

# Town of Becket, Massachusetts

## 2015 ANNUAL TOWN REPORT of the Town Officials



250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - Incorporated 1765

## ***About the Cover***

*The front cover features an image created for the town's 250th anniversary logo, designed by Becket resident Kathy Garren as part of a cooperative effort sponsored by the Becket 250th Anniversary Committee and approved by the Board of Selectmen.*

## ***IN MEMORIAM***

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

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**EVELYN FLETCHER**

**Registrar of Voters**

*March 3, 2015*



**MARGARET “PEG” LYNCH RONNING**

**Boston Post Cane Recipient**

*July 24, 2015*



**AYLMER “AL” TRIVERS**

**Election Worker**

*July 7, 2015*

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## ◆ ***THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE RETIRED*** ◆



***Tax Collector, Kathleen “Kathy” F. Hahn***

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On May 17, 1986, Kathy Hahn was elected as Town Clerk. She spent the next twenty-eight years and six months as a Becket town official. For a few years she was elected to both the Town Clerk and Tax Collector positions eventually retaining only the full time position of Tax Collector. When that position changed to appointed on May 6, 2009, she continued to serve as the Tax Collector until she decided to retire on December 5th, 2014. The Town would like to thank Kathy Hahn for her many dedicated years of service to the town in the positions of Tax Collector and Town Clerk.



***Transfer Station Attendant/Town Mechanic, Mark D. White***

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Mark White was hired on June 25, 2002 as a part-time Transfer Station Attendant. On July 1, 2003, he was hired on a full-time basis as the Transfer Station Attendant/Town Mechanic. Mark retired from the position of Transfer Station Attendant/Town Mechanic on October 17, 2015. You may see Mark at the Transfer Station where he returned working on November 21, 2015. The Town would like to thank Mark White for his many years of dedicated service to the Town in the positions of Transfer Station/Town Mechanic.

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# ***Town of Becket, Massachusetts***

## ***ANNUAL REPORT***

*of the*

***Town Officials***

♦ ***2015*** ♦



**William H. Elovirta**

*Selectperson*

**Angela I. Hilton**

*Selectperson*

**Jeanne W. Pryor**

*Selectperson*

**Edward J. Gibson**

*Town Administrator*

***For the year ending December 31, 2015***

## ◆ *Town Officers* ◆

### **Elected Officials**

<b>Board of Health</b>	<b>Term Expiring</b>
Gale LaBelle, Chair	2016
Howard Lerner	2017
Laurel Burgwardt	2018

<b>Board of Selectmen</b>	
Angela I. Hilton, Clerk	2016
Jeanne W. Pryor, Chair	2017
William H. Elovirta, Vice Chair	2018

<b>Cemetery Commissioners</b>	
William Cavanaugh, North Becket Cemetery	2016
Dean Williams, Center Cemetery	2017
Michelle Smith, West Becket Cemetery	2018

<b>Constables</b>	
Marc Portieri	2018
Michael Sawyer	2018

<b>Finance Committee</b>	
Stephen LaBelle, Sr.	2016
Dan Parnell, Chair	2016
Mark Karlberg, Clerk	2017
Ann Spadafora	2018
Maria Wallington, Vice Chair	2018

<b>Planning Board</b>	
Beth VanNess, Clerk	2016
Gale LaBelle, Vice Chair	2017
Ann Krawet	2018
Martin Schlanger	2019
Robert Ronzio, Chair	2020
Howard Lerner, Associate Member - appointed by the Board of Selectmen	2016

<b>Moderator</b>	
Bruce Garlow	2017
Ethan Klepetar, Deputy Moderator appointed by the Moderator	2016

<b>School Committee</b>	
John Les	2016
Sheila Cyr	2018

<b>Town Clerk</b>	
George Roberts	2017

### **Board of Selectmen Appointments**

#### **250th Anniversary Committee**

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

#### **Agricultural Commission**

Kristopher Massini	2016
Neil Toomey	2016
Vacancy	

#### **Arts Lottery Council**

Luz Bravo-Gleicher	2016
Roberta Goldman, Chair	2016
Tommie Hutto-Blake	2016
Ann Krawet	2016
Audrey Schlanger (resigned 9/20/2015)	
Sally Soluri	2016
Barbara Wacholder, Treasurer	2016
Tracy Wilson	2016
Yana DeLuca	2018
Ruth Glazerman, Secretary	2018
Michelle Raymer	2018
Catherine Savini	2018

#### **Berkshire Regional Planning Commission**

appointed by the Planning Board	
Robert Ronzio, Delegate	2016
Gale LaBelle, Alternate Delegate appointed by the Board of Selectmen	2016

#### **Berkshire Public Health Alliance**

appointed by the Board of Health	
Gale Labelle, Voting Member	
Laurel Burgwardt, Alternate Representative	

#### **Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board**

William H. Elovirta, Designee	2016
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#### **Board of Assessors**

Elizabeth Will	2016
Geraldine Walter	2018
Vacant	2017

## ◆ *Town Officers* ◆

### Board of Survey

William Cavanaugh  
Beth VanNess

### Bylaw Review Committee

Mark Karlberg, Clerk	2016
Jeanne Pryor, Chair	2017
Ann Krawet, Vice-Chair	2018
Town Clerk, ex officio, non-voting member	
Moderator, ex officio, non-voting member	

### Chief Procurement Officer

Edward Gibson	2016
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### Community Preservation Committee

Neil Toomey, at large member, Chair	2016
Rita Furlong, Parks Commission Designee	2016
Jan Elovirta, at large member	2017
Cindy Delpapa, Conservation Com. Designee	2018
Jennifer Beatty, Historical Commission Designee	2017
Robert Ronzio, Planning Board Designee	2018
Vacancy, at large member	

### Conservation Commission

Martin Winters (resigned 3/4/15)	
Cindy Delpapa	2016
Karen Karlberg	2016
Scott Morley (resigned 10/18/15)	
Laurel Burgwardt (resigned 2/4/15)	
Alison Dixon, Chairperson	2017
Shep Evans	2018
Richard Pryor, Vice-Chairperson	2018
2 Vacancies	

### Conservation Commission Agent

Shep Evans, Agent	2016
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### Council on Aging

Paula Cianfarani (term expired 6/30/15)	
Lorraine Wechter (term expired 6/30/15)	
Franklin Daigle	2016
Celine Godbout	2016
Phyllis Fitzgerald	2016
Marie Grull	2016
Joan Moylan, Director	2016
William Robinson	2016
Lorraine Dean	2017
Herbert Nelson	2017
Eva Bonney	2018
Marc Portieri	2018

### Dog Hearings Officer

George Roberts	2016
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### Election Workers

Meredyth Babcock (D)	2016
Alvin Blake (U)	2016
Eva Bonney (D)	2016
Patricia Clemons (D)	2016
Charles Francis (D)	2016
Charles Garman (U)	2016
Julia Kay Grace (D)	2016
Katherine Hoak (D)	2016
Gale LaBelle (R)	2016
Stephen LaBelle, Sr. (R)	2016
Ann Krawet (D)	2016
Priscilla McEwen (U)	2016
Adrienne Metcalf (U)	2016
Joan Moylan (D)	2016
Ruth Rosenthal (U)	2016
Jerome Schwartzbach (U)	2016
Beth VanNess (D)	2016
Barbara Winters (D)	2016
Martin Winters (D)	2016

### Energy Committee

Alvin Blake	2016
Robert Gross, Vice-Chair	2016
Catherine DeFoe	2017
Katherine Hoak, Secretary	2018
Garth Klimchuk, Chair	2018
Ex-Officio Members: Christopher Bouchard, Edward Gibson, William Girard, Dan Parnell	

### Harbor Master

Steve Rosenthal	2016
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### Historical Commission

Aaron Beatty	2016
Jennifer Beatty, Secretary	2016
Rita Furlong	2016
Sandra Jarvis, Chair	2018
Gail Kusek	2018

### Zoning Enforcement Officer

William Girard	2018
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### Jacobs Ladder Trail Advisory Committee

William Robinson	2016
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## ◆ *Town Officers* ◆

### **Large Wind Turbine Bylaw Committee**

*(This was a Planning Board appointed subcommittee)*

Alvin Blake  
Robert Gross  
Ann Krawet, Chair  
Robert Ronzio  
Maria Wallington

### **WiredWest**

Jeremy Dunn, Delegate 2016  
Jeff Piemont, Alt. Delegate (resigned 8/1/2015)  
Robert Gross, Alternate Delegate 2017

### **Municipal Light Plant Manager**

Edward Gibson 2016

### **Parks & Recreation Committee**

Sean Raymer (term expired 6/30/15)  
Tina LeVasseur, Beach Coordinator 2016  
Madelaine Elovirta, Clerk 2017  
Rita Furlong, Chair 2017  
Ginger Conner 2018  
Vacancy

### **Public Relations Liaison/Officer**

William H. Elovirta

### **Registrar of Voters**

Robin Greenspan (R) 2016  
Michelle Smith (D) 2017  
Colleen Cox (D) 2018  
Town Clerk, George Roberts (U)

### **Tax Collector**

Kenneth Bilodeau 2017  
Nina Weiler, Assistant Collector 2016  
David Shorey, Deputy Collector 2016

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

### **Town Administrator**

Edward Gibson 2016

### **Treasurer**

Christine Bleau 2016  
Kenneth Bilodeau, Assistant Treasurer 2017

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

### **Westfield River Wild & Scenic Advisory Committee**

Mercedes Gallagher 2016  
Alvin Blake, Alternate 2016

### **Zoning Board of Appeals**

Susan Deacon (resigned 4/29/15)  
Karen Karlberg, Chair 2016  
Jeff Wilkinson 2016  
Joy Lennartz 2017  
Joshua Lombard (resigned 02/18/15)  
George Roberts, Clerk 2017  
Victoria Bleier 2018  
Alvin Blake, Associate Member - 2016  
appointed by the Board of Selectmen

## **Town Administrator's Appointments**

<b>Accountant</b>	<b>Term Expiring</b>
Margaret McClellan	2016

<b>Ambulance Director</b>	
James Kupernik	2016

<b>Animal Control Officer</b>	
Albert Goodermote	2016

<b>Animal Inspector</b>	
Madelaine Elovirta	2016

<b>Inspector of Buildings/Trench Inspector</b>	
William Girard	2018
Gary Danko, Asst. Building Inspector	2016

<b>Emergency Management Director</b>	
Timothy Sullivan	2016

<b>Fire Chief/Fire Warden</b>	
Mark Hanford	2016

<b>Highway Superintendent/Pest Control/Tree Warden</b>	
Christopher Bouchard	2016

<b>Plumbing/Gas Inspector</b>	
Mark Levernoch	2016
Brian Middleton, Assistant Plumbing/Gas Inspector	2016



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## ◆ *Town Officers* ◆

### **Police Department**

Kristopher McDonough, Chief	2016
Marc Portieri, Sergeant	2016
Adam Gonska	2016
Michael Hunt	2016
Nicole Miller	2016
Tyler Miller	2016
Kenneth Pettibone	2016
Michael Sawyer	2016
Matt Virginia	2016

### **Veterans' Agent**

Doug Mann	2016
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### **Veterans' Grave Officer**

William Mulholland	2016
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### **Wiring Inspector**

Dana Spring	2016
Jim LaPier, Assistant Wiring Inspector	2016

## **Town Employees**

### **Ambulance Department**

Joseph Mechare  
Vincent Garofoli

### **Building and Grounds Technician**

David Shorey

### **Clerk of Committees & Highway Dept.**

Heather Hunt

### **Highway Department**

Robert Cooper  
George Fuller  
Nathan Morawiec  
Bert Goodermote  
James VanZant (resigned 01/11/16)  
Jeff Waite  
Mark White (retired 10/16/15)

### **Town Secretary**

Beverly Gilbert

### **Volunteer Fire Department**

Mark Hanford, Chief  
Paul Mikaniewicz, Deputy Chief  
Madelaine Elovirta, Asst. Chief  
Kristopher Massini, Captain  
Robert Healey, Sr., Lieutenant  
James Atwell  
Aurele Bergeron  
Richard Beringer  
Justin Elovirta  
William Elovirta  
Gene Gobel  
Robert Healey, Jr.  
Christopher Isner  
Robert Johnson, Jr.  
Paul Mazut  
Tyler Miller  
Mike Ozner

### **Probationary Firefighters:**

Jan Elovirta, Probationary Member  
David Furlong, Jr.  
Vincent Garofoli, EMT  
Jay Maronde  
Travis Miller

### **Jr. Firefighter:**

Jordan Miller



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***Town of Becket, Massachusetts***  
**Annual Report**  
of the  
**Town Officials**  
◆ 2015 ◆

*Fiscal Year July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015*

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

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◆ **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  
TEL: 202-224-4543  
[www.warren.senate.gov](http://www.warren.senate.gov)

Edward J. Markey  
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
TEL: 202-224-2742  
[www.markey.senate.gov](http://www.markey.senate.gov)

***Congressman***

Richard E. Neal  
Federal Building, 78 Center Street  
Pittsfield, MA 01201  
TEL: 413-442-0946  
[www.neal.house.gov](http://www.neal.house.gov)

***State Senator***

Benjamin Downing  
7 North Street, Suite 307  
Pittsfield, MA 01201  
TEL: 413-442-4008  
[Benjamin.downing@masenate.gov](mailto: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](mailto:Rep.Smitty@mahouse.gov)

***Annual Town Meeting***

Second Saturday of May

***Annual Town Election***

Third Saturday of May

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◆ **FACTS ABOUT BECKET** ◆

<b>Incorporated</b>	June 21, 1765
<b>Location</b>	Western Massachusetts
<b>Population</b>	1,811 (as of 12/14/2015)
<b>Registered Voters</b>	1,366 (as of 4/22/2015)
<b>Form of Government</b>	Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator Open Town Meeting
<b>Tax Rate</b>	\$10.45 Fiscal Year 2015
<b>Public Schools</b>	Central Berkshire Regional School District
<b>Police</b>	Full-Time Chief, One Full-Time Sergeant, One Full-Time Police Officer and Five Part-Time Officers Non-Emergency Telephone: 623-6010
<b>Fire</b>	Fire Chief Non-Emergency Telephone: 1-413-627-0397  Burning Permits 1-413-627-0397 (January 15 – May 1 weather permitting) To apply for a burn permit online please go to the following link: <a href="http://www.bcburnpermits.com/">http://www.bcburnpermits.com/</a>
<b>Ambulance Department</b>	Fire Station #2 Non-Emergency Telephone: 623-5027
<b>Public Library</b>	Becket Athenaeum 3367 Main Street, Becket Telephone: 623-5483
<b>Arts Center</b>	Becket Arts Center 7 Brooker Hill Road, Becket Telephone: 623-6635
<b>Post Office</b>	Becket Post Office 623 Main Street, Becket Telephone: 623-8845
<b>Elevation</b>	1,200 Feet
<b>Area</b>	48.04 Square Miles
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.townofbecket.org">www.townofbecket.org</a>

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.

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◆ **TELEPHONE DIRECTORY OF TOWN SERVICES** ◆

**All Emergencies, Call 911**

*Local Public Safety (non-emergency)*

<b>FIRE DEPARTMENT</b>	1-413-627-0397
<b>AMBULANCE</b>	623-5027
<b>POLICE</b>	623-6010
<b>STATE POLICE</b>	243-0600

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT 623-8988**

*Becket Town Offices 623-8934*

<u>Department</u>	<u>Extension for 623-8934</u>
Selectmen's Office/Secretary	#10
Town Clerk	#11
Treasurer	#12
Town Administrator	#13
Building Inspector	#14
Tax Collector	#15 & #16
Assessors	#17 & #19
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

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## ◆ *REPORT OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR* ◆

It's hard to believe another year has gone by already. It has been almost three years since I started my Town Administrator's position here. I would like to take the opportunity 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.

2015 saw a number of changes in positions here in Becket. Nina Weiler was promoted from her position as Town Secretary to Assistant Tax Collector thus moving down the hall one office. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Nina for her help and mentoring in my position as Town Administrator. Nina introduced me to everyone and showed me the ropes. When Nina moved down the hall Beverly Gilbert was hired as our new Town Secretary and she has big shoes to fill. Beverly is a high energy well qualified individual who keeps me on my toes and is extremely cordial and helpful to everyone who comes into or calls Town Hall. Please come in and say hello to Beverly on your next trip to Town Hall. When our principal assessor left to take another position, we filled that position with a third party independent vendor. This has allowed the Assessor's Department to function more efficiently with the Town's residents, property owners and businesses by supplementing our experienced Assessing staff with other well educated and knowledgeable, professional individuals. Liz Will and Geri Walter continue in their current roles in the Assessor's office and will be the faces you will see most often when visiting their office. I would also like to offer my congratulations and thanks to Mark White who retired in October from his full time position as Town Mechanic/Transfer Station Attendant. Enjoy your retirement Mark! You will still be able to see and say hello to Mark at the Transfer Station on a part-time basis.

The Town's move to a new Building and Grounds Technician position continues to be a huge success. 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. Mr. Shorey has been able to spruce up the Town Hall through replacing the side doors, painting,

electrical and plumbing upgrades as well as supervising contractors who have replaced some of the carpeting. He has also done multiple repairs to improve the Fire Stations, the Ambulance Garage and the Highway Garage.

Planning and permitting work for the replacement of the Bonny Rigg Hill Road culvert has begun with the \$400,000.00 grant Chris Bouchard, Highway Superintendent, secured from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. This improvement or upgrade was mandated by the Army Corps of Engineers after the 2011 Hurricane Sandy. The actual construction work for this project will begin in 2016.

We held an online auction to dispose of the Town's surplus vehicles and equipment in December. This was the first time in many years the town had an auction to dispose of its surplus goods. We were very pleased with the results which brought in just over \$5,500.00 and cleared some much needed space in the yard at the Highway Garage. The online auction was so successful we will use it again when we have surplus goods which need to be sold.

My one major disappointment of the year was that we did not receive the CDBG Grant which we applied for along with the Town of Sheffield. We will be applying again in the future for this grant opportunity which would allow us to offer low interest loans to residents who need to make building and code required upgrades to their homes and meet certain income requirements.

I would like to once again thank the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee for the confidence and faith they have bestowed upon me. I have enjoyed meeting so many Becket residents and visitors in the past two and a half years. It is my pleasure to serve as your Town Administrator.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Edward J. Gibson  
***Town Administrator***



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## ◆ *REPORT OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN* ◆

Our town has made progress over the past year and the Board of Selectmen continues to pursue and monitor a number of ongoing issues. We thank all town officers and employees for their willingness to assist us in making Becket a great place to live.

The town continues to work with WiredWest and MBI to ensure that broadband connectivity comes to Becket. A WiredWest Internet link on the Town website was developed so that current information and a link to the sign up page are available online. Our Delegates are working very hard and have been extremely helpful in providing updates to the Selectmen relating to the status of the project. Eric Nakajima, Director of MBI, and members of WiredWest's Executive Committee attended a Selectmen's meeting to discuss the Last Mile Initiative. Most recently, in order for MBI to include the Town of Becket in the pole survey, the Selectmen voted to send the Director of MBI a letter affirming the town's intention to move forward as part of the MBI regional network build with a certified copy of the 5/9/2015 Town Meeting vote and a certified copy of the 5/16/2015 Town Election vote. As of December 2015, Becket is 87% of the way towards reaching the 40% pre-signup goal. We ask for your support in reaching our goal!

The Town received grant funds for the Bonny Rigg Hill Road Culvert Replacement project and the Selectmen voted to award a contract to Foresight Land Services for the design, permitting and construction oversight for engineering services for this project.

The Selectmen voted to award a 3 year contract for assessing services to Regional Resource Group at the recommendation of the Town Administrator and Assessors. This will provide the town with property tax assessing services to assist with neighborhood assessment issues, coding issues and to help prepare for the 2017 re-evaluation.

The town participated in an Emergency Management meeting regarding communications with representatives from the Berkshire County Sheriff's Department, Pittsfield Communications Systems and Berkshire Wireless. They discussed adding a repeater (to help eliminate dead zones) to the cell tower located on Johnson Road to enhance communications in the hill towns including the Chester town line. A grant application for Homeland Security funding will be submitted and is anticipated to cover most of the cost. The Selectmen support this venture to enhance public safety.

In June, Tighe & Bond provided an overview and discussed in detail their Draft Water Feasibility Study which was funded through a Rural Development Grant filed through the USDA. The study analyzed the development of a municipal water system in Becket. The two service areas being considered are North Becket Village and the Sherwood Forest Neighborhood. Discussion included alternatives for water supply sources to serve each service area and the consideration given to interconnections with surrounding communities, new surface water supplies and new groundwater supplies, the process and estimated costs/possible funding sources, and options to consider for lowering the cost per service if the town pursues developing a municipal water supply in the North and/or South Service areas. The Selectmen authorized Tighe and Bond to submit the Water Feasibility Study report to Rural Development and the board will work on the necessary future steps for this project.

At the tree planting ceremony on June 21st, in recognition of the 250th Anniversary Committee's hard work and on behalf of the Board of Selectmen, Chair Jeanne Pryor presented each committee member a certificate of recognition. The Board of Selectmen, represented by Bill Elovirta and Jeanne Pryor, presented a PROCLAMATION on the Occasion of the Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the Town of Becket. We want to thank the 250th Anniversary Committee for their work in organizing the 250th anniversary celebrations and for producing the book "Becket, Massachusetts, From Colonial Township to Modern Town 1765 - 2015."

Beginning on July 1, the Becket Police Department began additional patrols at the Quarry and advised that the Becket Land Trust Security guard should call the police if he feels threatened. The increased patrols and security guard presence appear to have provided positive results in deterring unwanted behavior at the Quarry and lessened complaints by area residents.

The Town Meeting Bylaw Review Committee's recommendations were approved at the 2014 Special Town Meeting. The Committee also produced a Town Meeting Handbook to serve as an easy to understand guide for voters regarding town meeting rules and pertinent state laws. The Handbook is now available on the town's website.

The Selectmen voted on the Town Administrator's recommendation to accept the Lecrenski Bros. quote for



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

vocational roundtrip transportation from Becket to Smith Vocational School in Northampton and to authorize the Town Administrator to enter into an agreement with the Town of Lee to allow their students to join for a one-year contract. The Town Administrator will evaluate, and if it's working well, he will develop an RFP for a 3-year bid.

The town has joined the Berkshire County Educational Task Force consisting of 20 individuals from specific backgrounds divided into representatives from South County, Central County and North County. Becket's Town Administrator, Ed Gibson, has been chosen to represent the Central County Town Administrators. The Task Force serves in an advisory capacity with no legal authority to impose its recommendations on the school districts and municipalities. The Task Force is developing short term and long term recommendations as to how to save money (perhaps by sharing services such as special education, nursing, information technology, and strategically housing school buildings/property). The task force hopes to present suggestions for district/municipalities to consider adopting for FY17.

The Selectmen are working to review and vote on approving any open Executive Session minutes and to follow up on the Selectmen's responsibility to locate the town's boundary markers which is something that should be done at regular intervals.

In September, at the recommendation of the Town Administrator/Chief Procurement Officer and Architect John Barry, the Selectmen voted to reject all bids for Alterations to the Town Hall Entranceway for ADA Compliance as it is in the town's best interest to rebid during winter after the active construction season has ceased. The bids received were significantly higher than what the town had allocated for this project. It is the board's hope that bidding during a quieter construction period will yield more competitive prices as we want to avoid returning to Town Meeting for additional funding. Ed will explore other options if future bids run high. Thanks to Dave Shorey and Ed Gibson for installing temporary handrails at the front entrance steps of the Town Hall and Bill Girard for providing building code requirements for the railings.

Improvements were made to the Fuel Tanks at the Highway Garage to eliminate water seeping into the gas. An electronic fueling system meter was installed to generate reports and track when and who pumped fuel and the mileage of vehicles, which will help to track maintenance of vehicles.

In September, Representative Pignatelli requested that Becket join with 16 other "Southern Berkshire" communities in the application process for a Community Compact agreement. The Selectmen voted to add the Town of Becket to the Community Compact Agreement Grant Application to investigate and implement the best practices for shared school services. Our town along with the other 16 towns in Rep. Pignatelli's District have been approved for the grant funding. The funding will be used to work on increased collaboration between our communities, starting in the areas of schools and potentially expanding to other areas including municipal management, public works, public safety, and others.

A new Center Cemetery Shed was installed in September. Thanks to Dean Williams, Dave Shorey and the Highway Department Crew for their help in removing the old shed, preparing the sight and installing the new shed.

The old 275 gallon heating fuel tank at Fire Station #2 Ambulance garage has been removed and the tank and its remaining contents were properly disposed.

The Town has applied to MEMA for a FY2016 Emergency Management Grant to purchase a Credentialing System for Town Employees and Volunteers. This system would enable us to provide photo identification for our employees and volunteers and in case of a natural disaster would allow us to credential volunteers, police, fire, highway and EMS employees from other communities. This system would allow our residents (year round and seasonal) to know who official town employees and officers are and give them confidence that those portraying themselves as Town of Becket Officials really are who they say they are. We are eligible for a grant of \$2,460 for this fiscal year.

Free Cash has been certified by the Department of Revenue, Division of Local Services as of July 1, 2015 in the amount of \$213,965 and the Free Cash for the Ambulance Enterprise Fund has been certified in the amount of \$4,379.

A CBRSD Seven Town Advisory Meeting was held at Nessacus School on November 19th. The majority of discussion related to Cummington's Official Request to withdraw from the school district, and possible financial impacts to the remaining six towns if the school committee grants approval after conducting a review.



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

In December, the Selectmen voted to approve plans for the Mullen House handicap walkway and ADA parking spaces as presented by Rita Furlong. Rita indicated that the Mullen House has \$1,500 remaining in a grant earmarked for this project. The BOS reviewed the original septic design from Foresight Engineering, along with the plan and photos showing the location of the proposed handicap walkway and parking spaces.

At the Finance Committee's recommendation, the Selectmen voted to approve up to \$500 reimbursement funding for the December 2015 Children's Holiday Party and to send a letter conveying to the party organizer the conditions for the reimbursement. The letter will also convey that the Board of Selectmen will need written communication before February 1, 2016, if they wish to request funding for next year, and for any future Children's Holiday parties, for which the town will be reimbursing funds.

Both Representative Pignatelli's and Senator Downing's offices have acknowledged receipt of the letter from the Town to file Home Rule Legislation to amend our town charter as voted at the 4/5/14 Special Town Meeting. Approval of this legislation will finalize the town meeting vote to approve adding to Article 2B, Section 4 the Parks and Recreation Committee.

The Sherwood Forest Neighborhood Association has filed in Berkshire County Superior Court to formally dissolve the Corporation. There were some outstanding issues with back taxes and tax title. Town Counsel reviewed this issue and filed an objection for the Town as they feel the town may have recourse to collect some of the back taxes.

The Selectmen drafted and approved the following policies during 2015: Employee Expense Reimbursement, Issuing One-Day Liquor Licenses, Street Sign Replacement, and Remote Meeting Participation.

The Selectmen reviewed and approved the Policy and Procedures/Use of Force and Tasers as submitted by Police Chief Kris McDonough and approved by the Executive Office of Public Safety. The use of tasers was approved at the 2015 Annual Town Meeting.

The Selectmen voted on December 2, 2015, to finalize and forward draft Street Acceptance Procedures to Town Counsel for review.

The Selectmen discussed changing the cash policy at the Transfer Station to satisfy auditing recommendations. The Selectmen voted that, effective 2/2/2016, no cash will be accepted at the Transfer Station: all bags brought there must have stickers attached to them and all other items must be paid by check. The Town Administrator and Highway Superintendent have developed a poster for distribution at the Transfer Station and the town's website, and they are finalizing arrangements for stores in Becket to sell bag stickers.

We were very lucky to recruit Beverly Gilbert to fill the Town Secretary/Selectmen's Secretary position in March and are extremely pleased with her work. Beverly replaced Nina Weiler who was appointed to fill the Assistant Tax Collector vacancy.

The Selectmen approved the job description for a part time Highway Department Clerk and Heather Hunt was recruited to fill this position.

Mark White retired from the Highway Department in October after 13 years of service. We thank him for his service and wish him the best in his retirement.

The Highway Department has successfully recruited Nathan Morawiec as the new Town Mechanic.

Our Town Administrator, Ed Gibson, continues to be a great asset to Becket and we thank him for all his efforts to better our town.

It is an honor to serve as your Board of Selectmen.

**Becket Board of Selectmen**  
Jeanne W. Pryor, *Chair*  
William H. Elovirta, *Vice Chair*  
Angela I. Hilton, *Clerk*

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◆ *REPORT OF THE BECKET AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT* ◆

We responded to 280 calls in 2015. The calls by town were:

Becket – 229

Otis – 23

Washington – 8

Lee – 12

Chester – 8

We acquired a new stretcher which will hold more weight and is easier to use. The state has changed to National Standards for EMTs. This involved a lot of training but we will be able to provide better care for people. The Highway Department has hired a trained mechanic. He will be able to do most of our maintenance and repairs on the ambulance which will save us money.

*Respectfully submitted,*

James Kupernik, *Director*



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## ◆ *REPORT OF THE BECKET LAND TRUST* ◆

2015 saw the completion of a number of Becket Land Trust grant-funded projects at The Historic Quarry and Forest. This is our 300 acre property in the southeast corner of town where, over the past two years, we have undertaken a wide range of projects to create improved trails and new wildlife habitat areas. These efforts represent over 3,400 hours of professional and volunteer labor and grants from federal, state and private sources.

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.
- Complete a wildlife management project with funding from the US Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. This grant was 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.
- Upgraded our Historic Quarry Interpretive Walk signage and created additional signage at our Habitat area through a grant from Berkshire Taconic Foundation in the amount of \$4,000.
- 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.

Your support is crucial to us so we can continue to provide benefits to the town and its citizens. Please consider making a donation online at [becketlandtrust.org](http://becketlandtrust.org) or by mail at PO Box 44, Becket, MA 01223

*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**



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## ◆ *REPORT OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT* ◆

Becket's Fire Department has just completed another busy year. In 2015 the department responded to 123 calls: 4 structure fires, 4 false calls, 17 service calls, 8 motor vehicle accidents, 4 chimney fires, 7 brush/forest fires, 8 mutual aid requests, 35 fire/CO2 alarm activations, 28 medical/lift assists, 3 motor vehicle fires, and 5 miscellaneous calls.

In July, the members held a "Bring a friend to the department" night. Many new faces came and enjoyed a pizza party, a chance to look over fire trucks, the station and the existing members. A good time was had by all. From that introduction, six new members are now serving their probationary time, one as a Junior Firefighter. We are pleased to note that we have a Junior Firefighter working his probationary time as well. We welcome these new members and appreciate their willingness to work for the good of our towns.

In early 2015 a committee was formed to draw up specifications for a replacement for Rescue #4. The current rescue truck housed at Station #1 is 24 years old. It is tired and in need of retirement. The goal the committee was charged with is to replicate Rescue #5, with upgrades. Rescue #5 is a four-wheel drive Ford mini pumper, housed at Station #2. It has proven to be a very versatile member of our fleet. Because we cover such a large area, we feel it is most important that we have the same versatility available for firefighters at both stations. Becket and Washington have

many dirt roads, state forest land, and developments with dirt roads and cul-de-sacs. There will be an appropriation request at the Annual Town Meeting to purchase a rescue/mini-pumper.

Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) grants were again offered to local municipalities. I am pleased to announce that we were successful in our application for a DCR grant. This grant money will be used to purchase forest fire-fighting equipment for the members.

Pagers are the system that the Fire Department uses to alert the firefighters to calls. The pagers the department had were old and in need of upgrading. In October, the Firefighters' Association voted to split the cost of purchasing pagers for the department with the town. The Firefighters' Association paid \$4,000, with the other \$4,000 coming from the Fire Department expense budget. At this time all firefighters have new, updated pagers.

I would like to thank the firefighters for their dedication and work that they so freely offer every day of the year. And also to you, the taxpayers, for your continued support.

*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  
Gene Gobel  
Robert Healey, Jr.  
Christopher Isner  
Robert Johnson, Jr.  
Paul Mazut  
Tyler Miller  
Mike Ozner

### Probationary Firefighters:

Jan Elovirta  
David Furlong, Jr.  
Vincent Garofoli, EMT  
Jay Maronde  
Travis Miller

### Jr. Firefighter:

Jordan Miller

## ◆ **REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT** ◆

The 2015 yearly breakdown shows the Police Department responded to 3,027 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. This has been the Police Department's busiest year.

In addition to the activity breakdown, Officers also issued citations for 92 civil motor vehicle violations, 21 criminal motor vehicle violations, 25 arrest violations, and 166 written warnings, for a total of 304 citations.

Officers made 22 arrests, including 5 for domestic assault & battery, 10 for operating under the influence of alcohol, 1 for operating under the influence of drugs, 1 on a warrant, 1 for breaking and entering, 1 for operating a motor vehicle without a license, 1 for trespassing, 1 for disorderly conduct, and 1 for assault and battery with a dangerous weapon. Additionally, 12 individuals were summoned to court on 20 criminal charges.

All of the Officers in the Department continue to be proactive and responsive 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.

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 Department, 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 2015***

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept.	Oct.	Nov	Dec	Total
Abandoned Vehicles											2		2
Abuse	1	1			1								3
Alarm	13	11	5	14	10	8	7	13	20	21	9	12	143
Ambulance/Medical	18	9	17	15	15	17	17	15	8	11	9	12	163
Animal	2	1	2	7	10	4	2	4	7	7	5	7	58
Assault					1								1
Assault & Battery				1	1							1	3
Assist other Department	4	3	1	7	10	7	7	10	8		3	9	69
Attempted Burglary				1									1
Attempt to locate			1	1				1	1	1			5
Attempted Suicide													0
Attempted Theft													0
Atv Complaint	1							1					2
Bad Checks					1								1
BOLO	4	5	5	3	7	8	10	9	6	10	6	4	77
Breaking & Entering			1	1				2				2	6
Burglary	1												1
Call Return	22	23	19	8	15	15	18	26	19	15	12	17	209

### *Becket Police Department Calls 2015*

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept.	Oct.	Nov	Dec	Total
Criminal Mischief							2	3		1			6
Car Off Roadway	2	4	3			1			1				11
Calls for Service	4	1	4	8	3	4	12	11	1	4	7	4	63
Check						5		1					6
Child Custody	1	1				2				1	1	2	8
Civil	1	1			1		4	7	5	3	3		25
Court	4	2	5	5	4	1	5	2	3	5	7	4	47
Credit Card Fraud													
Destruction of Property				1	1					1			3
Disorderly Conduct			1				2						3
DOA Dead on Arrival													0
Detail	5	6	8	16	36	23	26	12	11	10	7	17	177
Disturbance	1		2		3	1	6	6	1			3	23
Drugs										1			1
Disabled Motor Vehicle	9	11	3	2	3	4	8	5	8	4	3	2	62
Escort												1	1
Explosives													0
Firearms	2	2	1	2		1	1	3	2	2		3	19
Fire	6	2	8	6	1	2	3	3	1	5	3	4	44
Follow Up Invest	4		9	5	4	10	2	6	3	2	5	5	55
Found Property			1	1		2	2		1	3			10
209A Order Service					1								1
Fraud					1		2					1	4
Gun Shots	1					3	2	4	1	1	3	4	19
Harassment			6	1	1	1	3	2	1	1	2		18
Hit & Run (H&R)				1						1			2
House Watch/Check			1	1		3	2			1	10	1	19
Indecent Exposure				1									1
Illegal Burn	1				1	1				2	1		6
Illegal Dumping						1							1
Information Request	18	18	23	25	23	19	15	22	11	21	13	12	220
Juvenile Calls	1										2		3
Larceny Under 250					2	1	2				2		7
Larceny Over 250	1			1		1	2	1		1	1	1	9
Littering													0
Lock Out	1	2			1		2	4	1		1		12
Lost							1	1					2
Mail Complaint									1				1
Mental Health Sec 12		1				1	3	1	1		1		8
Missing Persons					2		3	2			2		9
Motor Vehicle Accident	13	1	1	1	5	4	6	5	5	3	4	1	49
Motor Vehicle Accident (OUI)													
Motor Vehicle Violation		3	1	2		1	2	1	3		1	2	16
Nuisance					3			3	2				8
Odor													
Open Burn													
Operating under the Influence (oui)				2			1		1		1		5
Paper Work	1	3	3	1	6	5	8	8	11	9	10	12	77

### *Becket Police Department Calls 2015*

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept.	Oct.	Nov	Dec	Total
Parade					1								1
Permits (LTC/FID)	2	1	8	7	6	4	6	1	2		5	4	46
Parking Complaint	3	3											6
Patrol	9	2	11	9	46	108	139	111	49	24	38	34	580
Phone 911 Hang Up	5		12	10	5	5	7	9	7	2		4	66
Possible Scam					1								1
Property Damage			1	2							1	1	5
Property Return	1	1	4		1		3	2	1	3	5	2	23
Protect from abuse													
Public Drunkenness							1						1
Prowler Complaint								1					1
Rape								1					1
Radar Request		5	3	7	2	2	6	5	1	3	2	2	38
Reckless Driving		2	2	2	3	3	1	2	2	4	1		22
Records Request	5	2	2	1	2	1	8	5	6	9	5	2	48
Refer to other Dept.													
Ride Along													
Road Complaints	9	5	11	6	6	5	4	5	1	10	5	7	74
Runaway					2								2
Scam Complaints			2			1	1					1	5
Sensitive Call R	2	1	3	2	4			1	3	5		1	22
Sex Offender Registry				1			1	1	1		2	3	9
Snow Mobile Complaint													
Speeding Complaints			1	1	1	1	1			2	3	1	11
Stolen Motor Vehicle													
Stolen Property					1								
Suicide												1	1
Summons Service	2	3	6	8	3	2	3	8	2	2	1	3	43
Suspicious Activity	2	2	6	1	5	3	6	5	4	5	6	2	47
Suspicious Persons	1			2			3	1	1	3	3	3	17
Suspicious Vehicle	1	2	3	3		4	5	4	8	5	3	1	39
Trespass	2		1	1	2		3	6	1	1			17
Town ordinance (TWPO)							1						1
Theft								1	1				2
Unauthorized Use						1	1						2
Unattended death	1		1		1			1	1				5
Unsecure Property		1			1		1		1		2	1	7
Underage Drinking								1					1
Unwanted Party				1	2	5		3				1	12
Vehicle Stop													
Vehicles Towed					1			1					2
Warrant					1	1	1	1					4
Weather Advisory					1	3		1					5
Welfare Checks	4	3	5	2		5	2	2	3	1	3	4	34
Wires Down			4		3	4	1	1			3	3	19
<b>Total Calls Monthly for 2015</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>224</b>	
<b>Total Arrests 2015</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	
<b>Total Criminal Charges 2015</b>		<b>4</b>				<b>1</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	



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## ◆ *REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD* ◆

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

The Planning Board would like to acknowledge Mr. Ronzio's re-election to the Board in May of 2015. Mr. Ronzio has fervently dedicated his time to serve on the board for over eleven years. As its chair he has coordinated the board's activities in dealing with somewhat complex and sophisticated zoning rules and the intricacies of each application. Mr. Ronzio also serves as the town's delegate to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission.

Ann Krawet again needs to be recognized and acknowledged for her diligence and perseverance in updating both the Large and Small Scale Wind Energy by-laws which were approved by the voters at the Annual Town meeting in May.

The remaining members of the board are Gale LaBelle, the vice-chair, Beth VanNess the clerk, Martin Schlanger the Clerk Pro Tem, 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 2015, the Becket Planning Board convened for ten scheduled meetings.

Three 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 ANR additionally resolved and codified property easement rights. Another enabled the applicants to redraw an existing boundary line by swapping equivalent parcels of property, which did not effect the frontage or acreage requirements.

Several special permit applications were presented for

review and approved. A few other application proposals were informally presented but never submitted.

The first special permit was approved contingent upon approval from the Board of Health. It enabled the applicant to combine two nonconforming lots into a single larger lot and build a conforming structure as it was determined that the change was more more beneficial to the character of the neighborhood than what existed prior.

A second special permit approval enabled the applicant to construct a common driveway, which served two adjacent properties thereby eliminating a second curb cut.

A third special permit approval enabled the applicants to reconstruct and replace an existing off premise sign on town property.

Lastly, a hearing was held regarding a request to modify its 1998 special permit to accommodate functions for nonaffiliated guests. The Planning Board in conjunction with the Zoning Board of Appeals conducted a site visit to properly assess the impact the proposed changes would have on the existing infrastructure. Approval was granted with a contingency clause that further vehicular parking modifications would require approval by the Becket Building Inspector.

### Additional Actions:

- As the result of an inquiry regarding the absence of a medical marijuana bylaw within the town the board discussed reviving a once proposed bylaw to regulate the location of medical marijuana dispensaries and other facilities within the community. Continued discussion is planned given that there may be a referendum question regarding the approval of recreational marijuana in the fall of 2016.
- A second inquiry was made regarding the zoning prohibition of used car lots. Further discussion on this topic was suspended after the prospective applicant never met with the board in open session.
- The Planning Board also addressed and approved zoning exemptions for the Sherwood Forest Lake District to reconstruct Lancelot Dam. This exemption was statutorily granted because the District as a governmental entity performs essential government functions.
- The board reviewed the existing fee schedules for



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## ◆ **REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD** ◆

*~ Continued ~*

special permits and subdivision plans with the intent to essentially combine them into a single document to make it easier for the applicants. The board also recommended that subdivision fees be increased in line with surrounding communities.

- Informal discussions were held regarding the effect construction of large-scale wind towers in adjacent communities might have within the town, and the zoning implication and impact Air BNBs might have on neighborhoods within the community.
- 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 constructive comments. Planning Board meetings are posted in Town Hall, and also for information, on the town Web site, [www.townofbecket.org](http://www.townofbecket.org).

Finally, the Board wishes to thank those town officials and members of the various boards, commissions and departments who provided technical assistance and expertise throughout the year for their cooperation. Please feel free to call the Planning Board Office at 413-623-8934 ext. 20, send correspondence via USPS or email at [planning@townofbecket.org](mailto:planning@townofbecket.org) with any questions.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Robert T. Ronzio  
***Chair***



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## ◆ **REPORT OF THE BUILDING INSPECTOR** ◆

The Building Department seems to be humming along pretty smoothly since the Online Permitting Software has been in use. The contractors seem to find it very convenient since they don't have to come into the office to file their permits and pay the fees. I assist those who are not comfortable navigating computers.

To streamline the process, our new system generates an email requesting that the homeowner sign the permit on-line. Doing this will save the homeowner the necessity to meet and sign the permit with the contractor. When needed, I am glad to assist homeowners with filing a completed permit application on-line.

The best part about using the online system is that we generate and store a lot less paper. Certainly we have some basic paperwork that we file in the Town Hall Central Records but much of the information is now stored on the World Wide Web or in the "cloud" as they say. The plans for the job that we have to keep for the life of the building can be very hard to locate when needed are now available at our finger tips for all these recent jobs.

Another advantage of the on-line permitting system is that it makes it easier to obtain data and financial information to generate "turnovers" to the treasurer and Town Reports.

By the middle of 2016 we will be working with the 9th Edition of the Mass. State Building Code. After two years of research and discussion the Board of Building Regulation and Standards with the assistance of numerous industry volunteers have almost completed the review and promulgation of the new code. It is based on the International Code Council 2012 Building Code Series. So contractors will need to put the new books on the list of expenses for the near future because they need to keep a copy handy when working. Homeowners need to make sure that contractors also have a Home Improvement Certificate and be registered and licensed by the state prior to signing a contract.

<b>Type of Activity</b>	<b># of Activity</b>	<b>Est. Value</b>	<b>Cost of Permit</b>
Certificate of Inspection	69		\$ 3,420.00
Certificate of Occupancy	11		\$ 475.00
Commercial Building Permit	20	\$ 284,000.00	\$ 4,512.00
Residential Building Permit	186	\$8,346,630.00	\$ 30,645.00
Sheet Metal Permit	4	\$ 65,800.00	\$ 280.00
Sign Permit	4	\$ 8,800.00	\$ 272.00
Solid Fuel Appliance Permit	29	\$ 55,077.00	\$ 1,401.00
Tent Permit	9	\$ 12,205.00	\$ 490.00
Trench Permit	1		\$ 35.00
Building Permit Total	333	\$8,772,512.00	\$ 41,530.00
Electrical Permit	80		\$ 6,960.00
Gas Permit	64		\$ 3,425.00
Plumbing Permit	39		\$ 3,200.00

I would like to thank the Assistant Building Inspector Gary Danko, who is there whenever I need help. Also, thanks to Plumbing Inspectors Mark Levernoch and Brian Middleton and Wiring Inspectors Dana Spring and James LaPier for their dedicated service.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

William E. Girard  
***Building Inspector / Zoning Enforcement Officer***

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

**Staffing:** Since the resignation of the Chief Assessor has created a staffing shortage, Regional Resource Group has been contracted to help with assessment functions such as creating bill files and statistical analysis required for setting the tax rate. Jeff Reynolds is our local contact person. He works in the Assessor's office on Wednesdays.

**Valuation:** The current assessed values are based on sales in 2013 & 2014. The coming year will be a recertification year, which means that Data Collectors will inspect properties in Town as mandated by the Department of Revenue. Each collector will have identification. You can call the Assessor's office @ 413 623-8934 extension 17 or 19 for verification.

**Exemptions:** In Massachusetts, there are several exemptions available to residents. Becket has voted to offer exemptions for

elderly 70+, veterans and blind taxpayers (with Massachusetts certificate). Contact 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 changes - online at [www.mass.gov/rmv](http://www.mass.gov/rmv) or by phone outside Massachusetts and area codes 339/617/781/857 at 857-368-8000, other area codes at 800-858-3926.

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

Two websites you may find helpful: [www.massrmv.com](http://www.massrmv.com) and [www.masslandrecords.com](http://www.masslandrecords.com). A number of our forms and maps can be found at [www.townofbecket.org](http://www.townofbecket.org).

**Total Appropriations and Charges .....\$ 5,228,376.09**

**Total Receipts .....\$ 1,540,551.20**

**Total Amount to be Raised .....\$6,768,927.29**

CLASS	LEVY %	VALUATION	PARCEL COUNT
Residential	90.3574	452,078,840	3,727
Commercial	3.8321	19,172,966	73
Industrial	0.2233	1,117,000	3
Personal Property	5.5872	27,954,265	966
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>500,323,071</b>	<b>4,769</b>

**Tax Rate .....\$10.45**

**The Board of Assessors processed:**

Elderly and Veteran Exemptions .....	38
Blind .....	1
Senior Work-off Abatements .....	5
Personal Property /Real Estate Abatements .....	32
Motor Vehicle Abatements .....	84

*Respectfully submitted,*

Elizabeth A. Will  
Geraldine L. Walter

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## ◆ *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



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## ◆ *REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH* ◆

The Becket Board of Health has been working this year to update and improve important office procedures and is happy to announce it has applied for a grant from the Berkshire Health Alliance. The grant money will go toward a computer program system to stream online applications, monitor yearly permitting and assist in the billing process. We look forward to implementing this system in fiscal year 2018.

The Berkshire Public Health Alliance this year collaborated with the Becket Board of Health for public services needed to include reviewing all Title 5 plans and footprints that came in to the Board.

Promotion of health programs to educate our elderly has been implemented again this year. Porchlight VNA has held monthly blood pressure clinics. Additionally, they have presented a program on managing holiday stress and we look forward to a presentation on diabetes. The Porchlight VNA also introduced MOLST, “Massachusetts Medical Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment” to the Council on Aging. Programs focused on Relaxation Techniques were also presented.

Beach Signs will be available again in 2016. Each beach will have a sign, permit number and person to contact. A water sample at each community beach is tested weekly from May to September by Housatonic Basin Sampling and Testing.

The Board was busy throughout the year, making sure that many septic systems were inspected and updated.

Septic Systems and Title 5 Inspections.....	78
Wells.....	6
Beaver Permits.....	3
Installers Permits.....	15
Food Establishments.....	19
Camps.....	4
Beaches.....	24

The Board would like to thank Dr. Howard Lerner for his efforts and for the time that he served on the Board of Health. Dr. Lerner’s work was always appreciated.

The meeting schedule is as follows:

- April through September: Every first and third Wednesday of the month at 10:00 AM.
- October through March: Every first Wednesday of the month at 10:00 AM.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

Gale LaBelle  
Laurel Burgwardt



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

The following is a report of the services performed in the Town of Becket during the 2015 calendar year 1/01/2015 – 12/31/2015:

<b>HOME VISITS</b>	<b>1st Quarter</b> 1/1/15 - 3/31/15	<b>2nd Quarter</b> 4/1/15 - 6/30/15	<b>3rd Quarter</b> 7/1/15 - 9/30/15	<b>4th Quarter</b> 10/1/15 - 12/31/15	<b>Total</b>
Skilled Nursing	61	79	63	126	329
Physical Therapy	70	83	43	0	196
Occupational Therapy	32	23	5	0	60
Speech Therapy	0	0	0	0	0
Medical Social Work	2	7	1	0	10
Maternal Child Health	0	0	0	0	0
Nutrition Services	0	0	0	0	0
Home Health Aide	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>595</b>
<b>NON-BILLABLE</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Nurse-Practitioner Visits</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

<b>COMMUNICABLE DISEASE</b>	<b>1st Quarter</b> 1/1/15 - 3/31/15	<b>2nd Quarter</b> 4/1/15 - 6/30/15	<b>3rd Quarter</b> 7/1/15 - 9/30/15	<b>4th Quarter</b> 10/1/15 - 12/31/15	<b>Total</b>
Confirmed	1	1	2	0	4
Probable	0	0	1	0	1
Suspected	1	1	5	6	13
Revoked	0	0	0	0	0

<b>CLINICS</b>	<b># of Clinics Held / Attendance</b>				
Flu	0	0	0	2/30	<b>2/30</b>
Blood Pressure	3/36	3/31	1/6	3/31	<b>10/104</b>
Presentations	3/36	3/31	1/6	3/31	<b>10/104</b>

Telehealth Monitoring	3	3	2	2	<b>10</b>
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*Respectfully submitted,*

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



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## ◆ *REPORT OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE* ◆

Becket's parks continue to look wonderful thanks to several members of this committee as well as volunteers. Aaron and Jennifer Beatty placed a planter on the railroad sign structure at Ballou Park and Skip and Kathy Saville planted flowers at the memorials there in time for Becket's Memorial Day/250th birthday celebration. Flags, pin wheels and winter greenery were placed in the flower tubs at several locations during the year. Hostas continue to appear at several spots in town thanks to Maddy Elovirta. Money was spent on fertilizer and mulch to enhance the parks.

A new bench for parents to sit on as their children play was placed at the Becket Center Park playground area. "Becket Parks" was engraved in it to identify its ownership. We would like to remind all that the present equipment there is for children from two to twelve years of age. A second lacrosse net was purchased so that competition can occur in game form rather than just skill development. This sport has become very popular and we encourage all to learn the game. If an adult or teen would like to teach the skills/game to young folks that would be great. Please contact someone on the committee if you are willing to help out.

The summer parks program held at the Becket Center Park was again very successful. Approximately twenty children, ranging in ages five to twelve, attended and were led in games, crafts, swimming, and sports, providing lots of activity to increase their well being and summer socialization. Jamie Pease and "Moses" Greenspan were our park's program workers. They did a terrific job.

The beautiful Becket beach continues to be a popular destination in town. Summer visitor Ed Rossini and his sons again installed the float, ladder and lines for us. We heartily thank them for this effort. The "Learn to Swim Program" was well attended and many learned to be comfortable in the water under the guidance of lifeguard Michaela DeFoe. Moses Greenspan was the weekend lifeguard from July to Labor

Day. The float ladder was replaced for the safety of all. Tina Lavasseur oversaw the beach program.

To ensure a safe separation of boats and swimmers, we purchased an aluminum dock. Our Becket firemen and a few other caring persons assembled and installed it. Rubber caps on the wheels on the dock seemed to disappear and needed to be replaced. They serve to protect everyone from the metal work near the wheels. Please help us to make this additional feature safe for all. New beach signs were also installed to inform all of the beach regulations.

The beach is opened to Becket and Washington residents only as they are the ones paying the expenses. A transfer station or beach sticker is required for all who come to the beach. This coming summer there will be security at the beach road entrance and all who lack said sticker(s) will be turned away. Car top boaters are allowed to use the beach but must abide by the designated hours and parking spaces provided for them.

New tables were purchased to replace the unsafe ones at the beach. Bill Elovirta and Dave Shorey assembled them and transported them to the beach. There is one handicapped accessible table for anyone who requires that accommodation.

A new playscape and swing stand for the Becket Center Park is going to be requested at the Annual Town Meeting using Community Preservation Act funding. The existing wooden equipment was purchased after the approval of the 1999 Annual Town Meeting and has served us well but by law must be removed/replaced.

*Respectfully submitted,*

***Parks and Recreation Committee Members:***

Ginger Conner, Maddy Elovirta,  
Rita Furlong, and Tina Lavasseur



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## ◆ **REPORT OF THE 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. The town's Conservation Agent provides expert support to the volunteer board. The Agent arranges site visits, posts legal and meeting notices, and follows up on inquiries and violations. Commissioners attend training sessions and participate in workshops organized by the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) when possible.

In 2016, regularly scheduled meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of each month beginning at 6:30 PM in the Becket Town Hall. Special meetings will be held when necessary. Residents are welcome to attend and learn more about the Commission and its responsibilities. In order for public hearings to be posted in a timely fashion, applications for wetland permits are due on the third Friday of the previous

month for the next month's meeting agenda.

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 email to [conservation@townofbecket.org](mailto:conservation@townofbecket.org).

Commissioners: Alison Dixon, Chairperson; Richard Pryor, Vice-Chairperson; Shep Evans, Cindy Delpapa and Karen Karlberg. Conservation Agent: Shep Evans.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Alison Dixon  
***Chairperson***

### **Permits Issued:**

Order of Conditions – 11  
Determination of Applicability – 27  
Certificate of Compliance – 5  
Site Visits – 40  
Enforcement Orders – 2  
Emergency Certifications – 3

### **Expenses:**

Salaries – \$11,000  
Legal Ads – \$1,300  
MACC Dues & Conferences – \$422  
Office, Miscellaneous – \$385

Filing Fees Collected: \$2,027





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## ◆ *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 late March we took delivery of the new road grader.

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 extensively patched black top roads and added gravel to gravel roads in May and June: We used 50 tons of hot mix asphalt and 250 tons of gravel, which has helped maintain the roads. Smoother roads reduce winter costs, as it is easier to remove snow and ice.

In September we awarded a contract for engineering services to replace culverts on Bonny Rigg Hill Road. We hope to obtain permits and bid this job in late winter, and complete construction in the late summer or fall 2016.

In late September we accepted a bid for the last section of Wade Inn Rd. Chapter 90 money (\$366,000.00) will fund this project entailing full-depth recycling with asphalt injection

(base stabilizer) and paving the last mile of Wade Inn Road. The work will be completed in the spring or summer of 2016.

During the winter of 2015 (January to April) we experienced many snow events that occurred close together or multi-day events for 78" of snow with a season total of 106.25"; during November and December of 2015 we have had only a few freezing rain or ice events with only 2" of snow.

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

I would also like to thank the Town Administrator, Buildings and Grounds Technician, Selectmen, and the 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***



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

Over 2000 individuals walked through the doors of the Becket Arts Center during our 2015 summer season. Many varied and diverse activities led to these numbers. Record numbers of children and adults attended the Becket Washington School Student Art Show, which opened on May 22. Each student had his or her artwork professionally displayed in the BAC's upstairs Philip Barber Gallery. Jennifer Annand, BWS art teacher created a unique and diverse number of "themes" from which the students used their imaginations to create their interpretations of everything from bugs to helicopters. The Exhibition was a huge success among the students in particular. One student was overheard saying to his parents as he stood in front of his painting, "This is awesome, better than getting candy from the fire truck." (Becket's Memorial Day Celebration).

Additional exhibits spotlighting the work of local Berkshire artists Julio Granda, Karen Karlberg, Paul Smilow, Eric Smith, Nancy Freedman, Karen Jacobs, Joan Sasson, Grisel Diaz Ors and Barbara Barron drew enthusiastic crowds.

The BAC's Marty Lasker series opened many doors to individuals interested in becoming more familiar with different artistic venues. Norton Owen, Director of Preservation, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival captured his audience's attention through a stunning power point presentation highlighting the Pillow's history. "A Thousand and One Nights" found author and vocalist Lara Tupper performing with Bobby Sweet, who together, sung many ballads to everyone's delight. Lara shared her sometimes humorous, sometimes frightening experiences she encountered while performing on ships and hotels throughout the Middle East and Asia.

Over thirty children attended the BAC's summer camp, "Come Celebrate." Two, one-week camps, one in July and one in August, focused on the celebration of Becket's 250th Anniversary. Children participated in art activities enhancing our local history.

Funding for these above mentioned programs and others was largely supported by membership contributions and by grants from the Local Cultural Councils of Becket, Washington, Lee, Chester, Hinsdale-Peru, and Otis, whose support comes from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency supporting the arts.

Grants were secured from the Berkshire Taconic Foundation to enhance BAC Board Development, to expand programming during the winter months, and to provide partial funding for an Administrative Coordinator. It is difficult to find adequate words to express our deep appreciation for these grants.

The BAC welcomes all to visit, participate, and share their ideas and talents. We especially thank all of our volunteers who work so very hard creating and implementing our programs.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Sally Soluri,  
*President*



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

During the 2015 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 the renting of the upstairs offices became a priority. We now have tenants filling the four rental spaces. This enables us to pay the oil bills and complete necessary improvements. The fifth space is used by the MHEC as a small office for files, archives, memorabilia, books and storage. As in the past, the first floor office is being rented year round to the Becket Land Trust. This space also houses the Railroad Survey Exhibit, which is displayed on the walls. All renters, with the exception of the BLT, have accepted, in lieu of not being non-profits, the responsibility of donating time and effort to help the community of Becket.

The 'barn el' of the building, which has been totally renovated, continues to be transformed into an MHEC exhibit/BLT Historic Quarry museum space. In addition to the already donated quarry artifacts that have been placed in interesting groupings, we now have an exhibit that focuses on the Ballou and Sons Basket Company. In 2016, other aspects of the basket industry in Becket will continue to be illuminated in the space, as additional items are added to this collection. The exhibit will present details of the history of basket making, both canvas and wood, in Becket. It will also include collected memorabilia, such as an envelope postmarked 1895 Becket, sent from Ballou to a client in Chicago.

The 250th Anniversary of Becket was celebrated at the Mullen House in 2015. This was marked by the completion of the Railway Exhibit and also by hanging two new exhibits. There is now a 'kitchen gallery' filled with Becket maps on loan from David Stein, and a 'conference room gallery' dedicated to rotating art work hung by local Becket painters, sculptors and photographers. This includes nature photography from Karen Karlberg, Becket photographs by Barbara Winters, and paintings by Christine O'Malley Levi.

The BLT Galleries – consisting of the office, a portion of the Barn, the BLT Main Gallery and the front Railway Exhibit Room, continue to house permanent BLT collections. Prior to

this we had 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 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.

Of special note, we offer a big thank you for grants received from both the Berkshire Taconic Central Berkshire Fund and the Becket Arts Lottery (Massachusetts Cultural Council - Local Cultural Council Award). This funding will enable the Mullen House to hire interpretive guides for the 2016 summer season. Tours of all the exhibits, including those of the BLT Historic Quarry, will take place on appointed days, on a weekly basis, throughout the season. The BLT exhibits will augment on-site artifacts at the Historic Quarry on Quarry Road.

Importantly, a new handicapped walkway and parking space was built by David Drugmand using the last of the Leonhardt Foundation grant that we had previously received. The furnace was repaired and cleaned by Pioneer Plumbing and thank you to David Shorey who regularly stops in to check the heating and well-being of the MHEC water system. As in the past, we thank the many volunteers who helped this year and 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*



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## ◆ *REPORT OF THE ENERGY COMMITTEE* ◆

For 2015, the Becket Energy Committee consisted of the following members:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Term</b>
Garth Klimchuk	Chair	2018
Robert Gross	Vice Chair	2016
Cathy DeFoe	Member	2017
Alvin Blake	Member	2016
Katherine Hoak	Secretary	2018
Chris Bouchard	Ex-Officio	
Ed Gibson	Ex-Officio	
Bill Girard	Ex-Officio	
Dan Parnell	Ex-Officio	

### **Mission**

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

The BEC met on or about every third Thursday of each month throughout 2015 at 10am. Meeting minutes and agendas were posted on the Town of Becket website.

### **Notable Accomplishments**

- Created detailed website with important information regarding energy savings, renewable energy and other pertinent energy related issues. The website can be found at [http://townofbecket.org/Public\\_Documents/BecketMA\\_BComm/energy](http://townofbecket.org/Public_Documents/BecketMA_BComm/energy).
- Undertook two information sessions during the early summer of 2014 and 2015 in which town residents were presented with specific solar, energy

efficiency and loan financing program information by both BEC members and representatives of the MA DOER and private entities.

- With the assistance of third party consultants completed assessment of town properties and rooftops for possible solar arrays in order to reduce the Town's energy bill and carbon footprint.
- Initiated review of the Town's involvement as an anchor participant in possible community solar projects which would also give residents priority to participate.
- Endorsed MA Power Forward initiative and other state organizations promoting renewable energy and state renewable energy legislation.
- Initiated discussions with other towns adjacent to Becket regarding possible collaboration on community solar and energy aggregation programs.

### **Current Priorities**

#### Short Term

1. Complete construction of rooftop solar array on the roof of the Town Hall.
2. Continue to explore anchor participant role in Community solar array.
3. Develop potential heat pump participation program for residents.
4. Organize possible resident focus group to determine key energy issues facing the Town and its residents
5. Organize third annual BEC Information Session to be held sometime in the summer of 2016.

#### Long Term

Determine viability of creating Town of Becket municipal power company/microgrid to control costs, implement Town sustainability and renewable energy objectives and reduce dependency on Eversource.

*Respectfully Submitted,*  
**Energy Committee**



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## ◆ *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 and 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 support.

BCC members for 2015 were Luz Bravo-Gleicher, Ruth Glazerman, Roberta Goldman, Tommie Hutto-Blake, Ann Krawet, Audrey Schlanger, Sally Soluri, Barbara Wacholder, Tracy Wilson, Catherine Savini, Yana DeLuca, and Michelle Raymer. The Council welcomes inquiries for membership, especially from Becket residents with children attending Becket Washington School.

For the grant year, July 1, 2014-June, 2015, the BCC met in November 2014 and carefully reviewed all submitted applications.

The following grants, totaling \$4,343, were awarded for FY 2015:

<u><b>Applicant</b></u>	<u><b>Project Title</b></u>	<u><b>Award</b></u>
Amelia Chandler/Becket Washington School	Berkshire Museum Aqua Explorations Outreach Program	\$63
Amelia Chandler/Becket Washington School	The Colonial Theater	\$148
Bacon, Linda	Music in the Garden	\$100
Becket 250th Anniversary Committee	Geo-tour of historic Becket	\$195
Becket Arts Center of the Hilltowns	Hilltown Community Summer Solstice Celebration	\$426
Becket Athenaeum, Inc.	Historical Archives	\$133
Becket Athenaeum, Inc.	2015 Museum Passes	\$500
Becket Land Trust	Becket Land Trust Speaker Series 2015	\$200
Becket Washington School	Springfield Museums	\$450
Becket Washington School	Berkshire Museum Science and Social Studies Program	\$128
Berkshire Music School	Music Enrichment at Becket Washington School	\$200
Berkshire Music School	BMS Chamber Music Concert in Assembly	\$100
Berkshire Pulse, Inc.	Nessacus Middle School Dance Program	\$200
Colleen McCasland, Becket Washington School	Colonial Theater-Harold and the Purple Crayon	\$250
Marty Lasker BAC Lecture Series	Celebrating Hilltown History	\$400
Shannon Griffin, Becket Washington School	Berkshire Theatre Group PLAYS! School Residency Prog.	\$500
Stacy Parsons, Berkshire Head Start	Timeless Tales	\$250
The Blandford Historical Society, The White Church	Opera Performance	\$100

*Respectfully submitted,*

Catherine Savini, *BCC member*



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

This office serves the needs of the Veterans of Becket and their families. The Town of Becket paid benefits to veterans this year totaling \$26,647.74, an increase of almost \$10,000 over last year. Of this amount, \$19,925.32 was reimbursed by the state for an actual cost to the Town of \$6,722.42.

The case load of Veterans' Services increased this year, due in part to several veterans who needed assistance for a few months until they found employment, or were waiting for approval of other sources of income such as Veterans pension or Social Security. We have been fairly successful in getting those veterans who are able to work employed again quickly. The greatest need continues to be for veterans or their widows who have very little income and are unable to work. All veterans and their families, who qualified and met the requirements, were entitled to the benefits they had received.

Again, as in previous years, there was a considerable rise in the number of requests for information concerning the benefits Veterans, or their families, are entitled for medical assistance and prescriptions. This office was able to get that information and to assist filling out the necessary forms. Like last year, one of the most underused programs available to veterans in Massachusetts is the ability to receive Medical Only benefits if

their income is too high for regular benefits. This program reimburses co-pays, other medical costs, and even can reimburse the cost of Medicare Part B and some supplemental insurance. Becket Veteran Services has several veterans on this Medical Only program.

Beginning this year, every Veterans' Service Officer must be state certified in order for their communities to receive reimbursement for the monies spent on Veterans' Benefits. This involved taking an online exam, a special training session lasting three days, and a final exam. I was able to pass the exams and became certified. This certification is for three years.

The Veterans Service Officer is part-time, and the office is open on Mondays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Sometimes, this is a hardship for some veterans, or their families, and if necessary, an appointment can be made for another day and time.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

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



## ◆ **REPORT OF THE HARBOR MASTER** ◆

The 2015 Becket boating season was again reportable accident free. There was a good amount of activity on our four Great Ponds. I was pleased to see folks exhibiting responsible boating. If there are any issues, I can be reached by contacting Town Hall.

Please remember that raft registration is an annual process. If you have a floating raft anchored to the bottom of the lake you are required to register it with the town via the Harbor Master. Permanent docks must be registered with the

Commonwealth as well as the Becket Conservation Commission.

I look forward to seeing you out on the water this summer.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Steve Rosenthal  
*Harbor Master*



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## ◆ *REPORT OF THE BECKET ATHENAEUM* ◆

At the Becket Athenaeum, our commitment to serving the communities of Becket and Washington remains strong. During 2015, we continued to provide outstanding library services and high-quality after-school programming as a result of appropriations received from the towns of Becket and Washington toward both operating and capital expenses, as well as the New York Community Trust which continues to support our after school program. The Berkshire Taconic Foundation through the Central Berkshire Fund supports our pre-school program. The Berkshire Taconic Foundation through the Stuhlmann Fund has funded our exploration of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) with grades 4 -10. Our local LCCs (Local Cultural Council) from both Becket and Washington have also provided support for the museum passes to local attractions we provide to our patrons all year long.

Our staff is similar to last year with one addition. Cathy DeFoe is our Director. Nancy Wilson, our long-serving librarian, continues in this role. Dawn Greene is our Assistant Librarian. Katelyn Hamling is working in our grant-funded position as After School Program Coordinator. Ellen Manley, a Becket resident, is new to the Athenaeum staff in 2015 and also works as an Assistant Librarian and after school program tutor. Our Board of Trustees has also changed with the addition of Washington resident, Elizabeth Oakes. Lisa Grogan from Washington and Marcia Parnell and Kelly Jourdain from Becket have resigned from the Board.

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 the YMCA Berkshire Outdoor Center for their support and partnership in 2015.

We are very pleased to report that we have again received funding for our after-school programming for 2016-2017; 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. Michelle Raymer leads this effort devoting time, energy, and enthusiasm to this program. During the summer and spring of 2015, the younger crowd spent three weeks with Becket resident Alison Dixon from the HVA's Watershed Wise education program. They explored the water cycle, animals in our watershed, and went fishing indoors for water babies. We also learned about the Cottontail Project with Tom Ryan from the DCR and Wildlife Biologist Marianne Piche. Local resident Sandi Jarvis also spent a session with our preschool group learning all about the history of Becket.

In the fall of 2015, the Athenaeum, along with the Art Center, Becket Washington School PTO, Federated Church, Fire Department, and members of the Washington Community formed the BWCP (Becket Washington Community Partnership). This organization has been meeting once per month and our goal is to collaborate to make the Town Fair on July 9, 2016 a community event with something for everyone! We received a grant from the Berkshire Taconic Foundation Central Berkshire Fund to support this event.

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 additional LCC grants from both Washington and Becket in 2015 to complete our catalogue and display our historical archive materials. Katherine Hoak continued to lead this effort. 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 completed this work in 2015 and was on site for the 250th anniversary celebration for the Town of Becket.

The capital appropriation from the Town of Becket FY 2015 and part of FY 2016 as well as from the Town of Washington FY 2016 and CPG (Community Preservation Grant) FY 2016 has allowed us to complete the repair of the roof edge, install ice slides, repair flashing and other trim pieces. Chris Swindlehurst removed a large diseased red maple from the south side of our building using capital appropriation

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## ***REPORT OF THE BECKET ATHENAEUM***

*(Continued)*

funds. We used 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 eight large single pane windows by adding storms and window quilts, and upgrading our exterior and interior lighting.

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

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

We look forward to seeing you at the Athenaeum!

### **Staff**

Cathy DeFoe, ***Director***  
Nancy Wilson, ***Librarian***  
Dawn Greene, ***Assistant Librarian***  
Ellen Manley, ***Assistant Librarian***  
Katelyn Hamling, ***After School Program Coordinator***

### **Becket Athenaeum Board of Trustees**

Purr McEwen, ***Chair***  
Aaron Beatty, ***Vice-Chair***  
Lee Glazerman  
Robert Gross, ***Treasurer***  
Maria Wallington, ***Secretary***  
Jan Nelson  
Elizabeth Oakes





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## ◆ *REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE* ◆

The Year 2015 saw a continued excellent working relationship between the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen for developing the 2016 town budget with the guidance and support of the Town Administrator Ed Gibson. The town operating budget was held at a 2.5% increase over the 2015 budget. The property tax rate was held to an increase of \$0.01/\$1000 evaluation. Education expenses remain the largest item in the budget. Becket's Central Berkshire Regional School District assessment rose 5.34% this year which was a \$97,105 increase over the prior year partially offset by a decrease in vocational tuition of \$42,440. The winter of 2014-2015 led to a large snow and ice deficit of \$110,968.87. This was covered by interdepartmental transfers and "Free Cash" appropriations rendering no impact upon the 2016 Tax Rate.

Among the highlights of the items passed at the Annual Town Meeting were the following for new equipment: the purchase of thermal imaging cameras for the Fire Department, an automatic stretcher for the ambulance, and the purchase of a dump truck with plow and sander for the Highway Department. Building improvements approved were: energy efficient windows for the Fire Station, and several projects to improve the Town Hall: replacement of the fire escapes, replacement of the roof, and replacement of the furnace and heating system.

The stabilization fund was increased by \$400,000 from Free Cash, which almost replenishes the funds used last year to settle the BRD lawsuit. Support and funds for capital

repairs for the Becket Athenaeum were again appropriated. The Becket Arts Center received funds for installing an ADA lift for disabled patrons.

The other major issue on the town warrant was the authorization for the town to borrow up to \$3,810,000 to fund Becket's share of the cost for broadband internet access as presented by WiredWest. The borrowing was also voted to be exempted from Proposition 2 1/2 guidelines and will occur over multiple years as the project moves forward so the impact on the town budget will not be felt immediately.

The Finance Committee had two incumbents, Ann Spadafora and Maria Wallington, who were elected for three-year terms at the 2015 Town Election. Daniel Parnell was selected by the committee to be the chairperson. We wish to thank Stephen LaBelle for his long service as the prior chairperson. We also wish to again acknowledge the help, guidance and expertise of our Town Administrator, Ed Gibson. His presence and dedication makes our work easier and enjoyable.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Daniel Parnell, *Chair*  
Maria Wallington, *Vice Chair*  
Mark Karlberg, *Secretary*  
Stephen LaBelle, Sr.  
Ann Spadafora



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◆ **REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK - 2015** ◆

**Elections and Town Meetings**

<b>VOTER ATTENDANCE</b>			
<b><u>Election</u></b>	<b><u>Registered Voters</u></b>	<b><u>Ballots Cast</u></b>	<b><u>Percent Voting</u></b>
Annual Town Caucus, April 7, 2015	1,386	56	4%
Annual Town Election, May 16, 2015	1,368	371	27%

<b><u>Meeting</u></b>	<b><u>Registered Voters</u></b>	<b><u>Voters Attending</u></b>	<b><u>Others Attending</u></b>	<b><u>% of Voters Attending</u></b>
Annual Town Meeting, May 9, 2015	1,386	142	34	10.24%

**ANNUAL TOWN CAUCUS, APRIL 7, 2015**

Pursuant to the foregoing notice, a Town Caucus was held in the Becket Town Hall on April 7, 2015. The meeting was called to order promptly at noon by Town Clerk George E. Roberts and the following Caucus Officers were elected: Gale LaBelle, Chair (Presiding Officer); Eva Bonney, Secretary. 56 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**:

<b>For Member, Board of Selectmen (3-year term) Vote for One</b>	<b><u>Votes</u></b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Jeanne W. Pryor</b>	29	52%
<b>Sandra Sayward</b>	25	45%
All Others (write-ins)	0	
Blanks	2	
Total Votes Cast	56	

<b>For Member, Board of Health (3-year term) Vote for One</b>	<b><u>Votes</u></b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Laurel Burgwardt</b>	33	59%
<b>David Bonney (write-in)</b>	10	18%
All Others (write-ins)	0	
Blanks	13	
Total Votes Cast	56	

<b>For Cemetery Commissioner (3-year term) Vote for One</b>	<b><u>Votes</u></b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Michelle A. Smith</b>	46	82%
All Others (write-ins)	0	
Blanks	10	
Total Votes Cast	56	

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***Report of the Town Clerk***  
***(Continued)***

<b>For Member, Finance Committee (3-year term) Vote for Two</b>	<b><u>Votes</u></b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Ann Gwenneth Spadafora</b>	41	37%
<b>Maria Wallington</b>	45	40%
All Others (write-ins)	0	
Blanks	<u>26</u>	
Total Votes Cast	112	

<b>For Member, Planning Board (5-year term) Vote for One</b>	<b><u>Votes</u></b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Robert Ronzio</b>	20	36%
All Others (write-ins)	6	11%
Blanks	<u>30</u>	
Total Votes Cast	56	

<b>For Constable (1-year term) Vote for Two</b>	<b><u>Votes</u></b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Michael F. Sawyer</b>	43	38%
<b>Marc Portieri</b>	46	41%
All Others (write-ins)	1	
Blanks	<u>22</u>	
Total Votes Cast	112	
Registered voters	1,386	
Ballots cast	56	
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: Gale LaBelle, Eva Bonney, Patricia Clemons, Beth VanNess, Charles Francis, Alvin Blake. The Police Officer was Nicole Miller.

## **ANNUAL TOWN ELECTIONS, MAY 16, 2015**

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, the Annual Town Election was held in the Becket Town Hall, 557 Main Street, on May 16, 2015. 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 371 voters participated and cast ballots for the election of candidates. The results of the election are as follows:

<b>For Member, Board of Selectmen (3-year term) Vote for One</b>	<b><u>Votes</u></b>	<b>%</b>
William H. Elovirta	208	56%
Sandra Sayward	158	43%
All Others (write-ins)	0	0%
Blanks	<u>5</u>	1%
Total Votes Cast	371	

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## *Report of the Town Clerk*

*(Continued)*

<b>For Member, Board of Health (3-year term) Vote for One</b>	<b><u>Votes</u></b>	<b>%</b>
Laurel Burgwardt	254	68%
David Bonney	82	22%
All Others (write-ins)	3	1%
Blanks	<u>32</u>	9%
Total Votes Cast	371	

<b>For Cemetery Commissioner (3-year term) Vote for One</b>	<b><u>Votes</u></b>	<b>%</b>
Michelle A. Smith	308	83%
All Others (write-ins)	2	1%
Blanks	<u>61</u>	16%
Total Votes Cast	371	

<b>For Member, Finance Committee (3-year term) Vote for Two</b>	<b><u>Votes</u></b>	<b>%</b>
Ann Gwenneth Spadafora	303	41%
Maria Wallington	250	34%
All Others (write-ins)	3	0%
Blanks	<u>186</u>	25%
Total Votes Cast	742	

<b>For Member, Planning Board (5-year term) Vote for One</b>	<b><u>Votes</u></b>	<b>%</b>
Robert Ronzio	202	54%
All Others (write-ins)	23	6%
Blanks	<u>146</u>	39%
Total Votes Cast	371	

<b>For Constable (1-year term) Vote for Two</b>	<b><u>Votes</u></b>	<b>%</b>
Marc Portieri	305	41%
Michael Sawyer	283	38%
All Others (write-ins)	4	1%
Blanks	<u>150</u>	20%
Total Votes Cast	742	

### **BALLOT QUESTION 1**

SHALL THE TOWN OF BECKET BE ALLOWED TO EXEMPT FROM THE PROVISIONS OF PROPOSITION 2 1/2, SO CALLED, THE AMOUNTS REQUIRED TO PAY FOR THE BONDS TO BE ISSUED IN ORDER TO FUND THE TOWN'S SHARE OF THE COSTS OF CONSTRUCTION, INSTALLATION AND START UP OF A HIGH SPEED BROADBAND NETWORK, INCLUDING THE PAYMENT OF ALL COSTS INCIDENTAL OR RELATED THERETO, SUCH PROJECT TO BE CARRIED OUT BY THE TOWN'S MUNICIPAL LIGHT PLANT?

Yes	272	73%
No	85	23%
Blanks	<u>14</u>	4%
Total Votes Cast	371	

<b>Registered Voters:</b>	1,386
<b>Ballots cast:</b>	371
<b>Percent Voting</b>	27%

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## ***Report of the Town Clerk***

*(Continued)*

A total of 371 ballots were cast. There were 13 absentee ballots, 2 provisional ballots and 2 spoiled ballots. Election Officials were Patricia Clemons (Warden), Charles Francis, (Clerk), Julia Kay-Grace, Beth VanNess, W. Katherine Hoak, Ann Krawet, and Barbara Winters. The Police Officer was Tyler Miller. The polls closed at 7:00 p.m. and the unofficial results were printed and posted.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

George Roberts,  
***Town Clerk***

The minutes from the Town's 2015 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:** Colleen Cox, George Roberts (Town Clerk), Michelle Smith, and Robin Greenspan.

Voter Registration Sessions	2
Candidate Voter Lists prepared	0
Sherwood Forest Road District Voter Lists prepared	1

### **Census Results**

Residents over age 16	1,838
All Residents	1,647

### **Vital Records**

Vitals recorded in Becket:

Births	7
Deaths	10
Marriages	2

	Fees
Marriage Intentions filed (2)	\$ 50.00
Certified copies prepared:	
07 birth certificates	\$ 35.00
71 death certificates	\$ 355.00
03 marriage certificates	\$ 15.00
Burial Permits issued: 9	\$ 0
Cemetery Deeds Recorded: 4	\$ 4.00
Genealogy requests: 0	\$ 0
	<hr/>
Total Vitals Fees Collected	\$ 459.00

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## *Report of the Town Clerk*

*(Continued)*

### **Other Licenses, Permits, Recordings**

<u>Issued</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Fees</u>
267	Dog Licenses (neutered & non-neutered)	\$ 1,529.00	\$ 202.50
3	Kennel licenses	\$ 162.00	\$ 2.25
	Dog License Late Fees	\$ 170.00	\$ 170.00
0	Raffle Permits (1 renewal)	\$ 0	\$ 0
0	Physician Registration	\$	\$ 0
0	MGL 94C:32L Citations	\$ 0	\$ 0
	Civil Disp. Citation	\$ 0	\$ 0
0	Utility Pole Recording	\$ 0	\$ 0
10	Business Certificate applications:	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Total Other Fees Collected			<u>\$ 574.75</u>

Business Certificates recorded:

D's HAULING  
BERKSHIRE BEAR COMPANY  
TOLLGATE INN & CONSTRUCTION  
P & M BUILDERS  
BIRRELL BUILDERS  
TRUX MOBILE MECHANIC  
BLACK DUCK FARM  
M W REMODELLING  
GARDENS OF THE GODDESS  
BERKSHIRE BERRIES

## **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MAY 9, 2015**

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, the Annual Town Meeting was called on May 9, 2015, 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 7:08 p.m. by the Moderator. There were 142 registered voters present (10.24 % of 1,386 registered voters) and a total of 176 people attended the meeting. Town Officials Present: Bruce Garlow, Moderator; Jeanne Pryor, Bill Elovirta, and Angela Hilton, Selectmen; Ann Spadafora, Maria Wallington, Dan Parnell, and Mark Karlberg; 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 to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$434.55 to fund the following bills from previous fiscal years:

**Report of the Town Clerk**  
(Continued)

Vendor	Invoice	Date	Amount
Dickson Auto Parts	8795-1100	11/15/2013	\$ 126.45
Dickson Auto Parts	8795-8797	2/11/2014	\$ 104.09
Dickson Auto Parts	8795-14177	4/10/2014	\$ 23.49
Dickson Auto Parts	8795-17298	5/09/2014	\$ 91.07
Galls	000130895	10/25/2012	\$ 58.47
Galls	000132281	10/26/2012	\$ 8.99
Galls	000204770	11/26/2012	\$ 21.99

**4/5 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, 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 at the listed hourly rates.

- 1.) Board of Health at the rate of \$14.27 per hour for the performance of their duties as Board of Health members that is in excess of their meeting time.
- 2.) Cemetery Commission at the rate of \$14.27 per hour for the performance of their duties as Cemetery Commission members in maintaining the cemeteries that is in excess of their meeting time.

**Majority Vote Required**

**Article 2** Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 2 PASSED.**

**ARTICLE 3:** 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 2016 Fiscal Year as set forth in the following line items:

	BUDGET	DEPARTMENT	FIN COMM	Percent
TOWN OF BECKET	APPROVED	REQUESTED	SELECTMEN	INCREASE
FY2016	FY2015	FY2016	RECOMMENDED	(DECREASE)
<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>				
1. TOWN COUNSEL	\$13,500.00	\$17,000.00	\$15,000.00	11.11%
2. LEGAL EXPENSE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
3. TOWN MEETING EXPENSES	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	0.00%
4. SELECTMEN'S SALARIES	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	0.00%
5. SELECTMEN'S EXPENSES	\$1,000.00	\$2,150.00	\$2,150.00	115.00%
6. ADVERTISING	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	0.00%
7. TOWN SECRETARY	\$43,469.34	\$38,482.56	\$38,482.56	-11.47%
8. TOWN ADMIN. SALARY	\$61,200.00	\$61,200.00	\$63,000.00	2.94%

**Report of the Town Clerk**  
(Continued)

9. TOWN ADMIN. EXPENSE	\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00	0.00%
10. FINANCE COMMITTEE	\$400.00	\$650.00	\$650.00	62.50%
11. ASSESSORS SALARIES	\$122,431.40	\$72,738.40	\$72,738.40	-40.59%
12. ASSESSORS EXPENSE	\$10,505.00	\$59,735.00	\$59,735.00	468.63%
13. TOWN TREASURER SALARY	\$39,275.10	\$40,242.30	\$40,242.30	2.46%
14. TOWN TREASURER EXP.	\$5,481.49	\$5,530.00	\$5,530.00	0.88%
15. TAX COLLECTOR SALARY	\$55,944.96	\$53,448.00	\$53,448.00	-4.46%
16. TAX COLLECTOR EXPENSE	\$6,985.00	\$7,575.00	\$7,575.00	8.45%
17. ASSIST. TAX COLLECTOR	\$42,062.76	\$44,498.08	\$44,498.08	5.79%
18. TOWN CLERK SALARY	\$26,617.92	\$27,150.01	\$27,150.01	2.00%
19. TOWN CLERK EXPENSE	\$2,845.00	\$3,445.00	\$3,445.00	21.09%
20. ELECTION-REGISTRATION	\$9,075.00	\$12,047.73	\$12,047.73	32.76%
21. CONSERVATION COMM.	\$8,618.75	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00	50.83%
22. PLANNING BOARD EXPENSE	\$6,706.00	\$6,926.63	\$6,926.63	3.29%
23. REGIONAL PLAN COM.	\$1,252.82	\$1,284.14	\$1,284.14	2.50%
24. BOARD of APPEALS	\$3,350.00	\$3,450.00	\$3,450.00	2.99%
25. RESERVE FUND	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$35,000.00	-12.50%
<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT TOTAL</b>	<b>\$515,420.54</b>	<b>\$525,252.85</b>	<b>\$520,052.85</b>	<b>0.90%</b>

<b>HIGHWAY</b>				
26. SUMMER LABOR	\$195,344.46	\$209,324.96	\$209,324.96	7.16%
27. TRANSFER STATION LABOR	\$28,084.72	\$27,900.16	\$27,900.16	-0.66%
<b>LABOR SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$223,429.18</b>	<b>\$237,225.12</b>	<b>\$237,225.12</b>	<b>6.17%</b>
<b>28. WINTER ROAD SALARIES</b>	<b>\$132,235.86</b>	<b>\$146,585.51</b>	<b>\$146,585.51</b>	<b>10.85%</b>
29. Sand (\$7,850)	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00		
30. Stone Chips (\$12,610)	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00		
31. Salt (\$44,125)	\$45,450.00	\$45,450.00		
32. Plow Blades (\$4,000)	\$4,150.00	\$4,150.00		
33. Misc. (\$0)	\$0.00	\$0.00		
34. Cold Patch (\$1,100)	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00		
35. Parts (\$3,000)	\$3,100.00	\$3,100.00		
36. Sander Chains (\$4,000)	\$4,150.00	\$4,150.00		
37. Bagged Deicer (\$0)				
<b>38. WINTER ROADS Total of 29 to 37</b>	<b>\$76,685.00</b>	<b>\$79,050.00</b>	<b>\$79,050.00</b>	<b>3.08%</b>
<b>WINTER ROADS SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$208,920.86</b>	<b>\$225,635.51</b>	<b>\$225,635.51</b>	<b>8.00%</b>



**Report of the Town Clerk**  
(Continued)

39. Inspections	(\$760)	\$912.00	\$912.00		
40. Tires	(\$8,000)	\$8,600.00	\$8,600.00		
41. Oil/Lubricants	(\$3,245)	\$3,345.00	\$3,345.00		
42. Repairs/Equipment	(\$22,785)	\$19,474.00	\$19,474.00		
43. Parts/Supplies	(\$18,540)	\$28,074.00	\$26,074.00		
44. Welding Supplies	(\$2,000)	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00		
45. Radios	(\$500)		\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
46. Tools/Safety	(\$1,500)		\$1,550.00	\$1,550.00	
47. Purchase Scan Equipment (Updates)	(\$3,600)		\$800.00	\$800.00	
<b>48. MACHINERY ACCOUNT Total 39 to 47</b>		<b>\$60,930.00</b>	<b>\$65,755.00</b>	<b>\$63,755.00</b>	<b>4.64%</b>
49. RECONST. of GRAVEL ROADS		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
50. Fuel	(\$92,300)		\$94,900.00	\$94,900.00	
51. Operator Contract	(\$1,800)		\$1,850.00	\$1,850.00	
52. Maintenance/Repair	(\$2,500)	\$2,575.00	\$2,575.00		
<b>53. FUEL ACCOUNT Total of 50 to 52</b>		<b>\$96,600.00</b>	<b>\$99,325.00</b>	<b>\$99,325.00</b>	<b>2.82%</b>
54. Mowing	(\$2,500)	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00		
55. Line Painting	(\$9,638)	\$9,930.00	\$9,930.00		
56. Gravel/Stone	(\$16,000)	\$32,000.00	\$27,000.00		
57. Hot Mix Patch	(\$14,000)	\$14,800.00	\$14,800.00		
58. Rental Equipment	(\$1,500)	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00		
59. Signs	(\$3,000)	\$3,100.00	\$3,100.00		
60. Culverts	(\$3,000)	\$3,100.00	\$3,100.00		
61. Beaver Maintenance	(\$5,000)	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00		
62. Guardrail	(\$1,500)	\$1,545.00	\$1,545.00		
63. Crack Seal	(14,250)	\$14,600.00	\$14,600.00		
64. Catch Basin Cleaning	(1,500)		\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	
65. Sweeping	(\$6,900)		\$7,100.00	\$7,100.00	
66. Hand Tools	(\$700)		\$720.00	\$720.00	
67. Misc.	(\$1,500)		\$1,545.00	\$1,545.00	
68. Road Improvement (Formerly Recon Gravel)(\$50,000)		\$51,000.00	\$51,000.00		
<b>69. GENERAL MAINT MAT. &amp; EQUIP. TOTAL 54 to 68</b>		<b>\$133,862.00</b>	<b>\$150,540.00</b>	<b>\$145,540.00</b>	<b>8.72%</b>
70. Legal Ads	(\$900)		\$900.00	\$900.00	
71. Drug Testing	(\$250)		\$400.00	\$400.00	
72. License Reimbursement	(\$420)		\$520.00	\$520.00	
73. Repairs/Supplies	(\$3,000)		\$3,100.00	\$3,100.00	

**Report of the Town Clerk**  
(Continued)

74. Berkshire County Purchasing Group	(\$600)		\$600.00	\$600.00	
75. Office Supplies	(\$600)		\$620.00	\$620.00	
76. Education & Training	(\$1,500)		\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	
77. Meeting/Dues Expenses	(\$600)		\$600.00	\$600.00	
78. Safety Gear	(\$2,400)		\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	
<b>79. HIGHWAY GARAGE TOTAL 70 to 78</b>		<b>\$10,270.00</b>	<b>\$10,840.00</b>	<b>\$10,840.00</b>	<b>5.55%</b>
80. Rental Compactor	(\$3,000)		\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	
81. Rental Open Container (2)	(\$1,200)		\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	
82. Trucking Compactor	(\$6,300)		\$6,300.00	\$6,300.00	
83. Trucking Open Container	(\$5,400)		\$5,400.00	\$5,400.00	
84. Trucking Cans & Bottles	(\$4,200)		\$4,200.00	\$4,200.00	
85. Trucking Scrap Metal	(\$2,520)		\$2,520.00	\$2,520.00	
86. Trucking Paper Cardboard	(\$3,000)		\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	
87. Trucking Fuel Surcharge	(\$1,400)		\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	
88. Disposal Solid Waste	(\$22,800)		\$23,400.00	\$23,400.00	
89. Disposal Bulky Waste	(\$14,400)		\$14,820.00	\$14,820.00	
90. Disposal Haz Mat	(\$3,000)		\$3,100.00	\$3,100.00	
91. Chemicals	(\$300)		\$300.00	\$300.00	
92. Permits	(\$1,300)		\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	
93. MRF Education	(\$100)		\$100.00	\$100.00	
94. Maintenance	(\$1,000)		\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00	
<b>95. TRANSFER STATION COSTS TOTAL 80 to 94</b>		<b>\$69,960.00</b>	<b>\$72,240.00</b>	<b>\$72,240.00</b>	<b>3.26%</b>
<b>MATERIALS AND SERVICES SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$371,622.00</b>	<b>\$398,700.00</b>	<b>\$391,700.00</b>	<b>5.40%</b>
<b>HIGHWAY TOTAL</b>		<b>\$803,972.04</b>	<b>\$861,560.63</b>	<b>\$854,560.63</b>	<b>6.29%</b>
96. CENTER CEMETERY		\$3,641.40	\$3,714.23	\$3,714.23	2.00%
97. NORTH CEMETERY		\$6,242.40	\$6,367.25	\$6,367.25	2.00%
98. WEST CEMETERY		\$1,224.00	\$1,248.48	\$1,248.48	2.00%
<b>CEMETERIES TOTAL</b>		<b>\$11,107.80</b>	<b>\$11,329.96</b>	<b>\$11,329.96</b>	<b>2.00%</b>
99. MOTH ACCOUNT		\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	0.00%
100. TREE ACCOUNT		\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	0.00%
<b>FORESTRY TOTAL</b>		<b>\$10,001.00</b>	<b>\$10,001.00</b>	<b>\$10,001.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

**Report of the Town Clerk**  
(Continued)

<b>EDUCATION</b>				
101. CBRSD OPERATING ASSESSMENT	\$1,817,535.00	\$1,914,640.00	\$1,914,640.00	5.34%
102. VOCATIONAL TUITION	\$195,000.00	\$175,560.00	\$167,560.00	-14.07%
103. VOCATIONAL TRANSPORT.	\$90,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00	-16.67%
<b>TOTAL EDUCATION</b>	<b>\$2,102,535.00</b>	<b>\$2,165,200.00</b>	<b>\$2,157,200.00</b>	<b>2.60%</b>

<b>PROTECT. PERSON &amp; PROP</b>				
104. POLICE DEPT. SALARIES	\$231,879.66	\$253,114.21	\$253,114.21	9.16%
105. POLICE DEPT. EXPENSE	\$17,270.00	\$17,270.00	\$17,270.00	0.00%
106. HARBOR MASTER	\$1,390.00	\$1,402.00	\$1,402.00	0.86%
107. OUTREACH	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	0.00%
108. CONSTABLE EXPENSE	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	0.00%
109. FIRE CHIEF STIPEND	\$3,924.96	\$4,003.46	\$4,003.46	2.00%
110. FIRE DEPT. EXPENSES	\$27,000.00	\$29,500.00	\$29,500.00	9.26%
111. FIRE CALL STIPEND	\$10,000.00	\$14,000.00	\$14,000.00	40.00%
112. DRY HYDRANTS	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	-100.00%
113. FORESTRY FIRE DEPARTMENT TOOLS & EQUIPMENT	\$300.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	66.67%
114. BUILDING INSP. SALARY	\$49,165.02	\$50,552.32	\$50,552.32	2.82%
115. BUILDING & CODE INSP. EXP	\$3,065.00	\$2,065.00	\$2,065.00	-32.63%
116. DEMOLITION FUND	\$13,420.00	\$13,500.00	\$18,000.00	34.13%
117. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	0.00%
118. EMERGENCY TRAINING	\$1,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$2,000.00	100.00%
119. ANIMAL CONTROL SALARIES	\$7,698.96	\$7,883.58	\$7,883.58	2.40%
120. ANIMAL CONTROL EXPENSES	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	0.00%
<b>PERSON &amp; PROP. TOTAL</b>	<b>\$372,413.60</b>	<b>\$403,090.57</b>	<b>\$404,590.57</b>	<b>8.64%</b>

<b>HEALTH &amp; SANITATION</b>				
121. E911 COMMUNICATION	\$10,941.00	\$11,268.56	\$11,268.56	2.99%
122. INSPECTOR of ANIMALS	\$312.12	\$318.36	\$318.36	2.00%
123. SOUTH BERK. SOLID WASTE (Transfer Station Responsibility)	\$5,960.00	\$7,894.00	\$7,894.00	32.45%
124. BOARD of HEALTH SALARIES	\$7,000.00	\$16,779.20	\$14,000.00	100.00%
125. BOARD of HEALTH EXPENSES	\$19,500.00	\$22,545.00	\$18,500.00	-5.13%
126. NURSING SERVICES	\$4,962.00	\$4,962.00	\$4,962.00	0.00%
127. MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES	\$550.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	-100.00%
128. VETERANS AGENT SALARY	\$1,976.76	\$2,016.30	\$2,016.30	2.00%
129. VETERANS AGENT EXPENSE	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	0.00%
130. VETERANS BENEFITS	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	0.00%
<b>HEALTH &amp; SANITATION TOTAL</b>	<b>\$71,301.88</b>	<b>\$85,883.42</b>	<b>\$79,059.22</b>	<b>10.88%</b>

***Report of the Town Clerk***  
(Continued)

<b>UNCLASSIFIED EXPENSES</b>				
131. OUTSIDE PAYROLL SERVICES	\$4,500.00	\$4,600.00	\$4,600.00	2.22%
132. TOWN ACCOUNTANT SALARIES	\$22,509.36	\$23,045.52	\$23,045.52	2.38%
133. TOWN ACCOUNTANT EXPENSES	\$200.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	100.00%
134. GENERAL INSURANCE	\$99,900.00	\$104,000.00	\$104,000.00	4.10%
135. STAFF COVERAGE	\$7,500.00	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00	-13.33%
136. MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS LABOR	\$44,469.96	\$45,567.04	\$45,567.04	2.47%
137. MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS EXPENSES	\$63,000.00	\$63,000.00	\$63,000.00	0.00%
138. MUNICIPAL BUILDING REPAIRS	\$15,500.00	\$15,500.00	\$12,500.00	-19.35%
139. SOFTWARE MAINT. AGREEMENT	\$20,390.85	\$20,367.00	\$20,367.00	-0.12%
140. MUNICIPAL UTILITIES	\$67,900.00	\$74,000.00	\$73,000.00	7.51%
141. STREET LIGHTS	\$8,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	12.50%
142. WIREDWEST MEMBERSHIP	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00	0.00%
143. TOWN REPORTS	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	0.00%
144. POSTAGE	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	0.00%
145. COUNCIL on AGING	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	0.00%
146. PARKS & RECREATION	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	0.00%
147. WEED REMOVAL PULLING CENTER POND	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	0.00%
148. HISTORICAL COMMISSION	\$700.00		\$700.00	0.00%
149. INTEREST on SHORT-TERM DEBT	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	0.00%
150. COUNTY RETIREMENT	\$219,155.00	\$204,432.00	\$204,432.00	-6.72%
151. HEALTH INSURANCE	\$399,750.00	\$399,750.00	\$384,500.00	-3.81%
152. PAYROLL TAX ACCOUNT	\$22,050.00	\$23,000.00	\$23,000.00	4.31%
153. LIBRARY	\$44,540.00	\$45,560.00	\$45,560.00	2.29%
154. MEMORIAL DAY	\$750.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	33.33%
155. ARTS CENTER	\$2,000.00		\$0.00	-100.00%
156. CHILDRENS HOLIDAY PARTY	\$500.00		\$0.00	-100.00%
157. UNEMPLOYMENT EXPENSE	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	0.00%
<b>UNCLASSIFIED EXPENSES TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,097,815.17</b>	<b>\$1,093,221.56</b>	<b>\$1,075,671.56</b>	<b>-2.02%</b>
<b>OPERATING TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,984,567.03</b>	<b>\$5,155,539.99</b>	<b>\$5,112,465.79</b>	<b>2.57%</b>

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## *Report of the Town Clerk*

(Continued)

### Majority Vote Required

**Article 3** 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:

- 5. SELECTMEN’S EXPENSES
- 7. TOWN SECRETARY
- 8. TOWN ADMIN. SALARY
- 11. ASSESSORS SALARIES
- 12. ASSESSORS EXPENSES
- 21. CONSERVATION COMM.
- 98. WEST CEMETERY
- 99. MOTH ACCOUNT
- 101. CBRSD OPERATING ASSESSMENT
- 124. BOARD OF HEALTH SALARIES
- 125. BOARD OF HEALTH EXPENSES
- 133. TOWN ACCOUNTANT EXPENSES
- 151. HEALTH INSURANCE

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 5. SELECTMEN’S EXPENSES:** Adelaide Dunn inquired as to why there was such a significant increase in this item. Town Administrator, Ed Gibson explained that the increased expenses were a result of the cost of increased training, including meals and lodging for one or more selectmen to attend Massachusetts Municipal Association Annual Meeting in the Boston area.

**Line Item 5** was moved and seconded. A vote was taken. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 5 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**.

**Line Item 7. TOWN SECRETARY** was moved and seconded. A vote was taken on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for Line Item 7. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 7 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**.

**Line Item 8. TOWN ADMIN. SALARY** was moved and seconded. A vote was taken on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 8**. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 8 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**.

**Line Item 11. ASSESSORS SALARIES** was moved and seconded. A vote was taken on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 11**. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 11 PASSED**.

**Line Item 12. ASSESSORS EXPENSES** was moved and seconded. A vote was taken on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 12**. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 12 PASSED**.

**Line Item 21. CONSERVATION COMM.** was moved and seconded. A vote was taken on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 21**. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 21 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**.

**Line Item 98. WEST CEMETERY** was moved and seconded. A vote was taken on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 98**. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 98 PASSED**.

**Line Item 99. MOTH ACCOUNT** was moved and seconded. A vote was taken on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 99**. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 99 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**.

**Line Item 101. CBRSD OPERATING ASSESSMENT** was moved and seconded. A vote was taken on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 101**. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 101 PASSED**.

**Line Item 124. BOARD OF HEALTH SALARIES** was moved and seconded. A vote was taken on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 124**. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 124 PASSED**.

**Line Item 125. BOARD OF HEALTH EXPENSES** was moved and seconded. A vote was taken on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 125**.

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## ***Report of the Town Clerk***

***(Continued)***

The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 125 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Line Item 133. TOWN ACCOUNTANT EXPENSES** was moved and seconded. A vote was taken on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 133.** The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 133 PASSED.**

**Line Item 151. HEALTH INSURANCE** was moved and seconded. A vote was taken on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 151.** The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 151 PASSED.**

**ARTICLE 4:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$376,658 to fund the bond payments due in Fiscal Year 2016 for the following previously approved debt items:

Becket Washington School	\$109,728
Nessacus Regional Middle School	7,303
Fire Pumper and Truck Bodies	50,625
Wahconah Regional High School	4,494
Kittredge School	170
Kittredge MSBA Windows	183
District Security FY14	1,883
Dump Truck and Tractor	80,022
Grader Highway Department	122,250

### **Majority 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 appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$400,000 to fund the Stabilization Fund for Fiscal Year 2016.

### **2/3 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 accept any monies appropriated by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation for Chapter 90 use. These funds to be used for maintenance and reconstruction of Town roads and to fund the

appropriations by transferring said amounts from available funds with any unspent funds to carry over from year to year until spent by the Town. These sums will be reimbursed to the Town by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in accordance with Chapter 90 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

### **Majority Vote Required.**

**Article 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 the sum of \$324,467.00, for the salaries (\$296,467.00) and expenses (28,000.00) of the Ambulance Enterprise Fund and to fund said appropriation:

To raise and appropriate \$225,467.00 and to appropriate from Fiscal Year 2016 Ambulance Receipts \$99,000.

### **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 1 PASSED.**

**ARTICLE 8:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$18,500 for an audit of FY2015 financial records.

### **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 vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$83,587.45, from the FY 2015 Health Insurance Account the sum of \$11,000, and from the FY 2015 Legal Expense Account the sum of \$20,000 to reduce the amount of the FY2015 Snow and Ice deficit.

### **Majority Vote Required.**

**Article 9** Was moved and seconded from the floor. A motion was made by Bill Elovirta to amend the Article to read: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$83,587.45, from the FY 2015 Health Insurance Account; the sum of **\$7,381.42**, and from the FY 2015 Legal Expense Account; the sum of \$20,000 to reduce



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## ***Report of the Town Clerk***

***(Continued)***

the amount of the FY2015 Snow and Ice deficit. The motion to amend was seconded. Town Administrator, Ed Gibson explained that when the article was originally drafted the exact amount needed was not known, but now it appears that all bills are in, and the new amount is all that is needed. A vote was taken on the proposed amendment, and the amendment **PASSED**.

There was no further discussion. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 9 as amended PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**.

**ARTICLE 10:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 for legal, advertising and related costs to process tax delinquent accounts.

### **Majority Vote Required.**

**Article 10** Was moved and seconded from the floor. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 10 PASSED**.

**ARTICLE 11:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to \$3,810,000 for the Town's share of the costs of construction and installation of a high-speed broadband network, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, such project to be carried out by the Town's Municipal Light Plant; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow up to \$3,810,000 under Chapter 44, Section 8(8) of the General Laws or any other enabling authority; that the Board of Selectmen and any other Town official is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this project; provided, however, that this vote shall not take effect unless and until the voters of the Town agree by vote to exempt from the limitation on total taxes imposed by G.L. c.59, s21C (Proposition 2 1/2) amounts required to pay the principal of and interest on the borrowing authorized by this vote.

### **2/3 Vote Required.**

**Article 11** Was moved and seconded from the floor. A motion was made by Bill Elovirta to amend the Article to delete the language in the first sentence "up to" so that that Article would read: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$3,810,000 for the Town's share of the costs of construction and installation of a high-speed broadband network, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, such project to be carried out by the Town's Municipal Light Plant; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow up to

\$3,810,000 under Chapter 44, Section 8(8) of the General Laws or any other enabling authority; that the Board of Selectmen and any other town official is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this project; provided, however, that this vote shall not take effect unless and until the voters of the town agree by vote to exempt from the limitation on total taxes imposed by G.L. c.59, s21C (Proposition 2 1/2) amounts required to pay the principal of and interest on the borrowing authorized by this vote. The motion to amend was seconded. Town Administrator, Ed Gibson explained that counsel had advised that the "up to" language was improper for an appropriation. A vote was taken on the proposed amendment, and the amendment **PASSED**.

Jim Draw provided an in depth presentation about the goals of the WiredWest project and responded to questions from the meeting. There was discussion from the floor on this Article with comments both for and against this Article.

A vote was taken on Article 11, as amended and the motion on **Article 11, as amended, PASSED BY 2/3 VOTE**.

**ARTICLE 12:** 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 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 up to the sum of \$7,000 for the addition of an ADA Lift in the Becket Arts Center. Such sum to be paid only if the Becket Arts Center raises the balance needed to purchase and install the ADA Lift from donations, grants or other fundraising efforts.

### **Majority Vote Required.**

**Article 13** Was moved and seconded from the floor. A motion was made to remove the language "up to" in the first sentence of the Article so that that Article would read: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,000 for the addition of an ADA Lift in the Becket Arts Center. Such sum to be paid only if the Becket Arts Center raises the balance needed to purchase and install the ADA Lift from donations, grants or other fundraising efforts. The motion to



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## ***Report of the Town Clerk***

***(Continued)***

amend was seconded. A vote was taken on the proposed amendment, and the amendment **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Vote was taken on Article 13, as amended and the motion on **Article 13, as amended, PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**.

**ARTICLE 14:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,575 to replace the Town Hall fire escapes (2).

### **Majority Vote Required.**

**Article 14** Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. 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 \$15,000 for the purchase, replacement and installation of energy efficient windows at Fire Station #1.

### **Majority Vote Required.**

**Article 15** Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 15 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**.

**ARTICLE 16:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 to purchase two Thermal Imaging Cameras for use by the Fire Department. One camera to be located at Station #1 and the second camera to be located at Station#2.

### **Majority Vote Required.**

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

**ARTICLE 17:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$240,000 to purchase a new Dump Truck 4X4 Plow and Sander for the Highway Department, and to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow the sum of \$240,000 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 Truck #3 the 2004 International 7500 4X4 Dump Truck as surplus property.

### **2/3 Vote Required.**

**Article 17** Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. 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 \$16,536.96 for the purchase of a replacement automatic stretcher for the Ambulance 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 \$6,900 for the purchase of computers and software along with related network work.

### **Majority Vote Required.**

**Article 19** Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 19 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**.

**ARTICLE 20:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$85,500 to replace the shingled roof at Town Hall, and to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow the sum of \$85,500 for said appropriation under applicable sections of Chapter 44 of the General Laws.

### **2/3 Vote Required.**

**Article 20** Was moved and seconded from the floor. Jeff Wilkinson questioned why a new roof was so expensive. Ed Gibson explained that the requirements for a municipal bid required bonding, payment of prevailing wage, and was generally at least 20%-30% more expensive than the same work performed on a residence. A vote was taken, and the motion on **Article 20 PASSED BY 2/3 VOTE**.

**ARTICLE 21:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$120,000 to replace the Heating and A/C system at Town Hall, and to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow the sum of \$120,000 for said appropriation under applicable sections of Chapter 44 of the General Laws.

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## ***Report of the Town Clerk***

*(Continued)*

### **2/3 Vote Required.**

**Article 21** Was moved and seconded from the floor. Chris Swindlehurst questioned the expense of the project. Ed Gibson explained that the project would involve more than just fixing or replacing the existing furnaces; that it would involve installing furnaces that didn't run on oil, installation of a central air conditioning system to replace window unit air conditioners, removal of the underground oil tanks and installing new ductwork to provide distribution of not only heat but air conditioning. A vote was taken, and the motion on **Article 21 PASSED BY 2/3 VOTE.**

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

**ARTICLE 23:** 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 2016, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation:

### **Appropriations:**

From FY 2016 estimated revenues to Committee Administrative Expenses	\$500
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### **Reserves:**

From FY 2016 estimated revenues to Historical Resources Reserve	\$4,676
From FY 2016 estimated revenues to Community Housing Reserve	\$4,676
From FY 2016 estimated revenues to Open Space Reserve	\$4,676
From FY 2016 estimated revenues to Undesignated Reserve	\$32,728
<b>Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee</b>	

### **Majority Vote Required.**

**Article 23** Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 23 PASSED .**

**ARTICLE 24:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$6,000 from the Historical Resources Reserve and \$6,108 from the Undesignated Reserve Account of the Community Preservation Fund for the installation of storm windows and repair of the roof trim on the Becket Athenaeum: said funds to be expended under the direction of the Community Preservation Committee and the Board of Trustees of the Becket Athenaeum.

**Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee**

### **Majority Vote Required.**

**Article 24** Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 24 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**ARTICLE 25: ZONING ARTICLE:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Becket Zoning By-Laws by clarifying language in various sections of the Large Wind Energy System, as summarized below and as on file in the office of the Town Clerk and on the Town website at [www.townofbecket.org](http://www.townofbecket.org).

**Most of the changes are grammatical, syntactical or organizational and are intended to reduce ambiguity. Changes that were formative or contextual were as follows:**

**Meteorological Towers.** All meteorological towers shall be set back at least 1.5 times its height from all public and private ways, excluding a dedicated site access road, and off-site buildings.

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## ***Report of the Town Clerk***

*(Continued)*

**Post Construction Noise Monitoring.** The large wind energy system's owner(s) / operator(s) shall pay a town appointed acoustical engineer to conduct quarterly post construction noise monitoring, at the property lines, on a quarterly basis during the first year of operation and every five years thereafter. All reports will be submitted to the SPGA Large Wind Energy System - **A wind energy system with a height equal to or greater than two hundred feet (200')**.

**Noise Regulations - written permission is granted and maintained by all individuals or entities with control over the adjacent affected real properties.**

**Transportation Plan.** All anticipated road closures and traffic disruptions that may affect emergency response vehicles and plans to manage these road closures and traffic disruptions in ~~cooperation~~ full compliance with local emergency officials

**Abandonment & Removal of Large Wind Energy Systems. - The Building Inspector may engage, at the (~~most recent applicant's expense~~) most recent operator(s)/owner(s) expense, a licensed professional engineer to help determine whether the large wind energy system has been abandoned.**

And by amending the Becket Zoning Bylaws SECTION 3.0, USE REGULATION, by adding one new line in the Industrial Uses section as follows:

Large Wind Energy System Site/Facility

### **2/3 Vote Required.**

**Article 25** Was moved and seconded from the floor. Ann Krawet provided a brief summary of the proposed changes in and the reasoning behind them. There was discussion from the floor expressing both support and opposition to the proposed changes. A motion was made to move the question. The motion to move the question was seconded. A vote was taken and the motion to move the question passed by 2/3 majority. A vote was taken on Article 25, and the motion on **Article 25 PASSED BY 2/3 VOTE.**

**ARTICLE 26: ZONING ARTICLE:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning By-Laws by clarifying language in various sections of the Small Wind Energy Systems to parallel language in Large Wind Energy System, as summarized below and as on file in the office of the Town Clerk and at [www.townofbecket.org](http://www.townofbecket.org).

**Most of the changes are grammatical, syntactical or organizational and are intended to reduce ambiguity.**

**Changes that were formative or contextual were as follows:**

**Definitions. - Special Permit Granting Authority (SPGA): The SPGA shall be the Planning Board.**

**Color and Finish. Appearance: - All Small Wind Energy Systems shall be finished in a neutral (white or gray) non-reflective color to minimize visual impact.**

**Noise: The operation of the ~~SWES~~ Small Wind Energy System and appurtenant equipment shall not increase the noise level by greater than five (5) dBA above ambient noise levels as measured at the property lines of the ~~SWES~~ Small Wind Energy System site.**

**Abandonment and Removal. Language similar to the language in Large Wind Energy Systems**

### **2/3 Vote Required.**

**Article 26** Was moved and seconded from the floor. Ann Krawet provided a brief summary of the proposed changes in and the reasoning behind them. There was discussion from the floor expressing both support and opposition to the proposed changes. A vote was taken on Article 26, and the motion on **Article 26 PASSED BY 2/3 VOTE.**

**ARTICLE 27:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell and convey, at auction or through sealed bid sale, at its discretion, a certain parcel of land located on Sir Galahad Drive, deeded to the Town of Becket by a deed recorded at the Berkshire Middle District registry of Deeds in Book 4666, Page 47, and shown on Assessor's Map 217, Lot 64. The transfer shall be subject to the following conditions: (i) the purchaser shall share in the cost of maintaining and repairing the dam on Lancelot Lake; (ii) the purchaser shall comply with all restrictions regarding the dam on said parcel, including with complying with any enforcement order and fines as may be required by the Office of Dam Safety of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and (iii) the parcel contains protected wetland areas and the purchaser shall comply with the Wetlands Protection act with regard to such resource areas; and (iv) such other terms, conditions and restrictions as the Board of Selectmen deem appropriate; or take any other action relative thereto.

### **Majority Vote Required.**

**Article 27** Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken on Article 27, and the motion on **Article 27 PASSED.**

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## ***Report of the Town Clerk***

***(Continued)***

**ARTICLE 28:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the care, custody, control and management from the Treasurer to the Board of Selectmen for general municipal purposes and the purpose of conveyance a certain parcel of land located on Sir Galahad Drive, described in a deed recorded at the Berkshire Middle District registry of Deeds in Book 5419, Page 323, and shown on Assessor's Map 217, Lot 63. The sale/conveyance shall be subject to the following conditions: (i) the purchaser shall share in the cost of maintaining and repairing the dam on Lancelot Lake; (ii) the purchaser shall comply with all restrictions regarding the dam on said parcel, including any enforcement order and fines as may be required by the Office of Dam Safety of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; (iii) the purchaser shall comply with the Wetlands Protection Act with regard to wetland areas located on the parcel; (iv) the purchaser shall remove the house and foundation on said parcel, and shall meet all such regulations of decommissioning the septic system and well; and (v) the purchaser shall comply with such other terms, conditions and restrictions as the Board of Selectmen deem appropriate; or take any other action relative thereto.

### **2/3 Vote Required.**

**Article 28** Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken on Article 28, and the motion on **Article 28 PASSED BY 2/3 VOTE.**

**ARTICLE 29:** We, the undersigned citizens of Becket, Massachusetts,

"To see if the Town will vote to rescind Article 17 of the May 12, 2007 Annual Town Meeting, specifically Sections 3 to 7, inclusive of Chapter 44B of the Massachusetts General Laws, otherwise known as the Massachusetts Community Preservation Act, or take any other action related thereto".

### **Majority Vote Required.**

**Article 29** Was moved and seconded from the floor. The petitioner, Jan Elovirta gave a presentation in support of rescission. There was significant discussion expressing both support and opposition to the Article. A vote was taken on Article 29, and the motion on **Article 29 FAILED .**

**ARTICLE 30:** We, the undersigned citizens of Becket, Massachusetts,

### **RESOLUTION ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS**

To see if Becket will vote to approve the following resolution on the Climate Crisis:

WHEREAS, man-made greenhouse gases in the atmosphere have contributed significantly to global warming, glacial melt, sea level rise, weather extremes including droughts, heavy rainfall and storms, resulting in wild fires, floods, crop failures, destruction of homes and communities, and loss of life; and

WHEREAS, there is a limit to the amount of carbon and other greenhouse gases the atmosphere can contain beyond which life on the planet as we know it is being severely compromised and will be ultimately unsustainable; and

WHEREAS, the fossil fuel industry is exercising excessive power over policy makers and legislators by means of financial contributions, insuring favorable legislation and the continuation of governmental subsidies that should be shifted instead to support clean, renewable, and sustainable energy; and

WHEREAS, the town of Becket has chosen to become a GREEN COMMUNITY and under the Energy Committee, tasked by the Board of Selectmen, significant progress has already been achieved in making our municipal buildings more energy efficient;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the citizens of Becket commit themselves to meeting both individual and collective responsibility in the face of the increasing climate crisis by urging our elected state officials to direct the managers of the State Pension Funds to divest its holdings in fossil fuel industries and to invest, instead, in alternative sustainable energy companies, a step consistent with the Commonwealth's commitment to clean, renewable, green energy.

The Town Clerk is requested to send copies of this approved Resolution to Governor Charlie Baker, State Treasurer Deb Goldberg, State Senator Ben Downing, and State Representative Smitty Pignatelli and to take any other action relative thereto.

### **Majority Vote Required.**

**Article 30** Was moved and seconded from the floor. Selectman Jeanne Pryor made a brief statement regarding the work of the Energy Committee. Katherine Hoak read a statement in support of the resolution on behalf of the petitioner, Energy Committee.

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## ***Report of the Town Clerk***

*(Continued)*

There was lengthy discussion expressing both support and opposition to the Article. A vote was taken on Article 30, and the motion on **Article 30 FAILED**.

It was moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn to the Annual Town Election which will be held one week from today on May 16, 2015, starting at 10:00 a.m. A vote was taken and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m. The checkers were Election Workers Eva Bonney, Meredyth Babcock Patricia Clemons and Priscilla McEwen.

*Respectfully submitted,*

George E. Roberts  
***Town Clerk***



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## ◆ *REPORT OF THE WIREDWEST* ◆

WiredWest is a cooperative of municipal lighting plants (MLPs) in 44 western Massachusetts towns that was formed to build a fiber-to-the-home broadband internet service. As a Municipal Lighting Plant Member, the Town of Becket is represented on the WiredWest Board of Directors by one Delegate in all matters including, without limitation, all votes at meetings and resolutions in written consent actions. An Alternate is also appointed to represent the Town when its primary Delegate is unable to do so. The Delegate advises the Becket Board of Selectmen on a regular basis as to WiredWest's fiber-optic network planning/operating and financial issues.

In 2014, Massachusetts (under the previous governor) authorized \$50M to build broadband internet in un-served and under-served towns like Becket. The current governor has affirmed and released these funds, subject to towns participating in the network to be built by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI).

WiredWest has formed a plan in which the towns invest approximately 2/3 of the money to build the network, with the remaining 1/3 coming from state funds. At the 2015 Annual Town Meeting, Becket, by a 2/3 vote, approved up to \$3.8M in borrowing for this purpose and passed a debt-exclusion vote at the May 2015 Annual Town Election which allows us to complete the borrowing. We have not yet borrowed the funds, and will not be required to do so until the actual construction begins.

In order to make the network financially viable, at least 40% of premises (both full-time and part-time) need to take

service. As of December 2015, Becket is 87% of the way towards reaching the 40% pre-signup goal. If you support the goal of broadband service in Becket and have not yet signed up, please visit <https://register.wiredwest.net>

We are currently in the first year of a four-year project, which begins with "pole surveys" --physically inspecting each telephone pole in town to determine if it's strong enough to carry additional cable. Some poles may need to be replaced. The network design is beginning, and Becket is engaged in negotiations with the other participating towns to build a broadband network that will serve residents of all the towns. 24 towns have authorized funding, and there may be up to 31 participating towns.

The goals of the project are clear: universal availability (every house, lot, building, business in town); broadband internet service (at least 25 mbps per the Federal standard); expandable to include telephone and television; with economies of scale created by a cooperative of towns working together.

Questions about the project may be directed to Jeremy Dunn, Becket's WiredWest Delegate or to Robert Gross, Alternate Delegate, in care of the town secretary ([secretary@townofbecket.org](mailto:secretary@townofbecket.org))

*Respectfully submitted,*

Jeremy Dunn, *Delegate*  
Bob Gross, *Alternate Delegate*





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## ◆ **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 2015 REPORT**

Appropriated by Category	Community Housing	Historical Preservation	Open Space	Recreation	Undesignated Budget Reserves	Committee Admin. Expenses	Total Appropriation
<b>Project:</b>							
Committee Administrative Expenses Article 26						\$500.00	
Becket Athenaeum Exterior Restoration & Painting Article 27		\$5,000.00			\$10,000.00		
<b>Total Appropriated for Projects for FY 2015</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>	<b>\$15,500.00</b>

**FY 2015 Expenses against approved Projects:**

Committee Administrative Expenses						\$200.00	
Becket Athenaeum Exterior Restoration & Painting Art 24 May 2013		\$7,000.00			\$7,669.00		
Revol. & Civil War Memorial Obelisk Art 25 May 2013			\$5,900.00				
<b>Total Expended FY 2015</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$7,000.00</b>	<b>\$5,900.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$7,669.00</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>	<b>\$20,769.00</b>

FY 2015 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	\$4,674.00	\$4,674.00	\$4,674.00	\$0.00	\$32,218.00	\$46,240.00

	Estimated	Actual	Actual vs. Budget
FY 2015 Local Revenue CPA 1.5%	\$38,000.00	\$40,749.75	\$2,749.75
FY 2015 State Percentage Match of Local Revenue	\$8,740.00	\$12,156.00	\$3,416.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$46,740.00</b>	<b>\$52,905.75</b>	<b>\$6,165.75</b>



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

At the April 5, 2014 Special Town Meeting, the town voted to amend the Town Bylaws by creating a new Bylaw Review Committee under Article 16B and the Massachusetts Attorney General has approved the bylaw change. The Bylaw Review Committee's key powers and duties are to:

- review the Town's General Bylaws on a regular basis to ensure their consistency with any applicable law and the Town Charter.
- propose to the Selectmen for inclusion in the warrant for the next Annual or Special Town Meeting any amendments or additions to the General Bylaws that the Committee determines should be made so as to resolve inconsistencies within the Bylaws or with applicable law or the Town Charter.
- assist any town board, officer, administrator, or member of the public, if requested, in drafting amendments or additions to the General Bylaws that will be proposed for inclusion in a Town Meeting warrant.
- assist in preparing from time to time the publication of the General Bylaws including all amendments and additions thereto.

The Board of Selectmen appointed three members to this Committee on July 15, 2015 and the committee's first meeting was held on August 31, 2015. The Town Clerk and Town Moderator are ex-officio, non-voting members of this committee. A Bylaw Review Committee web page has been developed and added to the town's website.

The Committee is currently reviewing the following proposed bylaws that were developed by the Board of Selectmen:

- revisions to Article 20 Dog Control Bylaw
- a new Vacant Properties bylaw

The Committee voted to recommend that the Board of Selectmen include an addition to Article 17--Town Betterment By-Laws on the May 2016 Annual Town Meeting warrant as follows:

Per MGL 40:21(20), the Town of Becket requires owners of land whereon is located an abandoned well or a well in use shall either provide a securely fastened covering for such well capable of sustaining a weight of three hundred (300) pounds or fill the same to the level of the ground. Violation of this bylaw shall be punishable by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100.) nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500.) for each violation.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

Jeanne W. Pryor, ***Chair***

Ann Krawet, ***Vice Chair***

Mark Karlberg, ***Clerk***

George Roberts, ***Town Clerk, ex-officio***

Bruce Garlow, ***Moderator, ex-officio***



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## ◆ *REPORT OF THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE* ◆

The 250th Anniversary Committee was honored and proud to offer a variety of activities to celebrate Becket in 2015. The Committee was a hard working group that worked well together toward a common goal for three years. Below is a summary of the celebrations planned by the Committee as a historical record for the 300th Committee!

The major keepsake from Becket's 250th Anniversary commemoration is the book, *Becket, Massachusetts: From Colonial Township to Modern Town 1765–2015*. The book, launched on January 7, 2015, was well received. The updated history book includes a synopsis of the book produced for Becket's 200th Anniversary, *A Bicentennial History of Becket: Berkshire County, Massachusetts* and continues from there to present day Becket with ample photos. Chapters in the book include: History, Town Hall, Safety, Roads, Schools, Worship, Map of Becket, Camps, Culture, Living, Outdoors and Veterans. Both history books are available for sale at Town Hall and the Becket Athenaeum, as well as other locations.

For two years the Committee maintained the Becket 250th website (<http://becket250.org/>) to keep the public informed about the progress of the upcoming celebrations. It included an event schedule, town history and photo gallery. It also provided information on geocaching; more on this later.

Several of the Committee members were interviewed by various news groups providing publicity for Becket's celebrations. Bruce Garlow could be heard on WAMC (<http://wamc.org/post/town-recreated-becket-celebrate-250-years-2015>) and [stephanieabrams.com](http://stephanieabrams.com) WBRK 101.7 (<https://www.travelers411.com/directory/listing.php?company=becket-mass-250th-anniversary-committee>). Articles appeared in the *Berkshire Eagle* and the *Berkshires Week & The Shires of Vermont* ([http://www.berkshireeagle.com/berkshiresweek/ci\\_28243458/becket-celebrates-250th-anniversary-june](http://www.berkshireeagle.com/berkshiresweek/ci_28243458/becket-celebrates-250th-anniversary-june)), the *Berkshire Magazine* June issue (<http://townvibe.com/Berkshire/June-2015/250-Is-the-New-30/>), the *Berkshire Edge* (<http://theberkshireedge.com/bits-bytes-designer-vilma-mare-hudson-beckets-250th-anniversary-book-launch/>) and the *Country Journal*.



On February 22nd a Becket history presentation, part of the Becket Arts Center's Marty Lasker Lectures, was shared at Town Hall. Bruce Garlow spoke about the early history of our town. Rita Furlong, a longtime resident, spoke about growing up and raising a family in Becket.

An Ecumenical Church Service was held on May 24th at the First Congregational Church of Becket on YMCA Road with local religious leaders Pastor Kevin Smail, Rabbi Gerald Goldman and 250th Committee member Barbara Roberts providing an enjoyable, light hearted morning. The Praise Team made beautiful, inspiring music further adding to the service.

The Memorial Day Parade down Main Street in North Becket Village was well attended on May 25th. The colorful, annual parade included the Wahconah Regional High School marching band, the 250th banner carried by Linda and Dave Bacon in Revolutionary War costumes, local scouts, members of the Becket Volunteer Fire Department with safety vehicles, and classic vehicles. Ballou Memorial Park saw ceremonies honoring Becket's veterans and dedication of the new obelisk to honor Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War veterans. The Praise Team performed numerous music pieces. Special speakers included Becket born, Continental soldier Joseph Plumb Martin (Dave Bacon), Civil War representative (Winston "Skip" Saville, Jr.), Civil War Chaplain (David Cooper), and husband and wife Civil War Reenactment soldiers - she was disguised as a man in order to serve. Open Houses were held at the Becket Arts Center, Mullen House Education Center and Quarry Museum, the Becket Athenaeum and Becket Washington School. Also an antique auto display showcasing Becket vehicles took place on the Mullen House lawn and free hot dogs were available on the Federated Church lawn courtesy of the Ladies Society.

On June 2nd The Gala 250 was held at the Crowne Plaza Pittsfield in conjunction with the towns of Lanesborough, Richmond and Williamstown, also incorporated on June 21, 1765. Approximately 15 residents proudly wore their Becket 250th tee shirts, enjoying the company, young Irish dancers and traditional Irish music.

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## *Report of the 250th Anniversary Committee*

*(Continued)*

Becket Day at Chimney Corners Camp was June 6. The camp graciously opened their beautiful facilities to Becket residents. The BCCYMCA staff conducted activities including canoeing, the indoor climbing wall, alpine tower, and arts and crafts. DJ Joe Burke provided music throughout the day and line dancing lessons were taught by 2 Flights Up. Tours were also offered at the historic Brewster House, built by Dr. Oliver Brewster, the first physician to serve the people of Becket. Many people enjoyed a delicious, complimentary picnic supper donated by Camp Chimney Corners before the spectacular, town-sponsored fireworks over the camp lake. A special thank-you to Dan Berg, assistant director at Camp Becket for Boys, for his support of the Committee: attending meetings for three years, gathering information about flags and pole banners, and coordinating Becket Day at Camp Chimney Corners.

June 8 started out rainy but then brightened for the H.O.O.T. (History of Our Town) Student Tour. The Becket Washington School students in Grades 3, 4 & 5 participated in a historic walking and bus tour of sites in Becket Center and North Becket Village. The Becket Cultural Council awarded the Committee a grant for the cost of the bus. Adult volunteers acted as tour guides while the teachers rotated with their classes to each location. Students were given owl pencils, erasers and "passport" notebooks to record facts along the way. Highlights in Becket Center included the First Congregational Church and sheds, Parade Grounds, Center Cemetery, Guild Hall and the Pound. In the Village students toured the Mullen House and Quarry Museum, Arts Center, Athenaeum and Ballou Park. A trip to Town Hall included an introduction to town civics and lunch at the nearby Center Park. A Power Point presentation about Becket Center and North Becket history was given to the school for future use and is also available from the Becket Athenaeum website: <http://www.becketathenaeum.org/>.

The Becket Musical Jamboree on June 13th was presented on Jacob Pillow's Inside-Outside stage. Becket musicians and singers including the Praise Team, Luke and Errol (an amazingly talented 5th grader at BWS) Bates, Ann Krawet, the Chandler Brothers, Prowd Poverty, Lady Di and the Dukes, and Bobby Sweet. They entertained an appreciative audience who enjoyed the musical talents of our neighbors. Each group played for approximately 30 minutes. Jacob's Pillow Day was a chance to celebrate with the support of the outstanding staff at the National Historic Landmark and recipient of the National Medal of Arts. The activities they provided along with the Committee included Kid's Story time and crafts, Children's Scavenger Hunt, Hip Hop Class, Dance

Party, Jacob's Pillow Historic Tour, Ballet Class, and the American Dance Institute performing works by Isadora Duncan. There were screenings of "Never Stand Still", a documentary film, the Pillow Welcome Center was open and the Wetlands Trail, a geocache site, was available for a relaxing walk in the woods.

Volunteers from the Becket Land Trust (<http://www.becketlandtrust.org/calendar.htm>) led guided tours of the Becket Historic Forest and Quarry on Quarry Road each of the four Sundays in June. The lecture series included the following topics: "Birds in Becket" with Rene Laubach, "Historic Granite Quarrying in Becket" with Allen Williams, "Forest Management of the Historic Quarry and the Rabbitat Project in the Historic Forest" with Lincoln Fish and "History of the Becket Land Trust and How the Quarry was Saved" with Ken Smith. For more information visit the Becket Land Trust website at: <http://www.becketlandtrust.org/calendar.htm>

The ceremonial tree planting on the Parade Ground in Becket Center took place on June 21st, the anniversary of Becket's incorporation in 1765. Master of Ceremonies Bruce Garlow introduced the dignitaries, State Senator Benjamin Downing and Selectmen Jeanne Pryor and Bill Elovirta; all of whom spoke. Senator Downing read a citation from the Massachusetts Senate recognizing Becket's 250th Anniversary. Board of Selectmen Chairperson Pryor presented certificates of gratitude to the members of Becket's 250th Anniversary Committee. The participants came and stood where it all began despite the overcast sky and rain fifteen minutes before the ceremony was to begin. Just in time the sun came out shining down on the young 20 foot tall maple tree. A reception, with strawberry shortcake, followed at the Guild Hall sponsored by the Women's Guild of the First Congregational Church of Becket. At one time the Guild Hall served as a town hall.

June 28th was another cold, rainy day but several hardy families persevered to attend the Geocache 101 class and Pot Luck Supper held at the pavilion, Becket Center Park. Kathy Gwozdz and Gary Rollins of the Berkshire GeoBash introduced Geocaching; the outdoor sport using GPS locations and hints in a treasure hunt like challenge. Novices were paired with experienced geocachers to find three temporary caches near the Town Hall and ball field. A Pot Luck Supper followed at the pavilion, Becket Center Park. The many historic and scenic locations throughout Becket with hidden caches will continue to be available; go to [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) for more information.

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## ***Report of the 250th Anniversary Committee*** (Continued)

Several lasting mementos of the 250th Anniversary will be seen around town for years to come. The 250th Anniversary logo designed by Kathy Garren will be seen on wooden nickels handed out for free at each event (more available at Town Hall), utility pole flags, rectangular flags hanging outside on flagpoles at each fire station and Town Hall, inside at Town Hall and the Becket Athenaeum. Tee shirts with the logo continue to be available.

*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



***Becket 250th Anniversary Committee - Photo by Dan Berg***

Front row (L to R): Barbara Crochiere Roberts,  
Linda Burgess Bacon, Karen Karlberg,  
Rita Frisbie Furlong-Presider, and Sandra L. Jarvis-Clerk  
Back row (L to R): Bruce A. Garlow, George Roberts,  
Ann G. Spadafora, and Michel Paul Richard

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◆ **REPORT OF THE CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS** ◆

North Becket Cemetery is in good condition with on-going maintenance throughout the year. Becket Center Cemetery is in good condition. The new shed was installed this past summer. West Becket Cemetery is in good condition. New trees were planted in front this past summer.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Michelle Smith  
Bill Cavanaugh  
Dean Williams

The Commission is looking into repairing and straightening stones in all cemeteries and researching different means of funding this project.



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

The Becket Scholarship Foundation was pleased to award scholarships totaling \$2,600 to four graduating seniors in 2015. The students were Leah Brooks, Amber Fairchild, Kevin Hctor and Jacob Weiner. The scholarships are made possible in part through the generous donations of Becket residents.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Kathleen Rodhouse  
*Secretary*  
Becket Scholarship Foundation



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## ◆ **REPORT OF THE TRANSFER STATION** ◆

The Transfer Station hours of operation during May 15th to October 15th are Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm. From October 16th to May 14th the hours are Tuesday and Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm. A vehicle permit is required for entry to the Transfer Station; vehicle permits may be purchased at the Town Hall or through the town's website [www.townofbecket.org](http://www.townofbecket.org)

Disposing recyclables (paper, cardboard, cans, bottles, plastic containers and scrap metals) is free of charge. Household trash must already have stickers affixed to the bags and be deposited into the compactor. Bag stickers may be purchased at the Becket Town Hall, town's website, Becket General Store, Becket Country Store, and Sherwood Shoppe. Appliances containing Freon, tires, CRTs, mattresses, box springs, stuffed chairs, couches and bulky waste require a separate disposal fee payable by check (cash is not accepted). Please ask an attendant before unloading. All discarded scrap metals 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 inspections; CET visited the Transfer Station to distribute information on recycling, and hazardous waste collection events for resident participation at various locations in the county.

As a reminder the Town has a recycling bylaw. By recycling we reduce our disposal expenses and use of natural resources. This year, due to the effort of the residents of Becket, we recycled over 52 tons of paper and cardboard, 51 tons of cans, bottles, and plastics, 30 tons of scrap metals, 106 mattresses, 1.5 tons of clothing, 450 tires, 850 fluorescent light bulbs and 5.5 tons of electronics. Solid waste disposal was 335 tons for household trash and 142 tons for bulky waste. 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***

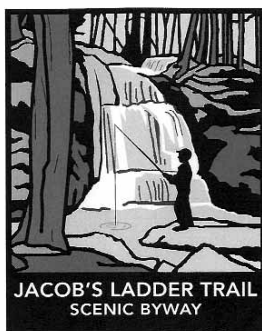




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## ◆ *REPORT OF THE JACOB'S LADDER TRAIL SCENIC BYWAY, INC.* ◆

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 parking area on the former 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 Lee Land Trust, with views of Goose Pond. We have had a few setbacks involving removal of the existing building, but hope to move forward with construction this coming season.

We also continued our participation in the Highlands Footpath initiative, a regional effort to investigate the possibility of creating linkages along the Jacob's Ladder Trail and Route 112 Scenic Byways to connect the area's existing 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 have been able to set the route of some sections of the footpath, but there are sections where we are still working to fill in a few gaps. We will keep all the scenic byway communities informed of our progress as we move forward with this exciting project.

Both of these projects were supported with funds from the National Scenic Byways Program and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.

*Respectfully submitted,*

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



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## **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 state and federal designation of 78 miles of the Westfield River and its tributaries in ten towns.

The Partnership Wild & Scenic Rivers Program of the National Park Service again provided funding to the Committee in 2015 to support projects enhancing the "outstandingly remarkable values" associated with our Wild & Scenic Rivers. Technical assistance and program support was again provided by staff at the Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration. Highlights of our activities in 2015 are as follows:

Our Stream Team Project Coordinator, Meredyth Babcock, continued the series of Wild & Scenic Saturday trainings and workdays, including two popular paddle excursions on Littleville Lake to highlight the history of the area. We held our second annual Watershed Blitz with 67 participants and specialists who spent the day collecting data along the Middle Branch and its tributaries. Specialists included naturalists, fishery and wildlife biologists, herpetologists, geologists and historians. The 3rd Annual Watershed Blitz will be held along the upper West Branch on Saturday, September 17, 2016.

Landowners, interns and volunteers surveyed and inventoried features along important tributary streams: the Little River, Wards and Watts Brooks (Worthington/Huntington); the Dead Branch (Chesterfield); Yokum Brook (Becket), as well as the Middle Branch of the Westfield River (Worthington/Middlefield/Chester). The Committee provided training, maps, GPS units, and digital and wildlife cameras.

Through our Riparian Conservation Grants program, the Committee supported protection of lands important to the river with small grants to local land trusts. This year we supported projects in Cummington and Middlefield. With our assistance the Franklin Land Trust was able to place a conservation restriction on 70 acres of the Aaron Family homestead along the headwaters of Tower Brook. The CR was recorded in July, one month before Mr. Aaron's 103rd birthday.

With funding support from the Committee, the New England Wild Flower Society surveyed 64 rare plant populations, collected seed from nine for conservation and restoration purposes, and managed invasives at two sites in the Westfield River Watershed.

The Committee sponsored a five week after-school Stream Explorers Program at the Becket-Washington Elementary School for 4th and 5th graders to get hands-on experience and learning from exploring their river.

Didymo, also known as Rock Snot, was discovered in the West Branch of the Westfield River in Becket and other towns this summer. This is the second documented occurrence in the state. Further research is needed to determine whether this is an invasive, nuisance or native species. In the meantime, river users should take precautions to prevent its spread to other locations in the watershed. After leaving the water:

Check – Remove all visible algae and plant material from fishing gear, clothing, waders, sandals, water shoes, floats, boats, and anything else that has been in the water.

Clean – Wash boats and gear thoroughly in HOT soapy water. Soak clothing, felt-soled waders, and other absorbent items in HOT soapy water for 30 minutes.

Dry – Dry equipment completely. Complete drying may take multiple days for some types of gear and equipment such as life jackets, sneakers, clothing, felt-soled waders, etc.

Our 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 about what is happening in the watershed visit our website at [www.wildscenicwestfieldriver.org](http://www.wildscenicwestfieldriver.org).

*Respectfully Submitted,*

Mercedes Gallagher  
***Town of Becket Representative***

Alvin Blake  
***Town of Becket Representative, Alternate***

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## ◆ *REPORT OF THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION* ◆

In 2015 the Becket Historical Commission continued to research, catalog and maintain important historic documents relative to Becket; responded to numerous inquiries regarding historic people and places in Becket; and reviewed ZBA requests for historic impact.

Some of the work accomplished in 2015:

- Compiled research on the names of the veterans from Becket who served in the Civil War, Revolutionary War and War of 1812 in preparation for the sign placed next to the granite obelisk in Ballou Park to honor those veterans.
- The erection and dedication of the granite obelisk in Ballou Park honoring Becket veterans of the Civil War, Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 as part of the combined Memorial Day and 250th Anniversary ceremonies.
- Contracted for the replacement of the directional sign frames to display the large Becket maps in West Becket near the cemetery, Becket Center on the Parade Grounds and in North Becket Village at the Athenaeum. Thank you to Dave Bacon for the impressive sign at the Becket Athenaeum.
- Replacement of the historic maps at Ballou Park in North Becket Village and Becket Center in preparation for Becket's 250th Anniversary.
- Worked with the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and the Jacob's Ladder Trail group regarding the two additional historic district signs they placed on Routes 8 and 20 in Becket to inform travelers about our two historic district locations.
- In addition the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and the Jacob's Ladder Trail group restored the monument at Route 8 and Route 20 commemorating the accidental death of young Johnny Glede in 1847. This may have been the first fatal accident on Jacob's Ladder.
- Site visit and correspondence with owners of former Dreamland property at 69 Brooker Hill Road regarding the two stone pillars at the top of their driveway.
- Investigated the future of the North Becket schoolhouse District Number 3 at the intersection of County Road and McNerney Road near Route 8, closed as a school in 1939. Unfortunately a December fire has caused major damage to the historic building.
- Received updated list of Becket burials from Town Clerk.

### **Donations**

- Student materials and work, along with a 1993 VHS about a day in the life of a 5th grade student from former Becket Washington School teacher Ms. Fielder.
- Postcards from Mrs. Robert G. Faye of Center Lake as seen from Mountain Hill Farm.
- Ballou basket from Barbara Crochiere Roberts. It will be displayed at the Mullen House Education Center with our other baskets.
- Baseball memorabilia from Roger Pelltier via Bob Podolski. It includes "Becket AC" and "Eagles" baseball jerseys and team photographs labeled with player names; and a CD of pictures from the Flood of 1927.
- Memorabilia and photo book from the Becket 250th Anniversary celebrations.

### **Expenditures**

- External hard drive to store digitalized files of Commission artifacts
- Storage boxes for baseball uniforms
- Becket location sign erected at the Becket Athenaeum Community Calendar 2016
- Historic maps for Ballou Park in North Becket Village and Becket Center

### **Reorganization**

The Becket Historical Commission reorganized after Aaron Beatty announced he was stepping down as chairperson for the Commission. Sandi Jarvis agreed to serve as chairperson, Jenn Beatty agreed to continue as secretary along with Rita Furlong who agreed to continue as treasurer and secretary pro tem.

The members of the Commission extend their thanks and appreciation to Aaron Beatty for his service to the Town of Becket as a valued member of the Commission.

### **In 2016 the Commission looks forward to:**

- Completing replacement of the Becket Center and West Becket Map Signs on Route 8 and Route 20.
- Continuing to digitize historic artifacts and papers upon the installation of a recycled town computer.
- Reorganizing and updating the historic artifacts on display in the Becket Room.

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## ***Report of the Historical Commission***

*(Continued)*

- Overseeing the future use of the Becket 250th Anniversary flags and alter the “Welcome to Becket” pole banners.
- Pursuing funding to restore cemetery stones in town cemeteries.
- Raise awareness of maintenance required for the retaining wall along Yokum Brook at Ballou Park.

*Respectively submitted by,*

Sandi Jarvis



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## ◆ **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 Dr. Beebe in Hinsdale; also thank you to Becket Police, Becket Highway and Madelaine Elovirta.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Albert Goodermote,  
*Animal Control Officer*

### **Animal Control Calls for 2015 were as follows:**

Dogs.....	77	Dead Porcupines .....	11
Dead dogs .....	1	Horses .....	2
Barking Dogs.....	6	Snakes .....	1
Cats .....	1	Dead Owls .....	1
Goats .....	1	Owls.....	1
Cows .....	11	Raccoons .....	3
Coyotes .....	1	Dead Racoons .....	1
Chickens.....	1	Bulls.....	3
Bobcats .....	1		



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

In 2015, the ZBA saw an increase in the total numbers of applications submitted. The Board itself experienced changes to its composition during 2015; long time member and Chairman, Joshua Lombard moved to the Amherst area and I assumed the duties of Chairmanship last January. We also brought our membership up to a full status with the addition of 2 new members: Joy Lennartz and Victoria Bleier.

The Becket Zoning Board of Appeals processed one application for a variance, as well as four applications for Dimensional Special Permits. One of the applications received is still in progress with a continuance of the public hearing: Of the others, three were approved and one was denied. The Zoning Board of Appeals also held public hearings for an Appeal of an Enforcement order and for a Site Plan Approval.

Please visit us at the Town of Becket Website: [www.townofbecket.org](http://www.townofbecket.org) . Find links to the Zoning Bylaws,

guidelines, applications, and meeting minutes too.

Monthly meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Karen Karlberg, *Chairman*

### **Board Members:**

Karen Karlberg, *Chairperson*

George Roberts, *Clerk*

Jeffrey Wilkinson

Alvin Blake, *Associate Member*

Joy Lennartz

Victoria Bleier

Heather Hunt, *Secretary to the ZBA*

## ◆ *REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON AGING* ◆

Hi from the group of Becket Seniors. We had our first potluck of the year with Sergeant Marc Portieri cooking one of our favorites, chicken cordon bleu. He is one of the best cooks around.

We continue to have a potluck lunch every third Friday of the month. Sonny Nelson cooks the main dish and the seniors bring one of their favorite dishes to share. Marie Grull made a wonderful German treat for us, sauerbraten, which was enjoyed by all. Betty Shepard made great lasagna. Phyllis Fitzgerald surprised us with a sumptuous dish of Polish galumpkis. We have many fine chefs.

Each year, the Otis Veterans Group invites us to a Valentine's Dinner. They put on a great treat for us. Also, we always look forward to Russell VFW's annual invitation to their great ham dinner during April. Rev. Kevin Smail invites us to the Becket Congregation Church for a fantastic summer cookout. The Becket Lunch Bunch and the Bingo Lunch Group are always on the go. We organized a trip to Mohegan Sun: no big winners this time.

Elder Services visited us to talk about fuel assistance and help us fill-out paper work. This was extremely helpful to all who needed it. Also, on the third Tuesday of each month the Porchlight VNA continues to provide a blood pressure clinic coupled with workshops about health issues concerning seniors. We all welcome their visits.

Our annual Christmas party was held at the Knox Trail Inn. It was enjoyed by all.

As usual, our programming continues to be a great success. Join us on Tues. and Thurs. for lunch followed by bingo. All are welcome!

I personally want to thank the Town of Becket for all the support they have given us throughout the year to help us improve our program and services to our community.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Joan Moylan, *Director*



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

*July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015*

<b>Fiscal Year/Tax</b>	<b>Balance 07/01/2014</b>	<b>Commitments</b>	<b>Collected</b>	<b>Refunds</b>	<b>Abatements</b>	<b>Tax Title Transfers</b>	<b>Balance 06/30/2015</b>
<b>2015</b>							
Real Estate		\$4,937,858.66	\$4,680,564.67		\$36,163.70		\$221,130.29
Personal Property		\$292,251.37	\$288,343.22		\$154.75		\$3,753.40
Motor Vehicle		\$220,460.47	\$209,315.59	\$3,985.74	\$4,631.03		\$10,499.59
Fees			\$16,877.45				
Interest			\$13,328.55				
<b>2014</b>							
Real Estate	\$214,633.89		\$68,688.96		\$1,222.52	\$104,046.90	\$40,675.51
Personal Property	\$2,738.95		\$808.44				\$1,930.51
Motor Vehicle	\$11,071.46	\$20,667.43	\$28,369.98	\$1,659.57	\$1,805.51		\$3,222.97
Fees			\$8,774.59				
Interest			\$7,107.08				
<b>2013</b>							
Real Estate	\$56,221.80		\$16,520.18		\$539.70	\$25,325.31	\$13,836.61
Personal Property	\$1,527.87		\$236.02		\$47.14		\$1,244.71
Motor Vehicle	\$2,972.63		\$1,485.64	\$23.12	\$23.12		\$1,486.99
Fees			\$2,066.54				
Interest			\$4,264.45				
<b>2012</b>							
Real Estate	\$25,854.09		\$6,098.79			\$15,374.92	\$4,380.38
Personal Property	\$1,055.66		\$109.79		\$24.98		\$920.89
Motor Vehicle	\$1,814.39		\$132.08	\$343.75	\$343.75		\$1,682.31
Fees			\$529.00				
Interest			\$2,255.24				
<b>2011</b>							
Real Estate	\$5,773.59		\$268.25		\$14.12	\$4,657.70	\$833.52
Personal Property	\$399.74						\$399.74
Motor Vehicle	\$1,782.73		\$120.73	\$215.10	\$215.10		\$1,662.00
Fees			\$200.00				
Interest			\$83.06				
<b>2010</b>							
Real Estate	\$404.91				\$12.72	\$84.76	\$307.43
Personal Property	\$340.88						\$340.88
Motor Vehicle	\$1,828.32		\$219.03				\$1,609.29
Fees			\$185.00				
Interest			\$116.68				
<b>2009</b>							
Real Estate	\$845.88				\$62.24	\$15.96	\$767.68
Personal Property	\$118.69		\$30.32				\$88.37
Motor Vehicle	\$1,511.46		\$78.33	\$25.00	\$25.00		\$1,433.13
Fees			\$99.00				
Interest			\$82.99				



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

*July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015*

<b>Fiscal Year/Tax</b>	<b>Balance 07/01/2014</b>	<b>Commitments</b>	<b>Collected</b>	<b>Refunds</b>	<b>Abatements</b>	<b>Tax Title Transfers</b>	<b>Balance 06/30/2015</b>
<b>2008</b>							
Real Estate	\$480.14				\$63.26	\$15.42	\$401.46
Personal Property	\$56.56		\$29.20				\$27.36
Fees			\$5.00				
Interest			\$30.34				
<b>2007</b>							
Real Estate	\$484.63				\$64.74	\$9.04	\$410.85
Personal Property	\$26.65		\$12.11				\$14.54
Fees			\$5.00				-\$5.00
Interest			\$13.90				-\$13.90
<b>2006</b>							
Real Estate	\$132.68						\$132.68
Personal Property	\$75.36						\$75.36
Fees			\$0.00				
Interest			\$0.00				
<b>2005</b>							
Real Estate	\$173.06				\$26.32		\$146.74
Fees			\$0.00				
Interest			\$0.00				
<b>2004</b>							
Real Estate	\$169.64				\$25.80		\$143.84
Fees			\$0.00				
Interest			\$0.00				



# ◆ **TOWN OF BECKET FINANCIAL REPORT** ◆

July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015

## **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			\$2,694.44	\$805.56	76.98
<b>ADVERTISING TOTAL</b>		<b>\$3,500.00</b>			<b>\$2,694.44</b>	<b>\$805.56</b>	<b>76.98</b>
SELECTMEN SALARIES		\$6,000.00			\$5,999.76	\$0.24	99.99
SELECTMEN EXPENSES		\$1,000.00	\$12.13		\$1,012.13		100.00
BRD, LLC SETTLEMENT			\$500,000.00		\$500,000.00		100.00
TOWN MEETING EXPENSE		\$3,500.00			\$2,608.75	\$891.25	74.53
LEGAL EXPENSES	\$39,410.13		\$-23,032.72		\$16,377.41		100.00
<b>SELECTMEN TOTAL</b>	<b>\$39,410.13</b>	<b>\$10,500.00</b>	<b>\$476,979.41</b>		<b>\$525,998.05</b>	<b>\$891.49</b>	<b>99.83</b>
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR SALARIES		\$61,200.00			\$61,199.78	\$0.22	99.99
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR EXPENSES		\$1,700.00			\$1,686.67	\$13.33	99.21
STAFF COVERAGE	\$336.87	\$7,500.00			\$7,414.67	\$422.20	94.61
250TH ANNIVERSARY	\$4,182.39	\$25,000.00			\$28,380.19	\$802.20	97.25
FY14 GRANT PREPARATION	\$9,000.00				\$1,033.12	\$7,966.88	11.47
<b>TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TOTAL</b>	<b>\$13,519.26</b>	<b>\$95,400.00</b>			<b>\$99,714.43</b>	<b>\$9,204.83</b>	<b>91.54</b>
FINANCE COMM. EXPENSES		\$400.00			\$129.00	\$271.00	32.25
<b>FINANCE COMMITTEE TOTAL</b>		<b>\$400.00</b>			<b>\$129.00</b>	<b>\$271.00</b>	<b>32.25</b>
TOWN ACCOUNTANT SALARIES		\$22,509.00			\$22,508.64	\$0.36	99.99
OUTSIDE PAYROLL EXPENSES		\$4,500.00	\$22.70		\$4,522.70		100.00
TOWN ACCOUNTANT EXPENSE		\$200.00			\$200.00		100.00
<b>TOWN ACCOUNTANT TOTAL</b>		<b>\$27,209.00</b>	<b>\$22.70</b>		<b>\$27,231.34</b>	<b>\$0.36</b>	<b>99.99</b>
ASSESSOR SALARIES		\$122,431.00	\$-5,000.00		\$71,126.96	\$46,304.04	60.56
ASSESSOR EXPENSES	\$4,298.48	\$10,505.00	\$10,904.69		\$25,708.17		100.00
<b>ASSESSOR TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,298.48</b>	<b>\$132,936.00</b>	<b>\$5,904.69</b>		<b>\$96,835.13</b>	<b>\$46,304.04</b>	<b>67.65</b>
TREASURER SALARIES		\$39,275.00			\$39,266.92	\$8.08	99.97
TREASURER EXPENSES	\$2,884.37	\$5,481.00			\$2,342.77	\$6,022.60	28.00
<b>TREASURER TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,884.37</b>	<b>\$44,756.00</b>			<b>\$41,609.69</b>	<b>\$6,030.68</b>	<b>87.34</b>
TAX COLLECTOR SALARIES		\$55,945.00	\$12,347.38		\$68,292.38		100.00
ASST TAX COLLECTOR SALARIES		\$42,063.00	\$-5,000.00		\$31,186.64	\$5,876.36	84.14
TAX COLLECTOR EXPENSES		\$6,985.00			\$5,879.18	\$1,105.82	84.16
KVS SOFTWARE UPGRADE	\$4,045.00					\$4,045.00	-
<b>TAX COLLECTOR TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,045.00</b>	<b>\$104,993.00</b>	<b>\$7,347.38</b>		<b>\$105,358.20</b>	<b>\$11,027.18</b>	<b>90.52</b>
TAX TITLE EXPENSES							
TAX TITLE EXPENSES	\$7,948.00	\$25,000.00			\$19,319.01	\$13,628.99	100.00
<b>TAX TITLE TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,948.00</b>	<b>\$25,000.00</b>			<b>\$19,319.01</b>	<b>\$13,628.99</b>	<b>58.63</b>
TOWN SECRETARY SALARIES		\$43,469.00			\$42,152.32	\$1,316.68	96.97

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>CARRY FWD</u>	<u>ORIG. BUD.</u>	<u>AMENDED</u>	<u>ENCUM.</u>	<u>EXPEND.</u>	<u>UNENCUM. BALANCE</u>	<u>% EXP.</u>
TOWN SECRETARY EXPENSES <b>TOWN SECRETARY TOTAL</b>		\$43,469.00			\$42,152.32	\$1,316.68	100.00 96.97
TOWN COUNSEL EXPENSES <b>TOWN COUNSEL TOTAL</b>	\$164.20 \$164.20	\$13,500.00 \$13,500.00	\$5,032.72 \$5,032.72		\$17,144.17 \$17,144.17	\$1,552.75 \$1,552.75	91.69 91.69
AUDIT EXPENSES <b>AUDIT TOTAL</b>	\$17,964.03 \$17,964.03				\$14,000.00 \$14,000.00	\$3,964.03 \$3,964.03	77.93 100.00
POSTAGE EXPENSES <b>POSTAGE TOTAL</b>		\$12,000.00 \$12,000.00			\$12,000.00 \$12,000.00		100.00 97.47
TOWN REPORT EXPENSES <b>TOWN REPORT TOTAL</b>		\$3,500.00 \$3,500.00			\$3,411.50 \$3,411.50	\$88.50 \$88.50	97.47 99.99
TOWN CLERK SALARIES TOWN CLERK EXPENSES <b>TOWN CLERK TOTAL</b>		\$26,618.00 \$2,845.00 \$29,463.00			\$26,617.78 \$2,391.67 \$29,009.45	\$0.22 \$453.33 \$453.55	84.06 98.46 86.15
ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION EXPENSES <b>ELECTIONS &amp; REGISTRATION TOTAL</b>		\$9,075.00 \$9,075.00			\$7,818.41 \$7,818.41	\$1,256.59 \$1,256.59	86.15 94.50
CON COMM EXPENSES <b>CONS COMM TOTAL</b>		\$8,619.00 \$8,619.00	\$4,577.76 \$4,577.76		\$12,471.94 \$12,471.94	\$724.82 \$724.82	94.50 99.56
PLANNING BOARD EXPENSES <b>PLANNING BOARD TOTAL</b>		\$6,706.00 \$6,706.00	\$760.00 \$760.00		\$7,433.33 \$7,433.33	\$32.67 \$32.67	99.56 99.56
BOARD OF APPEALS EXPENSES <b>ZONING BOARD TOTAL</b>		\$3,350.00 \$3,350.00	\$1,000.00 \$1,000.00		\$4,079.91 \$4,079.91	\$270.09 \$270.09	93.79 93.79
BERK REGIONAL PLANNING COMM <b>BRPC TOTAL</b>		\$1,253.00 \$1,253.00			\$1,252.82 \$1,252.82	\$0.18 \$0.18	99.98 99.98
MUNICIPAL BLDG LABOR MUNICIPAL BLDG UTILITIES MUNICIPAL BLDG EXPENSES WIREDWEST MEMBERSHIP MUNICIPAL BLDG REPAIRS REPLC FRONT AND REAR DBL DOOR TOWN HALL RAMPS & HANDRAILS TOWN HALL CARPET REPLACEMENT ZERO TURN LAWN MOWER <b>MUNICIPAL BLDG TOTAL</b>	\$2,781.90 \$11,724.31 \$3,298.87	\$44,470.00 \$67,900.00 \$63,000.00 \$1,000.00 \$15,500.00 \$6,692.00 \$14,500.00 \$6,500.00 \$11,900.00 \$231,462.00	\$25.28  \$-5,000.00  \$10,000.00		\$44,495.28 \$59,541.24 \$59,696.17 \$1,000.00 \$16,005.81  \$6,500.00 \$11,779.57 \$199,018.07	\$11,140.66 \$10,028.14 100.00 \$2,793.06 \$6,692.00 \$24,500.00  \$120.43 \$55,274.29	100.00 84.23 85.61 100.00 85.14 - - 100.00 98.98 78.26
COMPUTER HARD/SOFTWARE UPGRADES		\$12,900.00			\$6,780.45	\$6,119.55	52.56

<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>
MUNICIPAL BLDG TOWN HALL CNTRL AIR	\$20,000.00					\$20,000.00	-
GRANTS MANAGEMENT	\$5,077.60	\$20,391.00			\$4,854.64	\$222.96	95.60
SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE AGREEMENTS		\$33,291.00			\$19,620.85	\$770.15	96.22
<b>MUNICIPAL BLDG ARTICLES TOTAL</b>	<b>\$25,077.60</b>				<b>\$31,255.94</b>	<b>\$27,112.66</b>	<b>53.54</b>
RESERVE FUND		\$40,000.00	\$-39,911.73			\$88.27	-
<b>RESERVE FUND TOTAL</b>		<b>\$40,000.00</b>	<b>\$-39,911.73</b>			<b>\$88.27</b>	<b>-</b>
POLICE DEPT SALARIES		\$231,880.00			\$231,263.73	\$616.27	99.73
POLICE DEPT EXPENSES	\$200.00	\$17,270.00			\$15,717.30	\$1,752.70	89.96
MOBILE DATA TERMINALS		\$10,000.00			\$9,710.00	\$290.00	97.10
FY15 POLICE CRUISER		\$39,000.00			\$38,406.00	\$594.00	98.47
TASERS		\$4,000.00			\$3,635.34	\$364.66	90.88
<b>POLICE DEPT TOTAL</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>	<b>\$302,150.00</b>			<b>\$298,732.37</b>	<b>\$3,617.63</b>	<b>98.80</b>
EMERG MANAGEMENT EXPENSES	\$298.90	\$1,000.00	\$213.77		\$1,481.69	\$30.98	97.95
EMERG MGT TRAINING	\$3,500.00	\$1,000.00				\$4,500.00	-
<b>EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,798.90</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>	<b>\$213.77</b>		<b>\$1,481.69</b>	<b>\$4,530.98</b>	<b>24.64</b>
CONSTABLE EXPENSES		\$300.00				\$300.00	-
<b>CONSTABLE EXPENSES TOTAL</b>		<b>\$300.00</b>				<b>\$300.00</b>	<b>-</b>
FIRE DEPARTMENT SALARIES		\$3,925.00			\$3,925.00		100.00
FIREFIGHTER STIPENDS	\$1,650.00	\$10,000.00			\$8,250.00	\$3,400.00	70.81
FIRE DEPARTMENT EXPENSES	\$31,796.03	\$27,000.00			\$46,994.26	\$11,801.77	79.92
DRYY HYDRANTS	\$7,500.00	\$2,000.00			\$2,613.15	\$6,886.85	27.50
<b>FIRE DEPARTMENT TOTAL</b>	<b>\$40,946.03</b>	<b>\$42,925.00</b>			<b>\$61,782.41</b>	<b>\$22,088.62</b>	<b>73.66</b>
DRY HYDRANT PARTS	\$7,000.00					\$7,000.00	-
<b>FIRE DEPARTMENT ARTICLES TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,000.00</b>					<b>\$700.00</b>	<b>-</b>
E911 COMMUNICATIONS		\$10,941.00			\$10,940.35	\$0.65	99.99
<b>E911 COMMUNICATIONS TOTAL</b>		<b>\$10,941.00</b>			<b>\$10,940.35</b>	<b>\$0.65</b>	<b>99.99</b>
BUILDING DEPARTMENT SALARIES		\$49,165.00	\$195.49		\$49,360.49		100.00
BUILDING DEPARTMENT EXPENSES		\$3,065.00	\$99.73		\$3,164.73		100.00
<b>BUILDING DEPARTMENT TOTAL</b>		<b>\$52,230.00</b>	<b>\$295.22</b>		<b>\$52,525.22</b>		<b>100.00</b>
ANIMAL CONTROL SALARIES		\$7,699.00			\$7,699.00		100.00
ANIMAL CONTROL EXPENSES	\$50.50	\$2,500.00	\$58.47		\$2,155.92	\$453.05	82.63
<b>ANIMAL CONTROL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$50.50</b>	<b>\$10,199.00</b>	<b>\$58.47</b>		<b>\$9,854.92</b>	<b>\$453.05</b>	<b>95.60</b>
HARBOR MASTER EXPENSES	\$600.00	\$1,390.00			\$1,595.09	\$394.91	80.15
<b>HARBOR MASTER TOTAL</b>	<b>\$600.00</b>	<b>\$1,390.00</b>			<b>\$1,595.09</b>	<b>\$394.91</b>	<b>80.15</b>
DEMOLITION FUND	\$7,977.82	\$13,420.00	\$7,930.00			\$29,327.82	-
<b>DEMOLITION TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,977.82</b>	<b>\$13,420.00</b>	<b>\$7,930.00</b>			<b>\$29,327.82</b>	<b>-</b>

<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>
SCHOOL OPERATING BUDGET		\$1,817,535.00			\$1,817,535.00		100.00
VOCATIONAL TUITION		\$195,000.00			\$130,833.75	\$64,166.25	67.09
VOCATIONAL TRANSPORTATION	\$1,925.00	\$90,000.00			\$44,383.52	\$47,541.48	48.28
<b>EDUCATION TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,925.00</b>	<b>\$2,102,535.00</b>			<b>\$1,992,752.27</b>	<b>\$111,707.73</b>	<b>94.69</b>
MOTH EXPENSES		\$1.00				\$1.00	-
<b>MOTH ACCOUNT TOTAL</b>		<b>\$1.00</b>				<b>\$1.00</b>	<b>-</b>
TREE ACCOUNT EXPENSES		\$10,000.00			\$9,515.25	\$484.75	95.15
<b>TREE ACCOUNT TOTAL</b>		<b>\$10,000.00</b>			<b>\$9,515.25</b>	<b>\$484.75</b>	<b>95.15</b>
FORESTRY		\$300.00			\$10.00	\$290.00	3.33
<b>FORESTRY TOTAL</b>		<b>\$300.00</b>			<b>\$10.00</b>	<b>\$290.00</b>	<b>3.33</b>
HIGHWAY DEPT SALARIES		\$195,344.00			\$187,360.18	\$7,983.82	95.91
GENERAL MAINTENANCE	\$400.00	\$133,862.00			\$112,263.07	\$21,998.93	83.61
MACHINERY ACCOUNT		\$60,930.00	\$218.65		\$58,446.34	\$2,702.31	95.58
RECON OF GRAVEL ROAD	\$5,000.00					\$5,000.00	-
FUEL ACCOUNT		\$96,600.00			\$82,688.99	\$13,911.01	85.59
HIGHWAY GARAGE		\$10,270.00			\$9,476.79	\$793.21	92.27
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT TOTAL	\$5,400.00	\$497,006.00	\$218.65		\$450,235.37	\$52,389.28	89.57
TRUCK 4 DUMP BODY	\$6,000.00				\$2,119.50	\$3,880.50	35.32
SANDER - TRUCK #5		\$5,500.00			\$5,500.00		100.00
MATERIAL SPREADERS - TRUCK #2 & #6		\$17,000.00			\$16,734.22	\$265.78	98.43
HIGHWAY ARTICLES TOTAL	\$6,000.00	\$22,500.00			\$24,353.72	\$4,146.28	85.45
WINTER ROADS SALARIES		\$132,236.00	\$19,915.02		\$152,151.02		100.00
WINTER ROADS EXPENSES		\$76,685.00	\$7,466.40		\$167,738.85		100.00
WINTER ROADS TOTAL		\$208,921.00	\$110,968.87		\$319,889.87		100.00
STREET LIGHTING		\$8,000.00			\$7,941.08	\$58.92	99.26
<b>STREET LIGHTING TOTAL</b>		<b>\$8,000.00</b>			<b>\$7,941.08</b>	<b>\$58.92</b>	<b>99.26</b>
TRANSFER STATION SALARIES		\$28,085.00			\$25,157.22	\$2,927.78	89.57
TRANSFER STATION EXPENSES	\$4,470.69	\$69,960.00			\$71,789.76	\$2,640.93	96.45
<b>TRANSFER STATION TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,470.69</b>	<b>\$98,045.00</b>			<b>\$96,946.98</b>	<b>\$5,568.71</b>	<b>94.56</b>
BECKET CENTER CEMETERY	\$231.27	\$3,641.00	\$310.74		\$4,183.01		100.00
NORTH BECKET CEMETERY		\$6,242.00			\$6,211.56	\$30.44	99.51
WEST BECKET CEMETERY		\$1,224.00			\$1,147.18	\$76.82	93.72
SHED		\$3,000.00				\$3,000.00	-
<b>CEMETERY TOTAL</b>	<b>\$231.27</b>	<b>\$14,107.00</b>	<b>\$310.74</b>		<b>\$11,541.75</b>	<b>\$3,107.26</b>	<b>78.78</b>
BOARD OF HEALTH SALARIES	\$1,540.03	\$7,000.00	\$5,000.00		\$10,952.39	\$2,587.64	80.88
BOARD OF HEALTH EXPENSES		\$19,500.00	\$-5,000.00		\$10,414.83	\$4,085.17	71.82

<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>
SO BERK SOLID WASTE		\$5,960.00			\$5,959.65	\$0.35	99.99
<b>BOARD OF HEALTH TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,540.03</b>	<b>\$32,460.00</b>			<b>\$27,326.87</b>	<b>\$6,673.16</b>	<b>80.37</b>
INSPECTOR OF ANIMALS		\$312.00			\$312.00		100.00
<b>INSPECTOR OF ANIMALS TOTAL</b>		<b>\$312.00</b>			<b>\$312.00</b>		<b>100.00</b>
LEE VISITING NURSE		\$4,962.00			\$4,961.25	\$0.75	99.98
<b>VISITING NURSE TOTAL</b>		<b>\$4,962.00</b>			<b>\$4,961.25</b>	<b>\$0.75</b>	<b>99.98</b>
COUNCIL ON AGING EXPENSES		\$5,000.00			\$5,000.00		100.00
OUTREACH PROGRAMS		\$500.00				\$500.00	-
<b>COUNCIL ON AGING TOTAL</b>		<b>\$5,500.00</b>			<b>\$5,000.00</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>	<b>90.90</b>
VETERANS AGENT SALARIES		\$1,977.00			\$1,977.00		100.00
VETERANS BENEFITS		\$20,000.00	\$1,148.60		\$21,148.60		100.00
VETERANS AGENT EXPENSE		\$100.00			\$100.00		-
<b>VETERANS TOTAL</b>		<b>\$22,077.00</b>	<b>\$1,148.60</b>		<b>\$23,125.60</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	<b>99.56</b>
MENTAL HEALTH CENTER EXPENSES		\$550.00				\$500.00	-
<b>MENTAL HEALTH TOTAL</b>		<b>\$550.00</b>				<b>\$500.00</b>	<b>-</b>
ARTS CENTER EXPENSES	\$1,800.00	\$2,000.00			\$3,800.00		100.00
<b>ARTS CENTER TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,800.00</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>			<b>\$3,800.00</b>		<b>100.00</b>
WOMEN'S AUX CHILDREN'S PARTY		\$500.00			\$500.00		100.00
<b>WOMEN'S AUX TOTAL</b>		<b>\$500.00</b>			<b>\$500.00</b>		<b>100.00</b>
LIBRARY EXPENSES		\$44,540.00			\$44,540.00		100.00
<b>LIBRARY TOTAL</b>		<b>\$44,540.00</b>			<b>\$44,540.00</b>		<b>100.00</b>
FY14 LIBRARY CAPITAL	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00			\$23,528.27	\$16,471.73	58.82
<b>LIBRARY CAPITAL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$20,000.00</b>	<b>\$20,000.00</b>			<b>\$23,528.27</b>	<b>\$16,471.73</b>	<b>58.82</b>
WEED TREATMENT CENTER POND		\$1,500.00			\$1,500.00		100.00
<b>CENTER POND TOTAL</b>		<b>\$1,500.00</b>			<b>\$1,500.00</b>		<b>100.00</b>
PARKS AND REC COMM EXPENSES	\$1,296.73	\$20,000.00			\$20,466.67	\$830.06	96.10
<b>PARKS AND REC COMM TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,296.73</b>	<b>\$20,000.00</b>			<b>\$20,466.67</b>	<b>\$830.06</b>	<b>96.10</b>
HISTORICAL COMM EXPENSES	\$449.00	\$700.00			\$24.73	\$1,124.27	2.15
<b>HISTORICAL COMM TOTAL</b>	<b>\$449.00</b>	<b>\$700.00</b>			<b>\$24.73</b>	<b>\$1,124.27</b>	<b>2.15</b>
MEMORIAL/VETERAN'S DAY EXPENSES		\$750.00	\$294.44		\$1,044.44		100.00
<b>MEMORIAL/VETERAN'S DAY TOTAL</b>		<b>\$750.00</b>	<b>\$294.44</b>		<b>\$1,044.44</b>		<b>100.00</b>
BECKET WASHINGTON SCHOOL		\$103,497.00			\$103,497.00		100.00
NESSACUS SCHOOL DEBT		\$11,253.00			\$11,253.00		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				\$1,500.00	-
FIRE PUMPER/DUMP TRUCK DEBT		\$159,790.00			\$159,790.00		100.00
WACOHAH REGIONAL HS DEBT		\$5,445.00			\$5,445.00		100.00
KITTREDGE SCHOOL DEBT		\$230.00			\$230.00		100.00
CUMP TRUCK TRACTOR		\$80,958.00			\$80,958.00		100.00
KITTREDGE MSBA WINDOWS		\$21.00			\$21.00		100.00
FY14 CRANEVILLE AIR HANDLER		\$1.00			\$1.00		100.00
FY14 DISTRICT SECURITY		\$33.00			\$33.00		100.00
<b>DEBT TOTAL</b>		<b>\$362,728.00</b>			<b>\$361,228.00</b>	<b>\$1,500.00</b>	<b>99.58</b>
RMV SURCHARGES					\$2,560.00	\$-2,560.00	100.00
AIR POLLUTION					\$852.00	\$-852.00	100.00
REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY					\$10.00	\$-10.00	100.00
SCHOOL CHOICE TUITION					\$10,000.00	\$-10,000.00	100.00
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>\$13,422.00</b>	<b>\$-13,422.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>
HEALTH/LIFE INSURANCE		\$399,750.00	\$-12,381.42		\$341,804.64	\$45,563.94	88.23
RETIREMENT		\$219,155.00			\$219,155.00		100.00
PAYROLL TAXES		\$22,050.00			\$20,309.08	\$1,740.92	92.10
UNEMPLOYMENT		\$10,000.00			\$8,142.76	\$1,857.24	81.42
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS TOTAL		\$650,995.00	\$-12,381.42		\$589,411.48	\$49,162.10	92.30
LIABILITY INSURANCE		\$99,900.00	\$8,100.00		\$107,802.00	\$198.00	99.00
<b>LIABILITY INSURANCE TOTAL</b>		<b>\$99,900.00</b>	<b>\$8,100.00</b>		<b>\$107,802.00</b>	<b>\$198.00</b>	<b>81.00</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$236,802.12</b>	<b>\$5,546,786.00</b>	<b>\$583,895.55</b>		<b>\$5,878,028.80</b>	<b>\$489,454.87</b>	<b>99.81</b>
<b>GIFTS AND DONATIONS</b>							
AMBULANCE GIFTS EXPENSE					\$3,241.50	\$-3,241.50	92.31
<b>AMBULANCE DEPARTMENTS TOTAL</b>					<b>\$3,241.50</b>	<b>\$-3,241.50</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>GIFTS AND DONATIONS TOTAL</b>					<b>\$3,241.50</b>	<b>\$-3,241.50</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>STATE GRANTS</b>							
DCR FOREST FIREFIGHTING					\$2,000.00	\$-2,000.00	100.00
<b>FIRE DEPARTMENT TOTAL</b>					<b>\$2,000.00</b>	<b>\$-2,000.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>
WATER MASTER PLAN					\$30,000.00	\$-30,000.00	100.00
<b>HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT TOTAL</b>					<b>\$30,000.00</b>	<b>\$-30,000.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>
COA GRANT EXPENSES					\$4,000.00	\$-4,000.00	100.00
<b>COUNCIL ON AGING TOTAL</b>					<b>\$4,000.00</b>	<b>\$-4,000.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>
LIBRARY GRANT EXPENSES					\$1,995.99	\$-1,995.99	100.00
<b>LIBRARY TOTAL</b>					<b>\$1,995.99</b>	<b>\$-1,995.99</b>	<b>100.00</b>
CULTURAL COUNCIL EXPENSE					\$4,107.99	\$-4,107.99	100.00
<b>CULTURAL COUNCIL TOTAL</b>					<b>\$4,107.99</b>	<b>\$-4,107.99</b>	<b>100.00</b>



<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>
<b>STATE GRANTS TOTAL</b>					<b>\$42,103.98</b>	<b>\$-42,103.93</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>CPA FUND</b>							
CPA ADMIN EXPENSES		\$500.00			\$300.00	\$200.00	
BECKET ANTHENAUM					\$14,669.00	\$-14,669.00	60.00
OBELISK					\$5,900.00	\$-5,900.00	100.00
<b>CPA COMMITTEE TOTAL</b>		<b>\$500.00</b>			<b>\$20,869.00</b>	<b>\$-20,369.00</b>	<b>400.00</b>
<b>CPA FUND TOTAL</b>		<b>\$500.00</b>			<b>\$20,869.00</b>	<b>\$-20,369.00</b>	<b>4,173.80</b>
<b>REVOLVING FUNDS</b>							
INS REIMB <20K					\$7,640.00	\$-7,640.00	4,173.80
<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT TOTAL</b>					<b>\$7,640.00</b>	<b>\$-7,640.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>
PLUMBING INSPECTOR EXPENSES					\$1,350.00	\$-1,350.00	100.00
<b>PLUMBING INSPECTOR TOTAL</b>					<b>\$1,350.00</b>	<b>\$-1,350.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>
GAS INSPECTOR EXPENSES					\$1,755.00	\$-1,755.00	100.00
<b>GAS INSPECTOR TOTAL</b>					<b>\$1,755.00</b>	<b>\$-1,755.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>
WIRING INSPECTOR EXPENSES					\$3,645.00	\$-3,645.00	100.00
<b>WIRING INSPECTOR TOTAL</b>					<b>\$3,645.00</b>	<b>\$-3,645.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>
POLICE OUTSIDE DETAIL					\$95,298.49	\$-95,298.49	100.00
<b>POLICE DEPT TOTAL</b>					<b>\$95,298.49</b>	<b>\$-95,298.49</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>REVOLVING FUNDS TOTAL</b>					<b>\$109,688.49</b>	<b>\$-109,688.49</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>CHAPTER 90</b>							
CHAPTER 90 EXPENSES					\$562,853.91	\$-562,853.91	100.00
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>\$562,853.91</b>	<b>\$-562,853.91</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>CHAPTER 90 TOTAL</b>					<b>\$562,853.91</b>	<b>\$-562,853.91</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>GRADER</b>							
GRADER					\$348,122.94	\$-348,122.94	100.00
<b>HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT TOTAL</b>					<b>\$348,122.94</b>	<b>\$-348,122.94</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>GRADER TOTAL</b>					<b>\$348,122.94</b>	<b>\$-348,122.94</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>AMBULANCE ENTERPRISE</b>							
AMBULANCE SALARIES		\$296,466.50			\$285,939.02	\$10,527.48	96.44
AMBULANCE EXPENSES		\$26,700.00	\$126.45		\$23,050.50	\$3,775.95	85.92
<b>AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT TOTAL</b>		<b>\$323,166.50</b>	<b>\$126.45</b>		<b>\$308,989.52</b>	<b>\$14,303.43</b>	<b>95.57</b>
<b>AMBULANCE ENTERPRISE TOTAL</b>		<b>\$323,166.50</b>	<b>\$126.45</b>		<b>\$308,989.52</b>	<b>\$14,303.43</b>	<b>95.57</b>
<b>NON EXPENDABLE TRUST</b>							
CEM PERP CARE EXPENSES					\$1,930.30	\$-1,930.30	100.00
<b>CEMETERY TOTAL</b>					<b>\$1,930.30</b>	<b>\$-1,930.30</b>	<b>100.00</b>

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>CARRY FWD</u>	<u>ORIG. BUD.</u>	<u>AMENDED</u>	<u>ENCUM.</u>	<u>EXPEND.</u>	<u>UNENCUM. BALANCE</u>	<u>% EXP.</u>
<i>NON EXPENDABLE TRUST TOTAL</i>					<i>\$1,930.30</i>	<i>\$-1,930.30</i>	<i>100.00</i>
<b>ROAD DISTRICT AGENCY</b>							
SHERWOOD FOREST PAYMENTS					\$6,250.98	\$-6,250.98	100.00
SHERWOOD GREENS PAYMENTS					\$7,421.17	\$-7,421.17	100.00
SHERWOOD FOREST LAKE PAYMENTS					\$3,226.40	\$-3,226.40	100.00
<i>TOTAL</i>					<i>\$16,898.55</i>	<i>\$-16,898.55</i>	<i>100.00</i>
<i>ROAD DISTRICT AGENCY TOTAL</i>					<i>\$16,898.55</i>	<i>\$-16,898.55</i>	<i>100.00</i>
<b>AGENCY FUND</b>							
RETIREE INSURANCE AND WITHOLDINGS					\$1,257.65	\$-1,257.65	100.00
<i>GENERAL GOVERNMENT TOTAL</i>					<i>\$1,257.65</i>	<i>\$-1,257.65</i>	<i>100.00</i>
DEPUTY COLLECTOR EXPENSE					\$3,995.00	\$-3,995.00	100.00
<i>DEPUTY COLLECTOR TOTAL</i>					<i>\$3,995.00</i>	<i>\$-3,995.00</i>	<i>100.00</i>
TOWN CLERK FEES SALARIES					\$1,138.50	\$-1,138.50	100.00
<i>TOWN CLERK TOTAL</i>					<i>\$1,138.50</i>	<i>\$-1,138.50</i>	<i>100.00</i>
POLICE OUTSIDE DETAIL EXPENSES					\$-2,780.99	\$2,780.99	100.00
PISTOL PERMIT EXPENSES					\$2,925.00	\$-2,925.00	100.00
<i>POLICE DEPT TOTAL</i>					<i>\$144.01</i>	<i>\$-144.01</i>	<i>100.00</i>
FIRE DEPT FEES					\$3,161.00	\$-3,161.00	100.00
<i>FIRE DEPT TOTAL</i>					<i>\$3,161.00</i>	<i>\$-3,161.00</i>	<i>100.00</i>
<i>AGENCY FUND TOTAL</i>					<i>\$9,696.16</i>	<i>\$-9,696.16</i>	<i>100.00</i>
<i>GRAND TOTAL</i>	<i>\$236,802.12</i>	<i>\$5,870,452.50</i>	<i>\$584,022.00</i>		<i>\$7,302,423.15</i>	<i>\$-611,146.53</i>	<i>109.13</i>

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

FY 2015

**GENERAL FUND**

<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>EST REV</b>	<b>ADJ EST REV</b>	<b>ACTUAL YTD</b>	<b>DIFF</b>
PERSONAL PROPERTY REVENUE	0.00	0.00	288,003.08	-288,003.08
REAL ESTATE REVENUE	0.00	0.00	4,764,331.12	-4,764,331.12
ROLL BACK TAXES	0.00	0.00	2,593.65	-2,593.65
TAX TITLE REVENUE	0.00	0.00	67,024.83	-67,024.83
MVE REVENUE	0.00	0.00	228,728.61	-228,728.61
SEPTIC LIEN REVENUE	0.00	0.00	535.43	-535.43
PENALTIES AND INTEREST	0.00	0.00	80,868.24	- 80,868.24
IN LIEU OF TAXES	0.00	0.00	6,000.00	- 6,000.00
FEES	0.00	0.00	25,875.33	- 25,875.33
OTHER DEPT. REVENUE	0.00	0.00	17,872.78	- 17,872.78
LIQUOR LICENSES	0.00	0.00	4,360.00	- 4,360.00
LICENSES AND PERMITS	0.00	0.00	52,210.20	- 52,210.20
GARBAGE AND TRASH	0.00	0.00	66,682.92	- 66,682.92
CHAPTER 70	0.00	0.00	76563.00	- 76563.00
REVENUE FROM THE STATE	0.00	0.00	155,246.00	- 155,246.00
FINES AND FORFEITS	0.00	0.00	13,172.50	- 13,172.50
INTEREST EARNED	0.00	0.00	3,728.96	- 3,728.96
MISC REVENUE	0.00	0.00	4,160.00	-4,160.00
<b>REVENUE TOTALS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>5,857,956.65</b>	<b>-5,857,956.65</b>

<b>EXPENSE</b>	<b>ORIG BUDGET</b>	<b>ADJ BUDGET</b>	<b>ACTUAL YTD</b>	<b>DIFF</b>
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	880,382.00	1,480,236.36	1,299,937.15	180,299.21
PUBLIC SAFETY	435,555.00	504,625.71	436,912.05	67,713.66
EDUCATION	2,102,535.00	2,104,460.00	1,992,752.27	111,707.73
PUBLIC WORKS	858,880.00	986,480.22	920,434.02	66,046.20
HEALTH AND WELFARE	65,861.00	68,549.63	60,725.72	7,823.91
CULTURE AND RECREATION	89,990.00	113,830.17	95,404.11	18,426.06
DEBT	362,728.00	362,728.00	361,228.00	1,500.00
STATE/COUNT ASSESSMENTS	0.00	0.00	13,422.00	13,422.00
OTHER EXPENSES	750,855.00	746,573.58	697,213.48	49,360.10
<b>EXPENSE TOTALS</b>	<b>5,546,786.00</b>	<b>6,367,483.67</b>	<b>5,878,028.80</b>	<b>489,454.87</b>

<b>GENERAL FUND TOTALS</b>	<b>-5,546,786.00</b>	<b>-6,367,483.67</b>	<b>20,072.15</b>	<b>6,347,411.52</b>
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**GIFTS AND DONATIONS**

<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>EST REV</b>	<b>ADJ EST REV</b>	<b>ACTUAL YTD</b>	<b>DIFF</b>
GIFTS AND DONATIONS	0.00	0.00	2,014.98	-2,014.98
<b>REVENUE TOTALS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2,014.98</b>	<b>-2,014.98</b>

<b>EXPENSE</b>	<b>ORIG BUDGET</b>	<b>ADJ BUDGET</b>	<b>ACTUAL YTD</b>	<b>DIFF</b>
PUBLIC SAFETY	0.00	0.00	3,241.50	-3,241.50
<b>EXPENSE TOTALS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>3,241.50</b>	<b>-3,241.50</b>

<b>GIFTS AND DONATIONS TOTALS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-1,226.52</b>	<b>-1,226.52</b>
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**◆ TOWN OF BECKET BUDGETED VS. ACTUAL ◆**

*FY 2015*

**SALE OF LOTS**

REVENUE	EST REV	ADJ EST REV	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
FEES	0.00	0.00	800.00	-800.00
<b>REVENUE TOTALS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>800.00</b>	<b>-800.00</b>
<b>SALE OF LOTS TOTALS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>800.00</b>	<b>-800.00</b>

**FEDERAL GRANTS**

REVENUE	EST REV	ADJ EST REV	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
COMMUNITY BLOCK GRANT	0.00	0.00	35,337.81	-35,337.81
<b>REVENUE TOTALS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>35,337.81</b>	<b>-35,337.81</b>
<b>FEDERAL GRANTS TOTALS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-3,062.36</b>	<b>3,062.36</b>

**STATE GRANTS**

REVENUE	EST REV	ADJ EST REV	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
UNASSIGNED	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	-2000.00
OTHER STATE REVENUE	0.00	0.00	10,961.79	-10,961.79
<b>REVENUE TOTALS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>12,961.79</b>	<b>-12,961.79</b>

EXPENSE	ORIG BUDGET	ADJ BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
PUBLIC SAFETY	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	-2,000.00
PUBLIC WORKS	0.00	0.00	30,000.00	-30,000.00
HEALTH AND WELFARE	0.00	0.00	4,000.00	-4,000.00
CULTURE AND RECREATION	0.00	0.00	6,103.98	-3,103.98
<b>EXPENSE TOTALS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>42,103.98</b>	<b>-42,103.98</b>
<b>STATE GRANTS TOTALS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>29,142.19</b>	<b>-29,142.19</b>

**CPA FUND**

REVENUE	EST REV	ADJ EST REV	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
REAL ESTATE REVENUE	0.00	0.00	40,786.82	-40,786.82
TAX TITLE REVENUE	0.00	0.00	449.34	-449.34
FINES AND FOREFEITS	0.00	0.00	227.72	-227.72
OTHER STATE REVENUE	0.00	0.00	12,777.00	-12,777.00
<b>REVENUE TOTALS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>54,240.88</b>	<b>-54,240.88</b>

EXPENSE	ORIG BUDGET	ADJ BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	500.00	500.00	20,869.00	-20,369.00
<b>EXPENSE TOTALS</b>	<b>500.00</b>	<b>500.00</b>	<b>20,869.00</b>	<b>-20,369.00</b>
<b>CPA FUND TOTALS</b>	<b>-500.00</b>	<b>-500.00</b>	<b>33,371.88</b>	<b>-33,871.88</b>

**REVOLVING FUNDS**

REVENUE	EST REV	ADJ EST REV	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
FEES	0.00	0.00	15,632.50	- 15,632.50
DETAIL	0.00	0.00	64,524.15	- 64,524.15
OTHER DEPT. REVENUE	0.00	0.00	7,640.00	- 7,640.00
<b>REVENUE TOTALS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>11,202.00</b>	<b>-11,202.00</b>

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

FY 2015

EXPENSE	ORIG BUDGET	ADJ BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	0.00	0.00	109,688.49	-109,688.49
<b>EXPENSE TOTALS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>109,688.49</b>	<b>-109,688.49</b>
<b>REVOLVING FUNDS TOTALS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>21,891.84</b>	<b>-21,891.84</b>
<b>SEPTIC REPAIR FUND</b>				
REVENUE	EST REV	ADJ EST REV	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
	0.00	0.00	86.52	-86.52
	0.00	0.00	86.52	- 86.52
<b>REVENUE TOTALS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>86.52</b>	<b>-86.52</b>
<b>SEPTIC REPAIR FUNDS TOTALS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>86.52</b>	<b>-86.52</b>
<b>SMART GROWTH</b>				
REVENUE	EST REV	ADJ EST REV	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
	0.00	0.00	101.85	- 101.85
<b>REVENUE TOTALS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>101.85</b>	<b>-101.85</b>
<b>SMART GROWTH TOTALS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>101.85</b>	<b>- 101.85</b>
<b>CHAPTER 90</b>				
REVENUE	EST REV	ADJ EST REV	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
	0.00	0.00	581,726.41	- 581,726.41
<b>REVENUE TOTALS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>581,726.41</b>	<b>- 581,726.41</b>
EXPENSE	ORIG BUDGET	ADJ BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
PUBLIC WORKS	0.00	0.00	562,853.91	-562,853.91
<b>EXPENSE TOTALS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>562,853.91</b>	<b>- 562,853.91</b>
<b>CHAPTER 90 TOTALS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>18,872.50</b>	<b>- 18,872.50</b>
<b>GRADER</b>				
REVENUE	EST REV	ADJ EST REV	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
	0.00	0.00	350,000.00	-350,000.00
<b>REVENUE TOTALS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>350,000.00</b>	<b>-350,000.00</b>
EXPENSE	ORIG BUDGET	ADJ BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
PUBLIC WORKS	0.00	0.00	348,122.94	-348,122.94
<b>EXPENSE TOTALS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>348,122.94</b>	<b>-348,122.94</b>
<b>GRADER TOTALS</b>	<b>-0.00</b>	<b>-0.00</b>	<b>-1,877.06</b>	<b>-1,877.06</b>
<b>AMBULANCE ENTERPRISE</b>				
REVENUE	EST REV	ADJ EST REV	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
	0.00	0.00	13,419.76	-13,419.76
MISC REVENUE	0.00	0.00	54,760.00	- 54,760.00
<b>REVENUE TOTALS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>68,179.75</b>	<b>-68,179.76</b>
EXPENSE	ORIG BUDGET	ADJ BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
PUBLIC SAFETY	323,166.50	323,292.95	308,989.52	14,303.43
<b>EXPENSE TOTALS</b>	<b>323,166.50</b>	<b>323,292.95</b>	<b>308,989.52</b>	<b>14,303.43</b>

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

*FY 2015*

<b>AMBULANCE ENTERPRISE TOTALS</b>	<b>-323,166.50</b>	<b>-323,166.50</b>	<b>-240,809.76</b>	<b>-82,483.19</b>
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**NON EXPENDABLE TRUST**

REVENUE	EST REV	ADJ EST REV	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
FEES	0.00	0.00	600.00	-600.00
<b>REVENUE TOTALS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>600.00</b>	<b>-600.00</b>

EXPENSE	ORIG BUDGET	ADJ BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
PUBLIC WORKS	0.00	0.00	1,930.30	-1,930.30
<b>EXPENSE TOTALS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,930.30</b>	<b>-1,930.30</b>

<b>NON EXPENDABLE TRUST TOTALS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-1,330.30</b>	<b>1,330.30</b>
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**EXPENDABLE TRUST**

REVENUE	EST REV	ADJ EST REV	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
INTEREST EARNED	0.00	0.00	1,234.33	-1,234.33
<b>REVENUE TOTALS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,234.33</b>	<b>-1,234.33</b>

<b>EXPENDABLE TRUST TOTALS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,234.33</b>	<b>-1,234.33</b>
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**ROAD DISTRICT AGENCY**

REVENUE	EST REV	ADJ EST REV	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
REAL ESTATE REVENUE	0.00	0.00	3,493.50	3,493.50
TAX TITLE REVENUE	0.00	0.00	7,811.11	- 7,811.11
FINES AND FOREFEITS	0.00	0.00	2,112.25	-2,112.25
PENALTIES AND INTEREST	0.00	0.00	633.26	-633.26
PRO FORMA	0.00	0.00	17,539.32	-17,539.32
<b>REVENUE TOTALS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>31,589.44</b>	<b>- 31,589.44</b>

EXPENSE	ORIG BUDGET	ADJ BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	0.00	0.00	16,898.55	- 16,898.55
<b>EXPENSE TOTALS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>16,898.55</b>	<b>-16,898.55</b>

<b>ROAD DISTRICT AGENCY TOTALS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>14,690.89</b>	<b>-14,690.89</b>
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**AGENCY FUND**

REVENUE	EST REV	ADJ EST REV	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
	0.00	0.00	6,157.50	- 6,157.50
FEES	0.00	0.00	10,662.22	- 10,662.22
RETIRE HEALTH INSURANCE	0.00	0.00	13,178.48	-13,178.48
PISTOL PERMIT REVENUE	0.00	0.00	2,475.00	- 2,475.00
<b>REVENUE TOTALS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>32,473.20</b>	<b>-32,473.20</b>

EXPENSE	ORIG BUDGET	ADJ BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	DIFF
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	0.00	0.00	6,391.15	- 6,391.15
PUBLIC SAFETY	0.00	0.00	3,305.01	- 3,305.01
<b>EXPENSE TOTALS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>9,696.16</b>	<b>-9,696.16</b>

<b>AGENCY FUND TOTALS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>22,777.04</b>	<b>-22,777.04</b>
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<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>-5,870,452.50</b>	<b>-6,691,276.62</b>	<b>-185,322.88</b>	<b>-6,505,953.74</b>
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◆ **TOWN OF BECKET - COMBINED BALANCE SHEET** ◆

July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015

**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
<b><u>ASSETS</u></b>									
Cash	1,381,527.66	467,684.99	92,749.23	-11,405.65	4,378.84	279,950.29	121,143.56	0.00	233,6028.92
Property Taxes	280,038.44	1,512.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	281,551.26
Allowance for Abate & Exempt-393,595.41		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-393,595.41
Tax Liens	1,387,736.58	736.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,388,473.42
Motor Vehicle Excise	31,622.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	31,622.66
User Charges/Liens	11,193.51	3,939.98	0.00	0.00	256,567.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	271,701.09
Amts Prov for Pay of Bonds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	556,600.00	556,600.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>2,698,523.44</b>	<b>473,874.63</b>	<b>92,749.23</b>	<b>-11,405.65</b>	<b>260,946.44</b>	<b>279,950.29</b>	<b>121,143.56</b>	<b>556,600.00</b>	<b>4,472,381.94</b>
<b><u>LIABILITIES</u></b>									
Other Liabilities	4,861.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,861.67
Def Rev Prop Tax	-113,556.97	1,512.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-112,044.15
Def Rev Tax Liens	1,387,736.58	736.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,388,473.42
Def Rev MV Excise	31,622.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	31,622.66
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	11,193.51	3,939.98	0.00	0.00	256,567.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	271,701.09
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	556,600.00	556,600.00
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>1,321,857.45</b>	<b>6,189.64</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>256,567.60</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>556600.00</b>	<b>2,141,214.69</b>
<b><u>FUND BALANCES</u></b>									
Reserved for Encumbrances	336,583.97	77,075.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	413,658.97
Reserved for Expenditures	400,126.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	400,126.45
Designated	0.00	24,691.00	0.00	0.00	4,378.84	248,106.03	0.00	0.00	277,175.87
Undesignated	639,995.57	365,918.99	92,749.23	-11,405.65	0.00	31,844.26	121,143.56	0.00	1,240,205.96
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCES</b>	<b>1,376,665.99</b>	<b>467684.99</b>	<b>92749.23</b>	<b>-11405.65</b>	<b>4,378.84</b>	<b>279,950.29</b>	<b>121,143.56</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2,331,167.25</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; FUND BALANCES</b>	<b>2,698,523.44</b>	<b>473,874.63</b>	<b>92,749.23</b>	<b>-11,405.65</b>	<b>260,946.44</b>	<b>279,950.29</b>	<b>121,143.56</b>	<b>556,600.00</b>	<b>4,472,381.94</b>





◆ **WAGES PAID IN CALENDAR YEAR 2015** ◆

**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.	\$61,699.37
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**Board of Assessors**

Walter, Geraldine L.	\$26,796.10
Will, Elizabeth A.	44,664.75

**Treasurer**

Bleau, Christine D.	\$39,446.53
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**Tax Collector**

Bilodeau, Kenneth	52,492.00
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**Town Secretary/Assistant Tax Collector**

Weiler, Nina M.	\$ 43,698.13
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**Town Secretary**

Gilbert, Beverly A.	\$ 28,264.32
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**Office Assistant**

Swindlehurst, Madeleine	\$ 135.00
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**Town Clerk/Elections**

Roberts, George E.	\$27,838.21
Blake, Alvin V.	80.00
Bonney, Eva J.	80.00
Clemons, Patricia	240.00
Francis, Charles I.	185.00
Kay-Grace, Julia	105.00
Krawet, Ann L.	67.50
LaBelle, Gale L.	80.00
McEwen, Priscilla J.	42.50
VanNess, Elizabeth P.	185.00

**Police Department**

Gonska, Adam D.	\$ 10,720.45
Hunt, Michael	21,571.99
McDonough, Kristopher G.	59,680.36
Miller, Nicole M.	15,562.81
Miller, Tyler S.	11,639.16
Pettibone, Kenneth E.	11,766.14
Portieri, Marc J.	48,255.85
Sawyer, Michael F.	2,056.56
Virginia, Matthew	47,276.84

**Conservation Commission**

Evans, Shepley W.	\$ 10,232.72
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**Fire Chief/Chief Stipend & Fees**

Hanford, Mark A.	\$ 9,319.73
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**Ambulance Department**

Carr, Jennifer S.	\$ 4,111.91
Cawthron, Danny R.	5,820.60
Davidson, Erik R.	7,013.65
Edwards, Jr., David P.	2,957.44
Ferrin, Raymond E.	4,082.91
Garofoli, Vincent J.	39,458.86
Giarolo, Jessica	1,948.12
Hart, Hillary T.	7,078.60
Kibbe, Frances J.	31,691.88
Kupernik, James R.	52,903.41
Litourneau, George L.	15,720.58
Mechare, Joseph W.	49,878.64
Miller, Nicole L.	20,739.53
Murphy, Kevin	3,633.60
Regan, Shannon M.	510.82
Sorrentino, Victoria L.	2,357.76
Stanton, Diana L.	3,621.86
Taylor, Juli R.	15,359.99
Vivier, Edward V.	17,999.08

**Building Inspector**

Danko, Gary	\$ 1,636.19
Girard, William E.	49,840.49

**Public Safety Inspections**

Levernoch, Mark A.	\$ 3,105.00
LaPier, James	315.00
Spring, Dana	5,445.00
Middleton, Brian E.	540.00

**Highway Department**

Cooper, Robert R.	\$53,979.68
Fuller, George J.	42,837.84
Goodermote, Albert R.	55,366.30
Morawiec, Nathan E.	2,987.75
VanZandt, Jimmy S.	2,487.81
Waite, Jeffrey	56,264.15

**Highway Department/Transfer Station**

White, Mark D.	\$49,336.75
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◆ **WAGES PAID IN CALENDAR YEAR 2015** ◆

~ Continued ~

**Highway Department/Building & Grounds Technician**

Shorey, David O. \$ 51,999.73

**Highway Superintendent**

Bouchard, Christopher \$ 60,528.90

**Board of Health**

Burgwardt, Laurel L. \$ 5,702.53

**Animal Control Officer**

Goodermote, Albert \$ 7,241.07

**Animal Inspector**

Elovirta, Madelaine \$ 312.00

**Veterans' Agent**

Mann, Lloyd D. \$ 1,996.68

**Cemetery**

Cavanaugh, William F. \$ 11,039.90

Smith, Michelle S. 975.11

Williams, Dean R. 4,861.56

**Transfer Station**

Hoppe, Siegfried B. \$ 11,113.28

Moylan, Alfred E. 1,797.60

**Clerk of Committees**

Hunt, Heather \$ 26,155.72

**Recreation Program & Lifeguards**

Baker, Matthew \$ 168.00

DeFoe, Michaela C. 3,118.50

Grenspan, Zachary M. 3,144.50

Pease, Jamie 2,190.00

**Accountant**

McClellan, Margaret A. \$ 22,633.96

**Vocational School Bus Driver**

Sharp, Keith J. \$ 12,860.16

**Harbor Master**

Rosenthal, Steven \$ 600.00

**Fire Department Stipend**

Atwell, James R. \$ 550.00

Bergeron, Jr., Aurele 550.00

Elovirta, Justin R. 550.00

Elovirta, Madelaine 550.00

Elovirta, William H. 550.00

Giarolo, Jessica 550.00

Goebel, Gene R. 550.00

Healey, Robert 550.00

Healey, Jr., Robert 550.00

Isner, Christopher A. 550.00

Johnson, Robert L. 550.00

Massini, Kristopher M. 550.00

Mikanicwicz, Paul A. 550.00

Ozner, Michael 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?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**Signature**

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**Date**

## NOTES



***Commemorative Tree Planting Ceremony – Parade Grounds***  
*Senator Ben Downing, Selectman Bill Elovirta, Selectman Jeanne Pryor*  
*and Master of Ceremony Bruce Garlow June 21, 2015.*  
 Photo by Sandi Jarvis



***Obelisk Dedication - Ballou Memorial Park***  
*Honoring Veterans of the Revolutionary War, War of 1812*  
*and Civil War with Civil War Reenactors posing at the*  
*May 25, 2015 Memorial Day Ceremony. Photo by Joy Lennartz*



***Jacob's Pillow Day***  
*Becket Musicians Jamboree. June 13, 2015. Photo by Sandi Jarvis*



***Becket Historic Forest and Quarry Tours***  
 Photo by H. David Stein