconded. Kristine O'Mally – Levy inquired as to whether minutes at "private meetings" would be kept. The moderator explained that "executive sessions" could be held under specific circumstances, and minutes were required to be kept, but the minutes of an executive session could be secluded from the public for periods of time, depending on the nature of the subject of the executive session. A vote was taken and the motion to amend passed unanimously. There was no further discussion.

A vote was taken and the motion on

Article 4 as amended Passed Unanimously.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to amend ARTICLE 1--TOWN MEETINGS of the Town Bylaws by substituting the existing article with a new Article 1 as shown on a document on file with the Town Clerk and on the Town's website.

Majority Vote Required.

The Moderator, Bruce Garlow stepped down for Article 5 and Article 6. Town Clerk George Roberts solicited nominations for Moderator pro-tem from the floor. Selectman Jeanne Pryor nominated Ethan Klepetar, and the nomination was seconded. There were no other nominations. A motion was made that the nominations be closed, and seconded from the floor. A vote was taken and the motion to close nominations passed unanimously.

A motion was made to allow the Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Ethan Klepetar, and was seconded from the floor. A vote was taken and the motion to have the Town Clerk cast the ballot passed unanimously. The Town Clerk cast a single ballot for Ethan Klepetar for Moderator pro-tem. The Town Clerk administered the Oath of Office to Ethan Klepetar for Moderator pro-tem. Bruce Garlow moved to amend the article to reflect changes recommended by Town Counsel as follows:

"Section 5A. All petitions to call a Special Town Meeting or to insert a subject in the warrant for any Annual or Special Town Meeting shall be submitted on a form meeting the following requirements." Changed to:

"Section 5A. The Town Clerk shall prepare forms for petitions to call a Special Town Meeting or to insert a subject in the warrant for any Annual or Special Town Meeting which form shall meet the following requirements."

Delete the paragraph numbered "(3)" in Section 5A.

Delete the word "checking" from Section 5B.

"Section 6. At all Town Meetings, the Board of Selectmen shall be directed to use a checklist of registered voters for admission of all persons to said meeting."

Changed to:

"Section 6. At all Town Meetings, the Town Clerk shall be directed to use a checklist of registered voters for admission of all persons to said meeting."

The motion was seconded from the floor. A vote was taken and the amendments as proposed passed unanimously. Mr. Garlow gave a presentation to meeting explaining that the proposed changes would formalize procedures that have been in place for the last 17 years, and ensure that everyone had an equal footing at Town Meetings. He gave a brief synopsis of the purposes of the proposed changes. Madeleine Swindlehurst moved that the question be divided to enable each proposed change to be addressed separately. The motion to divide was seconded. A vote was taken on the motion to divide. The motion to divide failed. Madeleine Swindlehurst then moved to amend Section 8 from:

"Section 8. The Moderator shall preserve decorum and order and, per Massachusetts General Law Chapter 39 Section 15, shall decide all questions of order and make any ruling of parliamentary law without appeal."

To:

"Section 8. The Moderator shall preserve decorum and order and, per Massachusetts General Law Chapter 39 Section 15, shall decide all questions of order and make any ruling of parliamentary law. An appeal from the ruling of

Special Town Meeting – April 5, 2014

~ Continued ~

the Moderator must be preceded by a Point of Order as a foundation of the Appeal. The Appeal requires a “second,” requires majority vote, may be debated, but cannot be amended. In the case of a tie vote, the Moderator’s ruling is sustained.”

The motion to amend was seconded from the floor. Mr. Dunn asked for an example of when a Moderator’s ruling would be appealed. Ms. O’Mally-Levy spoke in support of the motion. George Roberts spoke against the proposed amendment. Ms. Swindlehurst commended the Moderators Robert Gerner and Bruce Garlow. Ms. Swindlehurst related a historical example of when an appeal from a ruling would be helpful. A vote on the amendment was taken. The amendment failed. Mr. Dunn spoke against Section 4A, specifically the requirement that notification of Annual and Special Town Meetings be mailed to both full time and part time households. Mr. Dunn moved to strike full and part time households and replace that language with all registered voters. The motion was seconded from the floor. George Roberts spoke against the motion noting that the number of registered voters was greater than the number of households in Town. Mr. Dunn withdrew his motion and restated it as to replace the language requiring mailing to all full and part time house hold to requiring mailing to all households containing at least one registered voter. The motion was seconded. Meredyth Babcock spoke against the proposed amendment. Ms. O’Mally-Levy suggested that post cards might be a more cost effective way to give part time residents notice. Mr. Garlow spoke against the proposed amendment noting that part time residents contribute greatly to the support of the Town and are taxed on personal property as well as real property. A vote was taken on the proposed amendment. The amendment failed. Ms. Swindlehurst moved to amend Section 8A, paragraph 2 from:

“2-No motion to increase an appropriation more than five percent of the Finance Committee’s recommendation shall be in order.” To:

“2-Any motion to increase an appropriation more than five percent of the Finance Committee’s recommendation shall be out of order.”

The motion to amend was seconded. A vote on the motion to amend was taken. The motion to amend passed. There was no further discussion.

A vote was taken on the motion as amended.

Article 5 as amended passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to amend Section 3 of Article 2—ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS of the Town Bylaws by deleting the second sentence as follows- “In the absence of the Moderator one shall be elected from the voters for that meeting only” and by adding a new Section 1A in ARTICLE 3--APPOINTED TOWN OFFICIALS of the Town Bylaws as

follows:

ARTICLE 3--APPOINTED TOWN OFFICIALS

Section 1A. The Moderator shall appoint by May 1 a Deputy Moderator for a one year term. The Deputy Moderator shall preside in the absence of the Moderator, or when the Moderator recuses himself for reason of conflict of interest, or to assist the Moderator when the number in attendance or physical layout of the room(s) requires an additional Moderator. In the absence of the Moderator or Deputy Moderator one shall be elected from the voters for that meeting only.

Majority Vote Required

Article 6 was moved and seconded from the floor. Ms. Swindlehurst asked if the this didn’t need a change to the Town Charter. The Deputy Moderator observed that this article was not changing an elected position to an appointed position, but rather was creating a new appointed position, and thus, a change to the Town’s Charter was not necessary. Ms. Pryor noted the Town’s Charter only describes elected positions and positions that the Board of Selectmen appoint to; it does not reference or control appointments of assistants or deputies by boards or officers. Ms. Swindlehurst spoke against the Article, suggesting that electing a Temporary Moderator from the participants of the meeting was preferable to an appointed Deputy Moderator. Rita Furlong spoke in favor of the Article. George Roberts spoke in favor of the Article.

A vote was taken on the motion.

Article 6 passed.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money – Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) from the Vocational Tuition Account to the Vocational Transportation Account for the balance of the 2014 fiscal year.

Majority Vote Required

Temporary Moderator Ethan Klepetar stepped down. Moderator Bruce Garlow returned to the podium. The Article was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion.

A vote was taken on the motion.

Article 7 passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and Transfer from Free Cash the sum of Nine Thousand Dollars (\$9,000.00) to the Municipal Building Repair Account for installation of a water filtration system required by the

Special Town Meeting – April 5, 2014

~ Continued ~

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection at the Mullen House and other design and repairs to various municipally owned buildings.

Majority Vote Required

The Article was moved and seconded from the floor. Jeremy Dunn, a member of the Finance Committee noted that there was approximately \$197,000.00 in free cash, and that our financial reserves policy is that we should take at least half of that money and move it into the stabilization fund which is going to be an article on the Annual Town Meeting warrant in May. He noted that the Finance Committee recommends that the Town funds a number of these urgent repairs out of the remaining free cash balance so we don't have to raise funds next year. There was no further discussion.

A vote was taken on the motion.

Article 8 passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and Transfer from Free Cash the sum of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500.00) to the Highway Department Machinery Account for repairs to departmental vehicles and equipment.

Majority Vote Required

The Article was moved and seconded. There was no discussion.

A vote was taken on the motion.

Article 9 passed unanimously.

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.

Respectfully submitted,

George E. Roberts
Town Clerk



◆ ANNUAL TOWN MEETING ◆

May 10, 2014 - 7:00 p.m.

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

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

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

The following articles were voted on:

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

1.) Board of Health at the rate of \$13.99 per hour for the performance of their duties as Board of Health members.

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

Majority Vote Required

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

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

TOWN of BECKET FY. 2015	BUDGET APPROVED FY 2014	DEPARTMENT REQUEST FY 2015	FIN COMM/ SELECTMEN RECOMMEND	Percent INCREASE (DECREASE)
GENERAL GOVERNMENT				
1. TOWN COUNSEL	\$13,500	\$13,500	\$13,500	0.00%
2. LEGAL EXPENSE	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	-100.00%
3. TOWN MEETING EXPENSES	\$0	\$3,500	\$3,500	# DIV/0!
4. SELECTMEN'S SALARIES	\$6,000	\$6,000	6,000	0.00%
5. SELECTMEN'S EXPENSES	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	0.00%
6. ADVERTISING	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500	0.00%
7. TOWN SECRETARY	\$42,617	\$43,469	\$43,469	2.00%
8. TOWN ADMIN. SALARY	\$60,000	\$61,200	\$61,200	2.00%
9. TOWN ADMIN. EXPENSE	\$1,700	\$1,700	\$1,700	0.00%
10. FINANCE COMMITTEE	\$400	\$400	\$400	0.00%
11. ASSESSORS SALARIES	\$119,168	\$122,431	\$122,431	2.74%
12. ASSESSORS EXPENSE	\$12,500	\$10,505	\$10,505	-15.96%
13. TOWN TREASURER SALARY	\$38,505	\$39,275	\$39,275	2.00%
14. TOWN TREASURER EXP.	\$5,605	\$5,481	\$5,481	-2.20%
15. TAX COLLECTOR SALARY	\$54,848	\$55,945	\$55,945	2.00%
16. TAX COLLECTOR EXPENSE	\$5,200	\$6,985	\$6,985	34.33%
17. ASSIST. TAX COLLECTOR	\$41,238	\$42,063	\$42,063	2.00%

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18. TOWN CLERK SALARY	\$26,096	\$26,618	\$26,618	2.00%
19. TOWN CLERK EXPENSE	\$2,295	\$2,845	\$2,845	23.97%
20. ELECTION-REGISTRATION	\$7,743	\$9,075	\$9,075	17.20%
21. CONSERVATION COMM.	\$7,555	\$8,619	\$8,619	14.08%
22. PLANNING BOARD EXPENSE	\$6,500	\$6,706	\$6,706	3.17%
23. REGIONAL PLAN COM.	\$1,223	\$1,253	\$1,253	2.44%
24. BOARD of APPEALS	\$2,500	\$3,350	\$3,350	34.00%
25. RESERVE FUND	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	0.00%
<u>GENERAL GOVERNMENT TOTAL</u>	<u>\$599,693</u>	<u>\$515,421</u>	<u>\$515,421</u>	<u>-14.05%</u>
HIGHWAY				
26. SUMMER LABOR	\$185,312	\$208,319	\$195,344	5.41%
27. TRANSFER STATION LABOR	\$22,754	\$28,084.72	\$28,085	23.43%
<u>LABOR SUBTOTAL</u>	<u>\$208,066</u>	<u>\$236,404</u>	<u>\$223,429</u>	<u>7.38%</u>
28. WINTER ROAD SALARIES	\$122,146	\$140,041	\$132,236	8.26%
29. SAND	\$0	\$7,850	\$7,850	
30. STONE CHIPS	\$0	\$12,610	\$12,610	
31. SALT	\$0	\$44,125	\$44,125	
32. PLOW BLADES	\$0	\$4,000	\$4,000	
33. MISC.	\$0	\$0	\$0	
34. COLD PATCH	\$0	\$1,100	\$1,100	
35. PARTS	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000	
36. SANDER CHAINS	\$0	\$4,000	\$4,000	
37. BAGGED DEICER	\$0	\$0	\$0	
38. WINTER ROADS TOTAL OF 29 TO 37 (\$76,685)	\$67,800	\$0	\$0	13.10%
<u>WINTER ROADS SUBTOTAL</u>	<u>\$189,946</u>	<u>\$216,726</u>	<u>\$208,921</u>	<u>9.99%</u>
39. INSPECTIONS	\$0	\$760	\$760	
40. TIRES	\$0	\$8,000	\$8,000	
41. OIL/LUBRICANTS	\$0	\$3,245	\$3,245	
42. REPAIRS/EQUIPMENT	\$0	\$22,785	\$22,785	
43. PARTS/SUPPLIES	\$0	\$18,540	\$18,540	
44. WELDING SUPPLIES	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000	
45. RADIOS	\$0	\$500	\$500	
46. TOOLS/SAFETY	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,500	
47. PURCHASE VEHICLE SCAN EQUIPMENT	\$0	\$3,600	\$3,600	
48. MACHINERY ACCOUNT Total of 39 to 47 (\$60,930)	\$41,500	\$0	\$0	46.82%
49. RECONST. of GRAVEL ROADS	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	-100.00%
50. FUEL	\$0	\$92,300	\$92,300	
51. OPERATOR CONTRACT	\$0	\$1,800	\$1,800	
52. MAINTENANCE/REPAIR	\$0	\$2,500	\$2,500	
53. FUEL ACCOUNT TOTAL OF 50 TO 52 (\$96,600)	\$90,000	\$0	\$0	7.33%

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54. MOWING	\$0	\$2,500	\$2,500	
55. LINE PAINTING	\$0	\$9,638	\$9,638	
56. GRAVEL/STONE	\$0	\$16,000	\$16,000	
57. HOT MIX PATCH	\$0	\$14,000	\$14,000	
58. RENTAL EQUIPMENT	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,500	
59. SIGNS	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000	
60. CULVERTS	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000	
61. BEAVER MAINTENANCE	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000	
62. GUARDRAIL	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,500	
63. CRACK SEAL	\$0	\$14,250	\$14,250	
64. CATCH BASIN CLEANING	\$0	\$4,374	\$4,374	
65. SWEEPING	\$0	\$6,900	\$6,900	
66. HAND TOOLS	\$0	\$700	\$700	
67. MISC.	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,500	
68. ROAD IMPROVEMENT (FORMELY RECON GRAVEL)	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000	
69. GEN. MAINT MAT. & EQUIP. TOTAL OF 54 TO 68 (\$133,862)	\$70,500	\$0	\$0	89.88%
70. LEGAL ADS	\$0	\$900	\$900	
71. DRUG TESTING	\$0	\$250	\$250	
72. LICENSE REIMBURSEMENT	\$0	\$420	\$420	
73. REPAIRS/SUPPLIES	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000	
74. BERKSHIRE COUNTY PURCHASING GROUP	\$0	\$600	\$600	
75. OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$0	\$600	\$600	
76. EDUCATION & TRAINING	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,500	
77. MEETING/DUES EXPENSES	\$0	\$600	\$600	
78. SAFETY GEAR	\$0	\$2,400	\$2,400	
79. HIGHWAY GARAGE TOTAL OF 70 TO 78 (\$10,270)	\$0	\$0.00	\$0	#DIV/0!
80. RENTAL COMPACTOR	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000	
81. RENTAL OPEN CONTAINERS (2)	\$0	\$1,200	\$1,200	
82. TRUCKING COMPACTOR	\$0	\$6,300	\$6,300	
83. TRUCKING OPEN CONTAINER	\$0	\$5,400	\$5,400	
84. TRUCKING CANS & BOTTLES	\$0	\$4,200	\$4,200	
85. TRUCKING SCRAP METAL	\$0	\$2,520	\$2,520	
86. TRUCKING PAPER CARDBOARD	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000	
87. TRUCKING FUEL SURCHARGE	\$0	\$1,400	\$1,400	
88. DISPOSAL SOLID WASTE	\$0	\$22,800	\$22,800	
89. DISPOSAL BULKY WASTE	\$0	\$14,440	\$14,440	
90. DISPOSAL HAZ MAT	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000	
91. CHEMICALS	\$0	\$300	\$300	
92. PERMITS	\$0	\$1,300	\$1,300	
93. MRF EDUCATION	\$0	\$100	\$100	

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94. MAINTENANCE	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000	
95. TRANSFER STATION COSTS TOTAL	\$70,317	\$0	\$0	-0.51%
OF 80 TO 94 (\$69,960)				
MATERIALS AND SERVICES SUBTOTAL	\$322,317	\$371,622	\$371,622	15.30%
HIGHWAY TOTAL	\$720,329	\$824,751	\$803,972	11.61%
96. CENTER CEMETERY	\$3,570	\$3,570	\$3,641	2.00%
97. NORTH CEMETERY	\$6,120	\$6,120	\$6,242	2.00%
98. WEST CEMETERY	\$1,224	\$1,224	\$1,224	0.00%
CEMETERIES TOTAL	\$10,914	\$10,914	\$11,108	1.78%
FORESTRY				
99. MOTH ACCOUNT	\$100	\$100	\$1	-99.00%
100. TREE ACCOUNT	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	0.00%
FORESTRY TOTAL	\$10,100	\$10,100	\$10,001	-0.98%
EDUCATION				
101. CBRSD OPERATING ASSESSMENT	\$1,782,413	\$1,861,519	\$1,817,535	1.97%
102. VOCATIONAL TUITION	\$225,000	\$195,000	\$195,000	-13.33%
103. VOCATIONAL TRANSPORT.	\$90,000	\$110,000	\$90,000	0.00%
EDUCATION TOTAL	\$2,097,413	\$2,166,519	\$2,102,535	0.24%
PROTECT. PERSON & PROP				
104. POLICE DEPT. SALARIES	\$227,333	\$231,880	\$231,880	2.00%
105. POLICE DEPT. EXPENSE	\$17,270	\$17,270	\$17,270	0.00%
106. HARBOR MASTER	\$1,390	\$1,390	\$1,390	0.00%
107. OUTREACH	\$500	\$0	\$500	0.00%
108. CONSTABLE EXPENSE	\$300	\$300	\$300	0.00%
109. FIRE CHIEF STIPEND	\$3,848	\$3,925	\$3,925	2.00%
110. FIRE DEPT. EXPENSES	\$27,000	\$27,000	\$27,000	0.00%
111. FIRE CALL STIPEND	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	0.00%
112. DRY HYDRANTS	\$0	\$7,500	\$2,000	#DIV/0!
113. FORESTRY FIRE DEPT. TOOLS & EQUIP	\$300	\$300	\$300	0.00%
114. BUILDING INSP. SALARY	\$48,201	\$49,165	\$49,165	2.00%
115. BUILDING & CODE INSP. EXP	\$2,275	\$3,065	\$3,065	34.73%
116. DEMOLITION FUND	\$12,200	\$13,420	\$13,420	10.00%
117. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	0.00%
118. EMERGENCY TRAINING	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$1,000	-80.00%
119. ANIMAL CONTROL SALARIES	\$7,548	\$7,699	\$7,699	2.00%
120. ANIMAL CONTROL EXPENSES	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	0.00%
PERSON & PROP. TOTAL	\$366,665	\$381,414	\$372,414	1.57%
HEALTH & SANITATION				
121. E911 COMMUNICATION	\$10,941	\$10,941	\$10,941	0.00%

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122. INSPECTOR of ANIMALS	\$306	\$312	\$312	2.00%
123. SOUTH BERK. SOLID WASTE	\$5,960	\$5,960	\$5,960	0.00%
124. BOARD of HEALTH SALARIES	\$12,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	-41.67%
125. BOARD of HEALTH EXPENSES	\$6,000	\$19,550	\$19,500	225.00%
126. VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION	\$4,962	\$4,962	\$4,962	0.00%
127. MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES	\$550	\$550	\$550	0.00%
128. VETERANS AGENT SALARY	\$1,938	\$1,977	\$1,977	2.00%
129. VETERANS AGENT EXPENSE	\$100	\$100	\$100	0.00%
130. VETERANS BENEFITS	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	0.00%
HEALTH & SANITATION TOTAL	\$62,757	\$71,352	\$71,302	13.62%
UNCLASSIFIED EXPENSES				
131. OUTSIDE PAYROLL SERVICES	\$3,500	\$4,500	\$4,500	28.57%
132. TOWN ACCOUNTANT SALARIES	\$14,712	\$22,509	\$22,509	53.00%
133. TOWN ACCOUNTANT EXPENSES	\$0	\$200	\$200	#DIV/0!
134. GENERAL INSURANCE	\$90,000	\$99,900	\$99,900	11.00%
135. STAFF COVERAGE	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500	0.00%
136. MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS LABOR	\$43,598	\$44,470	\$44,470	2.00%
137. MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS EXPENSES	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$63,000	5.00%
138. MUNICIPAL BUILDING REPAIRS	\$0	\$15,500	\$15,500	#DIV/0!
139. SOFTWARE MAINT. AGREEMENT	\$17,089	\$20,391	\$20,391	19.32%
140. MUNICIPAL UTILITIES	\$65,000	\$65,000	\$67,900	4.46%
141. STREET LIGHTS	\$7,500	\$8,000	\$8,000	6.67%
142. WIRED WEST MEMBERSHIP	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000	#DIV/0!
143. TOWN REPORTS	\$3,200	\$3,500	\$3,500	9.38%
144. POSTAGE	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$12,000	-7.69%
145. COUNCIL on AGING	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	0.00%
146. PARKS & RECREATION	\$18,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	11.11%
147. WEED SURVEYS CENTER POND	\$1,500		\$1,500	0.00%
148. HISTORICAL COMMISSION	\$700	\$700	\$700	0.00%
149. INTEREST on SHORT-TERM DEBT	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	0.00%
150. COUNTY RETIREMENT	\$187,633	\$219,155	\$219,155	16.80%
151. HEALTH INSURANCE	\$385,000	\$402,000	\$399,750	3.83%
152. PAYROLL TAX ACCOUNT	\$21,000	\$22,050	\$22,050	5.00%
153. LIBRARY	\$43,000	\$44,540	\$44,540	3.58%
154. MEMORIAL DAY	\$750	\$750	\$750	0.00%
155. ARTS CENTER	\$1,800	\$2,000	\$2,000	11.11%
156. CHILDRENS HOLIDAY PTY	\$500	\$500	\$500	0.00%
157. UNEMPLOYMENT EXPENSE	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000	#DIV/0!
UNCLASSIFIED EXPENSES TOTAL	\$991,482	\$1,093,665	\$1,097,815	10.72%
OPERATING TOTAL	\$4,859,353	\$5,074,136	\$4,984,567	2.58%

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Majority Vote Required

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Line Item 118. EMERGENCY TRAINING: Mr. Gibson explained that the funding for this line item was sufficient to

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

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

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

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

Line Item 157. UNEMPLOYMENT EXPENSES: Ms. Toomey made a request from the floor for an explanation of what this line item was for, and why was it new for this year. Mr. Gibson noted that the Interim Town Administrator last year missed Unemployment Expenses as a separate budget line item last year.

He noted that Towns and Cities paid unemployment directly, and that it didn't come out as a percentage. He noted that \$10,000.00 a reasonable estimate for next year's unemployment.

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

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

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

Majority Vote Required

Article 3 Was moved and seconded from the floor.

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

Article 3 Passed Unanimously.

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

2/3 Vote Required

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

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

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of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Majority Vote Required

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

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

Majority Vote Required

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

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

Majority Vote Required

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

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

Majority Vote Required

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

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

Majority Vote Required

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

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

Sponsored by the 250th Anniversary Committee

Majority Vote Required

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

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

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

Annual Town Meeting – May 10, 2014

~ Continued ~

Majority Vote Required

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

A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 11 Failed.**

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

Majority Vote Required

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

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

Majority Vote Required

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

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

Majority Vote Required

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

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

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

Majority Vote Required

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

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

Majority Vote Required

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

Annual Town Meeting – May 10, 2014

~ Continued ~

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

Majority Vote Required

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

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

Majority Vote Required

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

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

Majority Vote Required

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

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

Majority Vote Required

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

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

Majority Vote Required

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

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~ Continued ~

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

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

Majority Vote Required

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

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

Majority Vote Required

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

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

2/3 Vote Required

Article 24 Was moved and seconded from the floor. Kevin Flaherty questioned why we don't rent a grader for 2 or 3 months to grade roads in the summer and keep the old one for winter use. Mr. Bouchard responded the grader was used for road grading twice a year, summer and fall, for 30 to 45 days each road grading period. The Town did look into renting and found that renting would cost \$6,500 to \$7,000 per month with mobilization costs from the rental company of approximately \$700 to \$1,500 per rental. Renting twice a year would incur costs of between

\$21,000 to \$24,000, over 20 years this would result in rental costs of between \$420,000 to \$480,000. Mr. Bouchard noted that the current grader was 19 years old, and the one prior to that was 23 years old when replaced. Mr. Bouchard also noted that we would be given a trade in allowance of \$35,000 on the current grader, and that we have, to date, spent a little over \$57,000 in repairs to the current grader, including \$5,000 for damage from an electrical fire on the grader. Mr. Bouchard noted that the current grader needed tires which would cost approximately \$12,000. Mr. Kovich inquired as to whether the machine was stored indoors or outdoors, Mr. Bouchard responded that the machine was stored outdoors as the Town does not have sufficient garage space to store it indoors. Mrs. Rodhouse noted that if the grader was rented seasonally it would not be available for snow clearing after big storms. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 24 Passed by 2/3 Majority.**

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

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

Majority Vote Required

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

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

Appropriations:

From FY 2015 estimated revenues to Committee Administrative Expenses	\$ 500
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~ Continued ~

Reserves:

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

Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee

Majority Vote Required

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

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

Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee

Majority Vote Required

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Resolved, that the people of Becket, Massachusetts:

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

Article petitioned by voters

Majority Vote Required

Article 28 Was moved and seconded from the floor. Colleen O'Connor spoke in favor of sustainable energy, but noted that there had been no discussion of solar in Town. Mr. Alvin Blake of the Energy Committee referred Ms. O'Connor to the next meeting of the Energy Committee where solar power for municipal use would be discussed. Mr. Toomey spoke against the proposed pipeline, and in favor of the motion. Steve Rosenthal noted that a vote in favor of the motion was voting against the pipeline. Mr. Massini asked why we were voting against a pipeline that wasn't proposed to come through Becket. Meredyth Babcock noted one of the proposed routes took the pipeline through Washington, so this motion is preemptive in nature, to send a message to our representatives that we don't want a pipeline, and spoke against the pipeline. Ann Spadafora noted the environmental damage that fracking caused to the

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~ Continued ~

water table, and noted that huge swaths of the forests and farmland would be cut and remain cleared if a pipeline were to be installed. Mr. Massini suggested that if a pipeline is to be installed, they would use currently open transmission lines and wouldn't be clearing new land. Meredyth Babcock acknowledged that there was financial motivations to attempt to use existing transmission lines, but asserted that new paths would be cut, and pointed out other issues with the project. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 28 Passed.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

George E. Roberts
Town Clerk



◆ **SPECIAL TOWN MEETING** ◆
September 22, 2014 - 7:00 p.m.

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, the Special Town Meeting was called on September 22, 2014 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 7:00 p.m. by the Moderator. There were 37 registered voters present (3% of 1,382 registered voters) and a total of 38 people attended the meeting. Town Officials Present: Bruce Garlow, Moderator; Jeanne Pryor, William Elovirta, and Angela Hilton, Selectmen; Maria Wallington, Mark Karlberg, Dan Parnell, Stephen LaBelle, Sr., and Ann Spadafora, Finance Committee Members; George E. Roberts, Town Clerk; Edward Gibson, Town Administrator. Town Counsel, Joel Bard 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 appropriate the sum of \$500,000.00 for the purpose of settling litigation with BRD LLC concerning tree and brush removal services performed by BRD in 2009 in connection with the December 2008 ice storm, and to fund this appropriation by transferring \$500,000.00 from the Stabilization Fund, or take any other action related thereto.

2/3 Vote Required

Article 1 Was moved and seconded from the floor. Town Administrator Ed Gibson gave a brief explanation of the background concerning the ice storm of 2008 and the clean up efforts into 2009 involving the BRD and the disputed billing leading up to and including the litigation the Town has been involved in. Mr. Gibson explained that the Town went through a

mediation process, and has arrived at a proposed settlement of Five Hundred Thousand dollars (\$500,000.00). Mr. Gibson explained that we have spent approximately One Hundred and Ten Thousand Dollars in legal fees to date, and we could be looking at an additional One Hundred and Fifty to Two Hundred Thousand Dollars in legal fees to get to a court decision. Further it was explained that the Town would also be subject to a potential exposure of 1.8 to 2.0 Million Dollars if the Town received an adverse verdict. Mr. Gibson opined that it made financial sense to stop our loss at the proposed Five Hundred Thousand Dollar (\$500,000.00) proposed settlement. William Elovirta gave an account of the mediation process. Mr. Gibson and Mr. Bard responded to questions from the floor. Ann Spadafora explained the effect of the settlement on Town finances. She explained that we do have the money in the Stabilization Fund, and that this settlement would reduce it by approximately 80%. She stated that contracts would be scrutinized much more closely going forward. Selectman Jeanne Pryor noted that the Town Administrator had taken classes provided by the State, and been certified in procurement procedures, and that the Town would be looking at contracts going forward. Selectman Elovirta explained that if we do not approve this settlement, and we lose at trial, the town's people will be back at Town Meeting to determine how to raise perhaps Two Million Dollars. He noted that this settlement, if approved, would not result in anyone's taxes increasing.

A vote was taken and the motion on

Article 1 Passed by 2/3, with 36 votes in favor, and 1 vote against.

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.

Respectfully submitted,

George E. Roberts
Town Clerk



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

July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014

<u>Fiscal Year/Tax</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>07/01/2013</u>	<u>Commitments</u>	<u>Collected</u>	<u>Refunds</u>	<u>Abatements</u>	<u>Tax Title</u> <u>Transfers</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>06/30/2014</u>
2014							
Real Estate		\$4,906,241.11	\$4,662,566.08	\$391.21	\$29,432.35		\$214,633.89
Personal Property		\$287,521.54	\$281,677.84		\$3,104.75		\$2,738.95
Motor Vehicle		\$203,948.24	\$191,983.24	\$1,965.90	\$2,859.44		\$11,071.46
Fees			\$16,361.73				
Interest			\$13,517.29				
2013							
Real Estate	\$235,936.95		\$91,044.94		\$440.61	\$88,229.60	\$56,221.80
Personal Property	\$2,978.36		\$1,372.55		\$77.94		\$1,527.87
Motor Vehicle	\$12,260.21	\$19,456.51	\$28,390.10	\$1,395.86	\$1,749.85		\$2,972.63
Fees			\$10,636.71				
Interest			\$9,704.10				
2012							
Real Estate	\$51,783.85		\$16,283.99			\$9,645.77	\$25,854.09
Personal Property	\$1,662.82		\$579.10		\$28.06		\$1,055.66
Motor Vehicle	\$3,019.76		\$1,205.37				\$1,814.39
Fees			\$2,102.54				
Interest			\$4,959.79				
2011							
Real Estate	\$15,245.79		\$4,825.65			\$4,646.55	\$5,773.59
Personal Property	\$548.71		\$106.63		\$42.34		\$399.74
Motor Vehicle	\$2,367.02		\$584.29				\$1,782.73
Fees			\$1,379.72				
Interest			\$2,094.18				
2010							
Real Estate	\$3,094.24		\$82.38			\$2,606.95	\$404.91
Personal Property	\$397.44		\$35.78		\$20.78		\$340.88
Motor Vehicle	\$2,043.32		\$215.00				\$1,828.32
Fees			\$382.43				
Interest			\$139.61				
2009							
Real Estate	\$845.88						\$845.88
Personal Property	\$118.69						\$118.69
Motor Vehicle	\$1,685.21		\$155.00		\$18.75		\$1,511.46
Fees			\$57.00				
Interest			\$72.97				
2008							
Real Estate	\$480.14						\$480.14
Personal Property	\$80.80		\$21.10		\$3.14		\$56.56
Fees			\$5.00				
Interest			\$16.93				
2007							
Real Estate	\$484.63						\$484.63
Personal Property	\$26.65						\$26.65
Fees			\$0.00				
Interest			\$0.00				

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

July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014

<u>Fiscal Year/Tax</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>07/01/2013</u>	<u>Commitments</u>	<u>Collected</u>	<u>Refunds</u>	<u>Abatements</u>	<u>Tax Title</u> <u>Transfers</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>06/30/2014</u>
2006							
Real Estate	\$132.68						\$132.68
Personal Property	\$75.36						\$75.36
Fees			\$0.00				
Interest			\$0.00				
2005							
Real Estate	\$173.06						\$173.06
Fees			\$0.00				
Interest			\$0.00				
2004							
Real Estate	\$169.64						\$169.64
Fees			\$0.00				
Interest			\$0.00				

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth Bilodeau, ***Collector***



◆ **TOWN OF BECKET FINANCIAL REPORT** ◆

July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014

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		\$3,500.00	\$-1,404.38		\$290.92	\$1,804.70	13.88%
TOTAL		\$3,500.00	\$-1,404.38		\$290.92	\$1,804.70	13.88%
SELECTMEN SALARIES		\$6,000.00			\$5,999.76	\$0.24	99.99%
SELECTMEN EXPENSES		\$1,000.00			\$737.85	\$262.15	73.78%
LEGAL EXPENSES	\$10,614.84	\$100,000.00			\$71,204.71	\$39,410.13	64.37%
SELECTMEN Total	\$10,614.84	\$107,000.00			\$77,942.32	\$39,672.52	66.26%
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR SALARIES		\$60,000.00			\$60,000.00		100.00%
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR EXPENSES		\$1,700.00	\$2,648.96		\$4,348.96		100.00%
STAFF COVERAGE		\$7,500.00	\$-486.28		\$6,625.78	\$387.94	94.46%
250th ANNIVERSARY		\$5,000.00			\$817.61	\$4,182.39	16.35%
FY14 PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM		\$2,000.00			\$1,942.00	\$58.00	97.10%
FY14 GRANT PREPARATION		\$9,000.00				\$9,000.00	0.00%
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR Total		\$85,200.00	\$2,162.68		\$73,734.35	\$13,628.33	84.40%
FINANCE COMM. EXPENSES		\$400.00			\$302.27	\$97.73	75.56%
FINANCE COMM. Total		\$400.00			\$302.27	\$97.73	75.56%
TOWN ACCOUNTANT SALARIES		\$14,712.00			\$14,712.00		100.00%
OUTSIDE PAYROLL EXPENSES		\$3,500.00	\$1,605.35		\$5,105.35		100.00%
TOWN ACCOUNTANT Total		\$18,212.00	\$1,605.35		\$19,817.35		100.00%
ASSESSOR SALARIES		\$119,168.00	\$-3,000.00		\$113,141.88	\$3,026.12	97.39%
ASSESSOR EXPENSES	\$630.00	\$12,500.00	\$3,000.00		\$11,831.52	\$4,298.48	73.35%
ASSESORS Total	\$630.00	\$131,668.00			\$124,973.40	\$7,324.60	94.46%
TREASURER SALARIES		\$38,505.00			\$38,505.00		100.00%
TREASURER EXPENSES		\$5,605.00	\$-2,104.44		\$616.19	\$2,884.37	17.60%
TREASURER Total		\$44,110.00	\$-2,104.44		\$39,121.19	\$2,884.37	93.13%
TAX COLLECTOR SALARIES		\$54,848.00			\$54,848.00		100.00%
ASST TAX COLLECTOR SALARIES		\$41,238.00			\$41,238.00		100.00%
TAX COLLECTOR EXPENSES	\$1,519.32	\$5,200.00			\$6,667.31	\$52.01	99.22%
KVS SOFTWARE UPGRADE	\$4,045.00					\$4,045.00	0.00%
TAX COLLECTOR TOTAL	\$5,564.32	\$101,286.00			\$102,753.31	\$4,097.01	96.16%
TAX TITLE EXPENSES			\$3,441.50		\$3,441.50		100.00%
TAX TITLE EXPENSES		\$25,000.00	\$-3,441.50		\$13,610.50	\$7,948.00	63.13%
TAX TITLE TOTAL		\$25,000.00			\$17,052.00	\$7,948.00	68.20%

<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 SECRETARY SALARIES		\$42,617.00			\$42,617.00		100.00%
TOWN SECRETARY TOTAL		\$42,617.00			\$42,617.00		100.00%
TOWN COUNSEL EXPENSES	\$1,113.24	\$13,500.00	\$5,404.38		\$19,853.42	\$164.20	99.17%
TOWN COUNSEL TOTAL	\$1,113.24	\$13,500.00	\$5,404.38		\$19,853.42	\$164.20	99.17%
AUDIT EXPENSES	\$20,396.04		\$18,500.00		\$19,500.00	\$19,396.04	50.13%
AUDIT TOTAL	\$20,396.04		\$18,500.00		\$19,500.00	\$19,396.04	50.13%
POSTAGE EXPENSES		\$13,000.00			\$10,395.52	\$2,604.48	79.96%
POSTAGE TOTAL		\$13,000.00			\$10,395.52	\$2,604.48	79.96%
TOWN REPORT EXPENSES		\$3,200.00	\$128.50		\$3,328.50		100.00%
TOWN REPORT TOTAL		\$3,200.00	\$128.50		\$3,328.50		100.00%
TOWN CLERK SALARIES		\$26,096.00			\$26,096.00		100.00%
TOWN CLERK EXPENSES		\$2,295.00			\$826.79	\$1,468.21	36.02%
TOWN CLERK TOTAL		\$28,391.00			\$26,922.79	\$1,468.21	94.82%
ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION EXPENSES		\$7,743.00			\$4,483.19	\$3,259.81	57.89%
ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION TOTAL		\$7,743.00			\$4,483.19	\$3,259.81	57.89%
CON COMM EXPENSES		\$7,555.00	\$1,821.84		\$9,376.84		100.00%
CONS COMM TOTAL		\$7,555.00	\$1,821.84		\$9,376.84		100.00%
PLANNING BOARD EXPENSES	\$120.72	\$6,500.00			\$6,571.00	\$49.72	99.24%
PLANNING BOARD TOTAL	\$120.72	\$6,500.00			\$6,571.00	\$49.72	99.24%
BOARD OF APPEALS EXPENSES		\$2,500.00	\$750.00		\$2,903.16	\$346.84	89.32%
ZONING BOARD TOTAL		\$2,500.00	\$750.00		\$2,903.16	\$346.84	89.32%
BERK REGIONAL PLANNING COMM		\$1,223.00	\$1,222.27		\$1,222.27	\$1,223.00	49.98%
BRPC TOTAL		\$1,223.00	\$1,222.27		\$1,222.27	\$1,223.00	49.98%
MUNICIPAL BLDG LABOR		\$43,598.00	\$20.32		\$43,618.32		100.00%
MUNICIPAL BLDG UTILITIES		\$65,000.00			\$61,362.90	\$3,637.10	94.40%
MUNICIPAL BLDG EXPENSES		\$60,000.00	\$-4,377.46		\$39,990.13	\$15,632.41	71.89%
MUNICIPAL BLDG REPAIRS	\$5,959.95		\$17,800.00		\$20,461.08	\$3,298.87	86.11%
MUNICIPAL BLDG TOTAL	\$5,959.95	\$168,598.00	\$13,442.86		\$165,432.43	\$22,568.38	87.99%
MUNICIPAL BLDG TOWN HALL CNTRL AIR	\$20,000.00					\$20,000.00	0.00%
GRANTS MANAGEMENT	\$16,256.57				\$11,178.97	\$5,077.60	68.76%
SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE AGREEMENTS		\$17,089.00	\$499.09		\$17,588.09		100.00%
MUNICIPAL BLDG ARTICLES TOTAL	\$36,256.57	\$17,089.00	\$499.09		\$28,767.06	\$25,077.60	53.42%
RESERVE FUND		\$40,000.00	\$-38,588.57			\$1,411.43	0.00%
RESERVE FUND TOTAL		\$40,000.00	\$-38,588.57			\$1,411.43	0.00%

<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>
PUBLIC SAFETY INSPECTIONS PUBLIC SAFETY TOTAL	\$495.00 \$495.00				\$495.00 \$495.00		100.00% 100.00%
POLICE DEPT SALARIES		\$227,333.00			\$226,103.55	\$1,229.45	99.45%
POLICE DEPT EXPENSES	\$448.35	\$17,270.00	\$2,500.00		\$15,060.38	\$5,147.97	74.53%
FY14 POLICE CRUISER		\$40,000.00			\$38,281.88	\$1,718.12	95.70%
POLICE DEPT TOTAL	\$448.35	\$284,603.00	\$2,500.00		\$279,455.81	\$8,095.54	97.18%
EMERG MANAGEMENT EXPENSES		\$1,000.00			\$701.10	\$298.90	70.11%
EMERGENCY MGT TRAINING		\$5,000.00				\$5,000.00	0.00%
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TOTAL		\$6,000.00			\$701.10	\$5,298.90	11.68%
CONSTABLE EXPENSES		\$300.00				\$300.00	0.00%
CONSTABLE EXPENSES TOTAL		\$300.00				\$300.00	0.00%
FIRE DEPARTMENT SALARIES		\$3,848.00			\$3,848.00		100.00%
FIREFIGHTER STIPENDS		\$10,000.00			\$8,250.00	\$1,750.00	82.50%
FIRE DEPARTMENT EXPENSES		\$27,000.00	\$12,550.00		\$7,753.97	\$31,796.97	19.60%
DRY HYDRANTS		\$7,500.00				\$7,500.00	0.00%
FIRE DEPARTMENT TOTAL		\$48,348.00	\$12,550.00		\$19,851.97	\$41,046.03	32.59%
DRY HYDRANT PARTS	\$7,000.00					\$7,000.00	0.00%
FIRE DEPARTMENT ARTICLES TOTAL	\$7,000.00					\$78,000.00	0.00%
E911 COMMUNICATIONS		\$10,941.00			\$10,940.35	\$0.65	99.99%
E911 COMMUNICATIONS TOTAL		\$10,941.00			\$10,940.35	\$0.65	99.99%
BUILDING DEPARTMENT SALARIES		\$48,201.00	\$8.40		\$48,209.40		100.00%
BUILDING DEPARTMENT EXPENSES		\$2,275.00			\$1,902.91	\$372.09	83.64%
BUILDING DEPARTMENT TOTAL		\$50,476.00	\$8.40		\$50,112.31	\$372.09	99.26%
ANIMAL CONTROL SALARIES		\$7,548.00			\$7,547.98	\$0.02	99.99%
ANIMAL CONTROL EXPENSES		\$2,500.00			\$2,449.50	\$50.50	97.98%
ANIMAL CONTROL TOTAL		\$10,048.00			\$9,997.48	\$50.52	99.49%
HABOR MASTER EXPENSES		\$1,390.00	\$230.01		\$1,020.01	\$600.00	62.96%
HARBOR MASTER TOTAL		\$1,390.00	\$230.01		\$1,020.01	\$600.00	62.96%
DEMOLITION FUND		\$12,200.00			\$4,222.18	\$7,977.82	34.60%
DEMOLITION TOTAL		\$12,200.00			\$4,222.18	\$7,977.82	34.60%
SCHOOL OPERATING BUDGET		\$1,782,413.00			\$1,782,413.00		100.00%
VOCATIONAL TUITION		\$225,000.00	\$-20,000.00		\$191,442.50	\$13,557.50	93.38%
VOCATIONAL TRANSPORTATION	\$278.48	\$90,000.00	\$20,000.00		\$105,252.50	\$5,025.98	95.44%
EDUCATION TOTAL	\$278.48	\$2,097,413.00			\$2,079,108.00	\$18,583.48	99.11%

<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>
MOTH EXPENSES		\$100.00				\$100.00	0.00%
MOTH ACCOUNT TOTAL		\$100.00				\$100.00	0.00%
TREE ACCOUNT EXPENSES		\$10,000.00			\$10,000.00		100.00%
TREE ACCOUNT TOTAL		\$10,000.00			\$10,000.00		100.00 %
FORESTRY		\$300.00			\$300.00		0.00%
FORESTRY TOTAL		\$300.00			\$300.00		0.00%
HIGHWAY DEPT SALARIES		\$185,312.00	\$-5,000.00		\$176,987.44	\$3,324.56	98.15%
GENERAL MAINTENANCE		\$70,500.00	\$-1,367.84		\$65,943.26	\$3,188.90	95.38%
MACHINERY ACCOUNT	\$33,381.03	\$41,500.00	\$15,000.00		\$89,611.98	\$269.05	99.70%
RECON OF GRAVEL ROAD	\$9,561.69	\$50,000.00	\$-4,000.00		\$45,156.29	\$10,405.40	81.27%
FUEL ACCOUNT		\$90,000.00	\$9,563.94		\$99,563.94		100.00%
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT TOTAL	\$42,942.72	\$437,312.00	\$14,196.10		\$477,262.91	\$17,187.91	96.52%
TRUCK 4 DUMP BODY		\$145,000.00			\$139,000.00	\$6,000.00	95.86%
FY13 DUMP TRUCK							100.00%
FY14 TRACTOR		\$90,000.00			\$90,000.00		100.00%
FY14 PICK UP TRUCK		\$39,000.00			\$39,000.00		100.00%
FY14 SNOW GUARDS		\$8,200.00			\$8,172.00	\$28.00	99.65%
HIGHWAY ARTICLES TOTAL		\$282,200.00			\$276,172.00	\$6,028.00	97.86%
WINTER ROAD SALARIES	\$-4,898.25	\$122,146.00	\$20,095.73		\$137,343.48		100.00%
WINTER ROADS FUELS	\$-39,912.32		\$39,912.32				100.00%
WINTER ROADS		\$67,800.00	\$49,014.42		\$116,628.20	\$186.22	99.84%
WINTER ROADS TOTAL	\$-44,810.57	\$189,946.00	\$109,022.47		\$253,971.68	\$186.22	99.82%
STREET LIGHTING		\$7,500.00			\$7,376.47	\$123.53	98.35%
STREET LIGHTS TOTAL		\$7,500.00			\$7,376.47	\$123.53	98.35%
TRANSFER STATION SALARIES		\$22,754.00			\$22,453.49	\$300.51	98.67%
TRANSFER STATION EXPENSES		\$70,317.00			\$65,846.31	\$4,470.69	93.64%
TRANSFER STATION TOTAL		\$93,071.00			\$88,299.80	\$4,771.20	94.87%
BECKET CENTER CEMETERY		\$3,570.00			\$2,878.22	\$691.78	80.62%
NORTH BECKET CEMETERY		\$6,120.00			\$6,094.04	\$25.96	99.57%
WEST BECKET CEMETERY		\$1,224.00			\$1,000.00	\$224.00	81.69%
CEMETERY TOTAL		\$10,914.00			\$9,972.26	\$941.74	91.37%
BOARD OF HEALTH SALARIES		\$12,000.00	\$-3,200.00		\$7,220.42	\$1,579.58	82.05%
BOARD OF HEALTH EXPENSES		\$6,000.00	\$5,500.00		\$9,591.46	\$1,980.54	83.40%
SO BERK SOLID WASTE		\$5,960.00			\$5,959.65	\$0.35	99.99%
BOARD OF HEALTH TOTAL		\$23,960.00	\$2,300.00		\$22,771.53	\$3,488.47	86.71%
INSPECTOR OF ANIMALS		\$306.00			\$306.00		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>
INSPECTOR OF ANIMALS Total		\$306.00			\$306.00		100.00%
LEE VISITNG NURSE		\$4,962.00			\$4,961.25	\$0.75	99.98%
VISITING NURSE TOTAL		\$4,962.00			\$4,961.25	\$0.75	99.98%
COUNCIL ON AGING EXPENSES		\$5,000.00			\$5,000.00		100.00%
OUTREACH PROGRAMS		\$500.00			\$500.00		0.00%
COUNCIL ON AGING TOTAL		\$5,500.00			\$5,000.00	\$500.00	90.90%
VETERANS AGENT SALARIES		\$1,938.00			\$1,938.00		100.00%
VETERANS BENEFITS		\$20,000.00			\$16,647.10	\$3,352.90	83.23%
VETERANS AGENT EXPENSE		\$100.00				\$100.00	0.00%
VETERANS TOTAL		\$22,038.00			\$18,585.10	\$3,452.90	84.33%
MENTAL HEALTH CENTER EXPENSES		\$550.00				\$550.00	0.00%
MENTAL HEALTH TOTAL		\$550.00				\$550.00	0.00%
ARTS CENTER EXPENSES	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00			\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	50.00%
ARTS CENTER TOTAL	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00			\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	50.00%
WOMEN'S AUX CHILDREN'S PARTY		\$500.00			\$500.00		100.00%
WOMEN'S AUXILIARY TOTAL		\$500.00			\$500.00		100.00%
LIBRARY EXPENSES		\$43,000.00			\$43,000.00		100.00%
LIBRARY TOTAL		\$43,000.00			\$43,000.00		100.00%
LIBRARY CAPITAL		\$20,000.00				\$20,000.00	0.00%
LIBRARY CAPITAL		\$20,000.00				\$20,000.00	0.00%
RECREATION COMM EXPENSES							100.00%
RECREATION TOTAL							100.00%
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		\$18,000.00			\$16,703.27	\$1,296.73	92.79%
PARKS COMM TOTAL		\$18,000.00			\$16,703.27	\$1,296.73	92.79%
HISTORICAL COMM EXPENSES		\$700.00			\$251.00	\$449.00	35.85%
HISTORICAL COMM TOTAL		\$700.00			\$251.00	\$449.00	35.85%
MEMORIAL/VETERAN'S DAY EXPENSES		\$750.00	\$186.28		\$936.28		100.00%
MEMORIAL/VETERAN'S DAY TOTAL		\$750.00	\$186.28		\$936.28		100.00%
BECKET WASHINGTON SCHOOL		\$102,730.00			\$102,730.00		100.00%
NESSACUS SCHOOL DEBT		\$15,038.00			\$15,038.00		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>
INTEREST ON SHORT TERM DEBT		\$1,500.00			\$32.25	\$1,467.75	2.15%
FIRE PUMPER DEBT/DUMP TRUCK DEBT		\$161,755.00			\$161,755.00		100.00%
WAHCONAH REGIONAL HS DEBT		\$4,385.00			\$4,385.00		100.00%
KITTEREDGE SCHOOL DEBT		\$1,048.00			\$1,048.00		100.00%
FY14 CBRSD							
DUMP TRUCK AND TRACTOR							
DEBT TOTAL		\$286,456.00			\$284,988.25	\$1,467.75	99.48%
RMV SURCHARGES			\$2,980.00		\$2,560.00	\$4200.00	85.90%
AIR POLLUTION			\$856.00		\$856.00		100.00%
REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY			\$18.00		\$18.00		100.00%
SCHOOL CHOICE TUTITION			\$11,861.00		\$26,895.00	\$-15,034.00	226.75%
TOTAL			\$15,715.00		\$30,329.00	\$-14,614.00	192.99%
HEALTH/LIFE INSURANCE		\$385,000.00			\$355,079.33	\$29,920.67	92.22%
RETIREMENT		\$187,633.00			\$187,633.00		100.00%
PAYROLL TAXES		\$21,000.00			\$19,612.29	\$1,387.71	93.39%
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS TOTAL		\$593,633.00			\$562,324.62	\$31,308.38	94.72%
LIABILITY INSURANCE		\$90,000.00			\$88,239.12	\$1,760.88	98.04%
LIABILITY INSURANCE TOTAL		\$90,000.00			\$88,239.88	\$1,760.88	98.04%
OTHER FINANCING USES		\$292,949.00	\$-292,949.00				100.00%
OTHER FINANCING USES TOTAL		\$292,949.00	\$-292,949.00				100.00%
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$88,809.66	\$5,827,958.00	\$-132,801.16		\$5,458,815.04	\$325,151.46	94.37%
GIFTS AND DONATIONS FUND EXPENDITURES							
AMBULANCE GIFTS EXPENSE					\$919.05	\$-919.05	100.00%
AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT TOTAL					\$919.05	\$-919.05	100.00%
SCHOLARSHIP EXPENSE					\$2,101.00	\$-2,101.00	100.00%
EDUCATION TOTAL					\$2,101.00	\$-2,101.00	100.00%
GIFTS AND DONATIONS TOTAL					\$3,020.05	\$-3,020.05	100.007%
FEDERAL GRANTS FUND EXPENDITURES							
CDBG 11 EXPENSES					\$102,699.70	\$-102,699.70	100.00%
SELECTMEN TOTAL					\$102,699.70	\$-102,699.70	100.00%
STATE GRANTS FUND EXPENDITURES							
GREEN COMMUNITY GRANT EXPENSES					\$933.00	\$-933.00	100.00%
SELECTMEN TOTAL					\$933.00	\$-933.00	100.00%
EMERG MANAGEMENT GRANT EXPENSE					\$2,031.00	\$-2,031.00	100.00%
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TOTAL					\$2,031.00	\$-2,031.00	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>
WESTFIELD WILD AND SCENIC HIGHWAY ARTICLES TOTAL					\$4,900.00 \$4,900.00	\$-4,900.00 \$-4,900.00	100.00% 100.00%
COA GRANT EXPENSES COUNCIL ON AGING TOTAL					\$4,000.50 \$4,000.50	\$-4,000.50 \$-4,000.50	100.00% 100.00%
LIBRARY GRANT EXPENSES LIBRARY TOTAL					\$2,912.47 \$2,912.47	\$-2,912.47 \$-2,912.47	100.00% 100.00%
CULTURAL COUNCIL EXPENSE CULTURAL COUNCIL TOTAL					\$6,225.00 \$6,225.00	\$-6,225.00 \$-6,225.00	100.00% 100.00%
STATE GRANTS TOTAL					\$21,001.97	\$-21,001.97	100.00%
CPA FUND EXPENDITURES							
CPA ADMIN EXPENSES			\$500.00		\$250.00	\$250.00	50.00%
CENTER POND WEED TREATMENT						\$3,000.00	0.00%
MULLEN HOUSE		\$3,000.00				\$20,000.00	0.00%
LAND PURCHASE		\$20,000.00				\$8,000.00	0.00%
BECKET ARTS CENTER		\$8,000.00				\$10,075.00	0.00%
BECKET ATHENAEUM		\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00			\$30,000.00	0.00%
OBELISK		\$6,000.00				\$6,000.00	0.00%
CPA COMMITTEE TOTAL		\$62,075.00	\$15,500.00		\$250.00	\$77,325.00	0.32%
CPA FUND TOTAL		\$62,075.00	\$15,500.00		\$250.00	\$77,325.00	0.32%
REVOLVING FUNDS							
INS REIMB <20K GENERAL GOVERNMENT TOTAL					\$1,700.00 \$1,700.00	\$-1,700.00 \$1,700.00	100.00% 100.00%
CONSERVATION WETLANDS EXPENSES CONS COMM TOTAL					\$54.71 \$54.71	\$-54.71 \$-54.71	100.00% 100.00%
PLUMBING INSPECTOR EXPENSES PLUMBING INSPECTOR TOTAL					\$3,410.00 \$3,410.00	\$-3,410.00 \$-3,410.00	100.00% 100.00%
WIRING INSPECTOR EXPENSES WIRING INSPECTOR TOTAL					\$5,265.00 \$5,265.00	\$-5,265.00 \$-5,265.00	100.00% 100.00%
REVOLVING FUNDS TOTAL					\$10,429.71	\$-10,429.71	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>
		CHAPTER 90 FUNDS					
CHAPTER 90 EXPENSES <i>TOTAL</i>					\$86,734.52 \$86,734.52	\$-86,734.52 \$-86,734.52	100.00% 100.00%
<i>CHAPTER 90 TOTAL</i>					\$86,734.52	\$-86,734.52	100.00%
		AMBULANCE ENTERPRISE					
AMBULANCE SALARIES	\$-6,423.50	\$283,700.00	\$5,573,22.00		\$277,620.61	\$5,229.11	98.15%
AMBULANCE EXPENSES		\$16,300.00	\$850.28		\$16,748.85	\$401.43	97.65%
<i>AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT TOTAL</i>	\$-6,423.50	\$300,000.00	\$-6,423.50		\$294,369.46	\$5,630.54	98.12%
AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR <i>AMBULANCE ARTICLES TOTAL</i>		\$2,200.00 \$2,200.00			\$2,160.15 \$2,160.15	\$39.85 \$39.85	98.18% 98.18%
OTHER FINANCING USES	\$20,000.00					\$20,000.00	0.00%
<i>OTHER FINANCING USES TOTAL</i>	\$20,000.00					\$20,000.00	0.00%
<i>AMBULANCE ENTERPRISE TOTAL</i>	\$13,576.50	\$302,200.00	\$6,423.50		\$296,529.61	\$25,670.39	92.03%
		NON EXPENDABLE TRUST					
CEM PERP CARE EXPENSES <i>CEMETERY TOTAL</i>					\$107.40 \$107.40	\$-107.40 \$-107.40	100.00% 100.00%
<i>NON EXPENDABLE TRUST TOTAL</i>					\$107.40	\$-107.40	100.00%
		ROAD DISTRICT AGENCY					
SHERWOOD FOREST PAYMENTS					\$1,738.77	\$-1,738.77	100.00%
SHERWOOD FOREST LAKE PAYMENTS					\$74.25	\$-74.25	100.00%
<i>TOTAL</i>					\$1,813.02	\$-1,813.02	100.00%
<i>ROAD DISTRICT AGENCY TOTAL</i>					\$1,813.02	\$-1,813.02	100.00%
		AGENCY FUND					
RETIREE INSURANCE AND WITHHOLDINGS <i>GOVERNMENT TOTAL</i>					\$7,256.48 \$7,256.48	\$-7,256.48 \$-7,256.48	100.00% 100.00%
DEPUTY COLLECTOR EXPENSE <i>DEPUTY COLLECTOR TOTAL</i>					\$1,628.00 \$1,628.00	\$-1,628.00 \$-1,628.00	100.00% 100.00%
TOWN CLERK FEES SALARIES <i>TOWN CLERK TOTAL</i>					\$1,049.75 \$1,049.75	\$-1,049.75 \$-1,049.75	100.00% 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>
POLICE OUTSIDE DETAILS EXPENSES					\$70,004.75	\$-70,004.75	100.00%
PISTOL PERMIT EXPENSES					\$4,575.00	\$-4,575.00	100.00
POLICE DEPT TOTAL					\$74,579.75	\$-74,579.75	100.00%
FIRE DEPT FEES					\$3,739.00	\$-3,739.00	100.00
FIRE DEPARTMENT TOTAL					\$3,739.00	\$-3,739.00	100.00%
AGENCY FUND TOTAL					\$88,252.98	\$-88,252.98	100.00%
GRAND TOTAL	\$102,386.16	\$6,192,233.00	\$-110,877.66	\$0.00	\$6,069,654.00	\$114,087.50	98.15%



◆ **TOWN OF BECKET BUDGETED VS. ACTUAL** ◆

FY 2014

GENERAL FUND

REVENUE	EST REV	ADJ EST REV	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
PERSONAL PROPERTY REVENUE	0.00	0.00	284,443.86	-284,443.86
REAL ESTATE REVENUE	0.00	0.00	4,768,026.88	-4,768,026.88
TAX TITLE REVENUE	0.00	0.00	84,852.51	-84,852.51
MVE REVENUE	0.00	0.00	223,028.12	-223,028.12
SEPTIC LIEN REVENUE	0.00	0.00	205.57	-205.57
PENALTIES AND INTEREST	0.00	0.00	88,254.32	-88,254.32
IN LIEU OF TAXES	0.00	0.00	5,279.00	-5,279.00
FEES	0.00	0.00	25,779.00	-25,779.00
OTHER DEPT. REVENUE	0.00	0.00	16,596.44	-16,596.44
LIQUOR LICENSES	0.00	0.00	4,150.00	-4,150.00
LICENSES AND PERMITS	0.00	0.00	63,435.19	-63,435.19
GARBAGE AND TRASH	0.00	0.00	54,494.60	-54,494.60
CHAPTER 70	0.00	0.00	76,563.00	-76,563.00
REVENUE FROM THE STATE	0.00	0.00	262,078.00	-262,078.00
FINES AND FORFEITS	0.00	0.00	16,350.00	-16,350.00
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	0.00	0.00	235,000.00	-235,000.00
INTEREST EARNED	0.00	0.00	1,338.10	-1,338.10
REVENUE TOTALS	0.00	0.00	6,209,874.59	-6,209,874.59

EXPENSE	ORIG BUDGET	ADJ BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	868,292.00	952,387.26	797,360.29	155,026.97
PUBLIC SAFETY	424,306.00	447,537.76	376,796.21	70,741.55
EDUCATION	2,097,413.00	2,097,619.48	2,079,108.00	18,583.48
PUBLIC WORKS	1,031,343.00	1,152,693.72	1,123,355.12	29,338.60
HEALTH AND WELFARE	57,316.00	59,616.00	51,623.88	7,992.12
CULTURE AND RECREATION	86,250.00	88,236.28	64,690.55	23,545.73
DEBT	286,456.00	286,456.00	284,988.25	1,467.75
STATE/COUNT ASSESSMENTS	0.00	15,715.00	30,329.00	-14,614.00
OTHER EXPENSES	976,582.00	683,633.00	650,563.74	33,069.26
EXPENSE TOTALS	5,827,958.00	5,783,966.50	5,458,815.04	325,151.46

GENERAL FUND TOTALS	-5,827,958.00	-5,783,966.50	751,059.55	-6,535,026.05
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GIFTS AND DONATIONS

REVENUE	EST REV	ADJ EST REV	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
GIFTS AND DONATIONS	0.00	0.00	6,465.02	-6,465.02
REVENUE TOTALS	0.00	0.00	6,465.02	-6,465.02

EXPENSE	ORIG BUDGET	ADJ BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
PUBLIC SAFETY	0.00	0.00	919.05	-919.05
EDUCATION	0.00	0.00	2,101.00	-2,101.00
EXPENSE TOTALS	0.00	0.00	3,020.05	-3,020.05

GIFTS AND DONATIONS TOTALS	0.00	0.00	3,444.97	-3,444.97
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◆ **TOWN OF BECKET BUDGETED VS. ACTUAL** ◆

FY 2014

SALE OF LOTS

REVENUE	EST REV	ADJ EST REV	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
FEES	0.00	0.00	350.00	-350.00
REVENUE TOTALS	0.00	0.00	350.00	-350.00

SALE OF LOTS TOTALS **0.00** **0.00** **350.00** **-350.00**

FEDERAL GRANTS

REVENUE	EST REV	ADJ EST REV	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
COMMUNITY BLOCK GRANT	0.00	0.00	99,637.34	-99,637.34
REVENUE TOTALS	0.00	0.00	99,637.34	-99,637.34

EXPENSE	ORIG BUDGET	ADJ BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	0.00	0.00	102,699.70	-102,699.70
EXPENSE TOTALS	0.00	0.00	102,699.70	-102,699.70

FEDERAL GRANTS TOTALS **0.00** **0.00** **-3,062.36** **3,062.36**

STATE GRANTS

REVENUE	EST REV	ADJ EST REV	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
OTHER STATE REVENUE	0.00	0.00	31,023.92	-31,023.92
MISC. REVENUE	0.00	0.00	4,900.00	-4,900.00
REVENUE TOTALS	0.00	0.00	35,923.92	-35,923.92

EXPENSE	ORIG BUDGET	ADJ BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	0.00	0.00	933.00	-933.00
PUBLIC SAFETY	0.00	0.00	2,031.00	-2,031.00
PUBLIC WORKS	0.00	0.00	4,900.00	-4,900.00
HEALTH AND WELFARE	0.00	0.00	4,000.50	-4,000.50
CULTURE AND RECREATION	0.00	0.00	9,137.47	-9,137.47
EXPENSE TOTALS	0.00	0.00	21,001.97	-21,001.97

STATE GRANTS TOTALS **0.00** **0.00** **14,921.95** **-14,921.95**

CPA FUND

REVENUE	EST REV	ADJ EST REV	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
REAL ESTATE REVENUE	0.00	0.00	40,124.19	-40,124.19
TAX TITLE REVENUE	0.00	0.00	602.92	-602.92
FINES AND FOREFEITS	0.00	0.00	340.80	-340.80
OTHER STATE REVENUE	0.00	0.00	21,063.00	-21,063.00
REVENUE TOTALS	0.00	0.00	62,130.91	-62,130.91

EXPENSE	ORIG BUDGET	ADJ BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	62,075.00	77,575.00	250.00	77,325.00
EXPENSE TOTALS	62,075.00	77,575.00	250.00	77,325.00

CPA FUND TOTALS **-62,075.00** **-77,575.00** **61,880.91** **-139,455.91**

◆ **TOWN OF BECKET BUDGETED VS. ACTUAL** ◆

FY 2014

REVOLVING FUNDS

REVENUE	EST REV	ADJ EST REV	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
FEES	0.00	0.00	9,502.00	-9,502.00
OTHER DEPT. REVENUE	0.00	0.00	1,700.00	-1,700.00
REVENUE TOTALS	0.00	0.00	11,202.00	-11,202.00

EXPENSE	ORIG BUDGET	ADJ BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	0.00	0.00	10,429.71	-10,429.71
EXPENSE TOTALS	0.00	0.00	10,429.71	-10,429.71

REVOLVING FUNDS TOTALS	0.00	0.00	772.29	-772.29
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SEPTIC REPAIR FUND

REVENUE	EST REV	ADJ EST REV	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
	0.00	0.00	81.25	-81.25
	0.00	0.00	9.67	-9.67
REVENUE TOTALS	0.00	0.00	90.92	-90.92

SEPTIC REPAIR FUNDS TOTALS	0.00	0.00	90.92	-90.92
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SMART GROWTH

REVENUE	EST REV	ADJ EST REV	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
	0.00	0.00	143.09	-143.09
REVENUE TOTALS	0.00	0.00	143.09	-143.09

SMART GROWTH TOTALS	0.00	0.00	143.09	-143.09
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CHAPTER 90

REVENUE	EST REV	ADJ EST REV	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
	0.00	0.00	117,320.76	-117,320.76
REVENUE TOTALS	0.00	0.00	117,320.76	-117,320.76

EXPENSE	ORIG BUDGET	ADJ BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
PUBLIC WORKS	0.00	0.00	86,734.52	-86,734.52
EXPENSE TOTALS	0.00	0.00	86,734.52	-86,734.52

CHAPTER 90 TOTALS	0.00	0.00	30,586.24	-30,586.24
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AMBULANCE ENTERPRISE

REVENUE	EST REV	ADJ EST REV	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
	0.00	0.00	83,378.16	-83,378.16
REVENUE TOTALS	0.00	0.00	83,378.16	-83,378.16

EXPENSE	ORIG BUDGET	ADJ BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
PUBLIC SAFETY	302,200.00	302,200.00	296,529.61	5,670.39
OTHER EXPENSES	0.00	20,000.00	0.00	20,000.00
EXPENSE TOTALS	302,200.00	322,200.00	296,529.61	25,670.39

AMBULANCE ENTERPRISE TOTALS	-302,200.00	-322,200.00	-213,151.45	-109,048.55
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◆ **TOWN OF BECKET BUDGETED VS. ACTUAL** ◆

FY 2014

NON EXPENDABLE TRUST

REVENUE	EST REV	ADJ EST REV	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
FEES	0.00	0.00	50.00	-50.00
REVENUE TOTALS	0.00	0.00	50.00	-50.00

EXPENSE	ORIG BUDGET	ADJ BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
PUBLIC WORKS	0.00	0.00	107.40	-107.40
EXPENSE TOTALS	0.00	0.00	107.40	-107.40

NON EXPENDABLE TRUST TOTALS	0.00	0.00	-57.40	57.40
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EXPENDABLE TRUST

REVENUE	EST REV	ADJ EST REV	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
INTEREST EARNED	0.00	0.00	1,577.71	-1,577.71
REVENUE TOTALS	0.00	0.00	1,577.71	-1,577.71

EXPENDABLE TRUST TOTALS	0.00	0.00	1,577.71	-1,577.71
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ROAD DISTRICT AGENCY

REVENUE	EST REV	ADJ EST REV	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
REAL ESTATE REVENUE	0.00	0.00	1,756.93	-1,756.93
TAX TITLE REVENUE	0.00	0.00	1,534.36	-1,534.36
FINES AND FOREFEITS	0.00	0.00	900.59	-900.59
PENALTIES AND INTEREST	0.00	0.00	117.10	-117.10
PRO FORMA	0.00	0.00	0.36	-0.36
	0.00	0.00	22,794.19	-22,794.19
REVENUE TOTALS	0.00	0.00	27,103.53	-27,103.53

EXPENSE	ORIG BUDGET	ADJ BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	0.00	0.00	1,813.02	-1,813.02
EXPENSE TOTALS	0.00	0.00	1,813.02	-1,813.02

ROAD DISTRICT AGENCY TOTALS	0.00	0.00	25,290.51	-25,290.51
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AGENCY FUND

REVENUE	EST REV	ADJ EST REV	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
	0.00	0.00	67,224.00	-67,224.00
FEES	0.00	0.00	5,608.30	-5,608.30
RETIRE HEALTH INSURANCE	0.00	0.00	15,751.74	-15,751.74
PISTOL PERMIT REVENUE	0.00	0.00	5,700.00	-5,700.00
REVENUE TOTALS	0.00	0.00	94,284.04	-94,284.04

EXPENSE	ORIG BUDGET	ADJ BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	0.00	0.00	9,934.23	-9,934.23
PUBLIC SAFETY	0.00	0.00	78,318.75	-78,318.75
EXPENSE TOTALS	0.00	0.00	88,252.98	-88,252.98

AGENCY FUND TOTALS	0.00	0.00	6,031.06	-6,031.06
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GRAND TOTAL	-6,192,233.00	-6,183,741.50	679,877.99	-6,863,619.49
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◆ **TOWN OF BECKET - COMBINED BALANCE SHEET** ◆

July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014

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	1,233,776.11	457,243.10	86,553.61	-32,155.21	11,022.10	681,089.26	18,602.71	0.00	2,456,131.68
Property Taxes	287,620.96	1,836.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	289,457.38
Allowance for Abate & Exempt	343,667.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-343,667.17
Tax Liens	1,167,130.42	568.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,167,699.34
Motor Vehicle Excise	25,441.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25,441.44
User Charges/Liens	11,728.94	3,273.45	0.00	0.00	269,987.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	284,989.75
Amts Prov for Pay of Bonds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	442,200.00	442,200.00
TOTAL ASSETS	2,382,030.70	462,921.89	86,553.61	-32,155.21	281,009.46	681,089.26	18,602.71	442,200.00	4,322,252.42
<u>LIABILITIES</u>									
Other Liabilities	4,714.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,714.47
Def Rev Prop Tax	-56,046.21	1,836.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-54,209.79
Def Rev Tax Liens	1,167,130.42	568.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,167,699.34
Def Rev MV Excise	25,441.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25,441.44
Borrowing Authorized and Unissued	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-32,247.35	-32,247.35
Def Rev User Charges/Liens	11,728.94	3,273.45	0.00	0.00	269,987.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	284,989.75
Borrowing Authorized	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	32,247.35	32,247.35
Bonds Payable	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	442,200.00	442,200.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,152,969.06	5,678.79	0.00	0.00	269,987.36	0.00	0.00	442,200.00	1,870,835.21
<u>FUND BALANCES</u>									
Reserved for Encumbrances	237,065.25	77,075.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	314,140.25
Reserved for Expenditures	98,157.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	98,157.00
Reserved for Appropriation Deficits	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Designated	0.00	45,260.00	0.00	0.00	11,022.10	648,714.70	0.00	0.00	704,996.80
Undesignated	893,839.39	334,908.10	86,553.61	-32,155.21	0.00	32,374.56	18,602.71	0.00	1,334,123.16
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	1,229,061.64	457,243.10	86,553.61	-32,155.21	11,022.10	681,089.26	18,602.71	0.00	2,451,417.21
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCES	2,382,030.70	462,921.89	86,553.61	-32,155.21	281,009.46	681,089.26	18,602.71	442,200.00	4,322,252.42



◆ **WAGES PAID IN CALENDAR YEAR 2014** ◆

Board of Selectmen

Elovirta, William H.	\$ 1,992.92
Hilton, Angela I.	1,992.92
Pryor, Jeanne W.	1,992.92

Town Administrator

Gibson, Edward J.	\$ 60,340.26
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Board of Assessors

Walter, Geraldine L.	\$ 26,276.06
Will, Elizabeth A.	43,795.53
Zagorski, David W.	19,275.97

Treasurer

Bleau, Christine D.	\$ 38,681.73
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Tax Collector

Hayn, Kathleen	\$ 67,472.24
Bilodeau, Kenneth	41,855.68

Town Secretary

Weiler, Nina M.	\$ 42,850.14
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Town Clerk/Elections

Roberts, George E.	\$ 27,103.23
Bonney, Eva J.	550.00
Clemons, Patricia	492.50
Francis, Charles I.	200.00
Garman, Charles A.	195.00
Kay-Grace, Julia	248.00
Krawet, Ann L.	75.00
LaBelle, Gale L.	407.50
McEwen, Priscilla J.	195.00
Moylan, Joan	105.00
VanNess, Elizabeth P.	577.50

Police Department

Gonska, Adam D.	\$ 2,275.66
Hilton, Steven A.	2,866.20
Hunt, Michael	25,260.69
McDonough, Kristopher G.	60,245.56
Miller, Nicole M.	16,625.73
Miller, Tyler S.	16,125.76
Pettibone, Kenneth E.	2,357.10
Portieri, Marc J.	51,238.57
Sawyer, Michael F.	2,826.95
Virginia, Matthew	46,488.90

Conservation Commission

Vsetecka, Kathleen	\$ 6,115.25
Martin, Martie C.	37.50

Fire Chief

Tarjick, Raymond M. Jr.	\$ 2,001.50
Hanford, Mark A.	3,745.50

Chief Stipend & Fees

Ambulance Department

Bulshey, Erica L.	\$ 4,892.80
Cardillo, Ernest J.	1,395.81
Carr, Jennifer S.	8,257.85
Cawthron, Danny R.	3,155.22
Cormier, Adam J.	522.28
Crosby, Theodore R.	3,260.89
Edwards, David R. Jr.	14,748.24
Ferrin, Raymond E.	3,510.58
Garofoli, Vincent J.	39,080.70
Giarolo, Jessica	4,460.96
Hart, Hillary T.	13,081.32
Kibbe, Frances J.	5,285.44
Kupernik, James R.	53,476.55
Litourneau, George L.	16,613.87
Mechare, Joseph W.	51,128.44
Miller, Nicole L.	9,676.23
Murphy, Kevin	3,490.83
O'Connell, Kevin F.	576.85
Scott, Joshua R.	909.73
Sheerin, Celine E.	1,760.75
Sorrentino, Victoria L.	7,047.53
Stanton, Diana L.	4,561.28
Taylor, Juli R.	18,732.33
Vivier, Edward V.	12,234.88

Building Inspector

Danko, Gary	\$ 864.78
Girard, William E.	48,480.74

Public Safety Inspections

Levernoch, Mark A.	3,410.00
Spring, Dana	3,915.00

Highway Department

Cooper, Robert R.	\$ 53,191.93
Fuller, George J.	54,242.81
Goodermote, Albert R.	53,373.95
Waite, Jeffrey	56,766.85

◆ **WAGES PAID IN CALENDAR YEAR 2014** ◆

~ Continued ~

Highway Department/Transfer Station

White, Mark D. \$ 47,854.45

Highway Department/Building and Grounds Technician

Shorey, David O. 48,184.50

Highway Superintendent

Bouchard, Christopher \$ 59,335.19

Board of Health

Burgwardt, Laurel L. \$ 6,441.91

Animal Control Officer

Goodermote, Albert \$ 10,392.16

Animal Inspector

Elovirta, Madelaine \$ 306.00

Veterans' Agent

Mann, Lloyd D. \$ 1,957.50

Cemetery

Cavanaugh, William F. \$ 6,151.62

Moylan, Alfred E. 94.15

Smith, Michelle S. 1,071.52

Transfer Station

Burke, Joseph J. \$ 224.40

Hoppe, Seigfried 6,281.49

Moylan, Alfred E. 6,497.20

Clerk of Committees

Hunt, Heather \$ 18,967.38

Recreation Program & Lifeguards

Baker, Matthew \$ 4,091.63

Grenspan, Zachary M. 3,927.00

Kelson, Kyle W. 550.00

Pease, Jamie 2,264.63

Accountant

McClellan, Margaret \$ 18,359.81

Vocational School Bus Driver

Graham, Ian \$ 10,249.60

Sharp, Keith 10,038.84

Harbor Master

Rosenthal, Steven \$ 600.00

Fire Department Stipend

Atwell, James R. \$ 550.00

Bergeron, Aurele Jr. 550.00

Elovirta, Justin R. 550.00

Elovirta, Madelaine 550.00

Elovirta, William H. 550.00

Giarolo, Adam H. 550.00

Goebel, Gene R. 550.00

Healey, Robert 550.00

Izner, Christopher A. 550.00

Johnson, Robert L. 550.00

Massini, Kristopher M. 550.00

Mikanicwicz, Paul A. 550.00

Ozner, Michael 550.00

Tarjick, Sydney A. 550.00



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?

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