

# ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

## Town of Becket Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**Berkshire, ss.**

To either of the Constables of the Town of Becket in said County of Berkshire,

### **Greetings:**

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Becket, who are qualified to vote in town affairs to meet in the BECKET WASHINGTON SCHOOL, 12 Maple Street, Becket, on the 13<sup>th</sup> Day of May, 2017, at 7:00 P.M., for the following purposes:

**Article 1:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$165.00 to fund the following bills from previous fiscal years:

Vendor	Date	Amount
Carr Hardware (Equipment Rental Bldg. & Grounds)	4/6/2016	\$ 165.00

<b>Board of Selectmen:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	<b>4/5 Vote Required</b>
<b>Finance Committee:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	

**Article 2:** To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to Chapter 41, section 108 of the General Laws, to fix the compensation of the Board of Selectmen at \$2,040 each and pursuant to Chapter 41, section 4A of the General Laws, to allow the following boards to employ their members at the listed hourly rates.

- 1.) Board of Health at the rate of \$14.85 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 \$14.85 per hour for the performance of their duties as Cemetery Commission members in maintaining the cemeteries that is in excess of their meeting time.

<b>Board of Selectmen:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	<b>Majority Vote Required</b>
<b>Finance Committee:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	

**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 2018 Fiscal Year as set forth in the following line items:

	TOWN of BECKET FY2018	BUDGET APPROVED FY2017	BUDGET REQUEST FY2018	FIN COMM SELECTMEN RECOMMENDED	Percent INCREASE (DECREASE)
4	<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>				
5	TOWN COUNSEL	\$18,000.00	\$21,000.00	\$18,000.00	0.00%
6	TOWN MEETING EXPENSES	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	0.00%
7	SELECTMEN'S SALARIES	\$6,000.00	\$6,120.00	\$6,120.00	2.00%
8	SELECTMEN'S EXPENSES	\$2,000.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	-10.00%
9	ADVERTISING	\$3,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	28.57%
10	TOWN SECRETARY	\$39,108.24	\$42,785.60	\$42,785.60	9.40%
11	TOWN ADMIN. SALARY	\$64,639.26	\$64,639.26	\$68,500.00	5.97%
12	TOWN ADMIN. EXPENSE	\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00	\$1,400.00	-17.65%
13	FINANCE COMMITTEE	\$650.00	\$650.00	\$650.00	0.00%
14	ASSESSORS SALARIES	\$73,825.68	\$73,178.37	\$72,178.37	-2.23%
15	ASSESSORS EXPENSE	\$62,090.00	\$63,610.00	\$63,610.00	2.45%
16	TOWN TREASURER SALARY	\$43,363.84	\$44,229.12	\$44,229.12	2.00%
17	TOWN TREASURER EXP.	\$5,530.00	\$5,530.00	\$5,530.00	0.00%
18	TAX COLLECTOR SALARY	\$54,308.88	\$55,390.40	\$55,390.40	1.99%
19	TAX COLLECTOR EXPENSE	\$7,580.00	\$7,580.00	\$7,580.00	0.00%
20	ASSIST. TAX COLLECTOR	\$45,205.20	\$46,108.40	\$46,108.40	2.00%
21	TOWN CLERK SALARY	\$27,516.84	\$28,055.04	\$28,055.04	1.96%
22	TOWN CLERK EXPENSE	\$2,145.00	\$2,145.00	\$2,145.00	0.00%
23	ELECTION-REGISTRATION	\$14,274.15	\$11,102.00	\$11,102.00	-22.22%
24	CLERK OF COMMITTEES		\$32,756.87	\$32,756.87	#DIV/0!
25	CONSERVATION COMM.	\$14,310.00	\$22,150.00	\$19,894.00	39.02%
26	PLANNING BOARD EXPENSE	\$7,202.65	\$7,202.65	\$2,224.81	-69.11%
27	REGIONAL PLAN COM.	\$1,316.24	\$1,349.15	\$1,349.15	2.50%
28	BOARD of APPEALS	\$3,510.00	\$3,510.00	\$1,500.00	-57.26%
29	RESERVE FUND	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$35,000.00	-12.50%
30	<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT TOTAL</b>	<b>\$541,275.98</b>	<b>\$590,591.86</b>	<b>\$575,908.76</b>	<b>6.40%</b>
32	<b>HIGHWAY</b>				
33	SUMMER LABOR	\$215,720.10	\$222,319.59	\$222,319.59	3.06%
34	TRANSFER STATION LABOR	\$28,489.76	\$30,017.76	\$30,017.76	5.36%
35	<b>LABOR SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$244,209.86</b>	<b>\$252,337.35</b>	<b>\$252,337.35</b>	<b>3.33%</b>
36	WINTER ROAD SALARIES	\$146,879.30	\$149,543.13	\$149,543.13	1.81%
37	<i>Sand</i>	\$8,200.00	\$8,400.00	\$8,400.00	2.44%
38	<i>Stone Chips</i>	\$13,350.00	\$13,650.00	\$13,650.00	2.25%
39	<i>Salt</i>	\$46,800.00	\$47,900.00	\$47,900.00	2.35%
40	<i>Plow Blades</i>	\$4,250.00	\$4,300.00	\$4,300.00	1.18%
41	<i>Cold Patch</i>	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	0.00%
42	<i>Parts</i>	\$3,150.00	\$3,200.00	\$3,200.00	1.59%
43	<i>Sander Chains</i>	\$4,200.00	\$4,300.00	\$4,300.00	2.38%
44	<i>Bagged Deicer</i>		\$0.00	\$0.00	#DIV/0!
45	<b>WINTER ROADS (TOTAL)</b>	<b>\$81,150.00</b>	<b>\$82,950.00</b>	<b>\$82,950.00</b>	<b>2.22%</b>
46	<b>WINTER ROADS SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$228,029.30</b>	<b>\$232,493.13</b>	<b>\$232,493.13</b>	<b>1.96%</b>

		BUDGET	BUDGET	FIN COMM	Percent
		APPROVED	REQUEST	SELECTMEN	INCREASE
		FY2017	FY2018	RECOMMENDED	(DECREASE)
47					
48					
49					
50	Inspections	\$912.00	\$912.00	\$912.00	0.00%
51	Tires	\$8,800.00	\$8,900.00	\$8,900.00	1.14%
52	Oil/Lubricants	\$3,400.00	\$3,450.00	\$3,450.00	1.47%
53	Repairs/Equipment	\$31,000.00	\$19,000.00	\$19,000.00	-38.71%
54	Parts/Supplies	\$18,540.00	\$27,500.00	\$27,500.00	48.33%
55	Welding Supplies	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	0.00%
56	Radios	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	0.00%
57	Scanner Updates		\$825.00	\$825.00	#DIV/0!
58	Fleet Software Maintenance and Updates		\$2,200.00	\$2,200.00	#DIV/0!
59	Tools/Safety	\$825.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	263.64%
60	Purchase Vehicle Scan Equipment (Updates)	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	-100.00%
61	<b>MACHINERY ACCOUNT (TOTAL)</b>	<b>\$69,477.00</b>	<b>\$68,787.00</b>	<b>\$68,787.00</b>	<b>-0.99%</b>
62	Fuel	\$87,750.00	\$87,750.00	\$87,750.00	0.00%
63	Operator Contract	\$1,850.00	\$1,850.00	\$1,850.00	0.00%
64	Maintenance/Repair	\$2,575.00	\$2,900.00	\$2,900.00	12.62%
65	DEF Fluid	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	#DIV/0!
66	<b>FUEL ACCOUNT (TOTAL)</b>	<b>\$92,175.00</b>	<b>\$94,500.00</b>	<b>\$94,500.00</b>	<b>2.52%</b>
67	Mowing	\$2,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	-40.00%
68	Line Painting	\$10,180.00	\$10,430.00	\$10,430.00	2.46%
69	Gravel/Stone	\$38,500.00	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00	16.88%
70	Hot Mix Patch	\$15,200.00	\$15,600.00	\$15,600.00	2.63%
71	Rental Equipment	\$1,650.00	\$1,650.00	\$1,650.00	0.00%
72	Signs	\$3,200.00	\$3,200.00	\$3,200.00	0.00%
73	Culverts	\$3,100.00	\$3,100.00	\$3,100.00	0.00%
74	Beaver Maintenance	\$2,800.00	\$2,800.00	\$2,800.00	0.00%
75	Guardrail	\$1,600.00	\$1,650.00	\$1,650.00	3.13%
76	Crack Seal	\$15,000.00	\$15,350.00	\$15,350.00	2.33%
77	Catch Basin Cleaning	\$4,600.00	\$4,700.00	\$4,700.00	2.17%
78	Sweeping	\$7,300.00	\$7,480.00	\$7,480.00	2.47%
79	Hand Tools	\$730.00	\$730.00	\$730.00	0.00%
80	Misc.	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	0.00%
81	Road Improvement (Formerly Recon Gravel)	\$51,000.00	\$51,000.00	\$51,000.00	0.00%
82	<b>GENERAL MAINT MAT. &amp; EQUIP. (TOTAL)</b>	<b>\$158,960.00</b>	<b>\$165,790.00</b>	<b>\$165,790.00</b>	<b>4.30%</b>
83	Legal Ads	\$900.00	\$900.00	\$900.00	0.00%
84	Drug Testing	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	0.00%
85	License Reimbursement	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	0.00%
86	Repairs/Supplies	\$3,100.00	\$3,100.00	\$3,100.00	0.00%
87	Berkshire County Purchasing Group	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	0.00%
88	Office Supplies	\$640.00	\$640.00	\$640.00	0.00%
89	Education & Training	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	0.00%
90	Meeting/Dues Expenses	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	0.00%
91	Safety Gear	\$2,550.00	\$2,550.00	\$2,550.00	0.00%
92	<b>HIGHWAY GARAGE (TOTAL)</b>	<b>\$10,990.00</b>	<b>\$10,990.00</b>	<b>\$10,990.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

		BUDGET	BUDGET	FIN COMM	Percent
		APPROVED	REQUEST	SELECTMEN	INCREASE
		FY2017	FY2018	RECOMMENDED	(DECREASE)
96	Rental Compactor	\$3,000.00	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00	20.00%
97	Rental Open Container (2)	\$1,800.00	\$2,700.00	\$2,700.00	50.00%
98	Trucking Compactor	\$6,300.00	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00	11.11%
99	Trucking Open Container	\$5,400.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	11.11%
100	Trucking Cans & Bottles	\$4,200.00	\$4,620.00	\$4,620.00	10.00%
101	Trucking Scrap Metal	\$2,520.00	\$2,800.00	\$2,800.00	11.11%
102	Trucking Paper Cardboard	\$3,000.00	\$3,300.00	\$3,300.00	10.00%
103	Trucking Rigid Plastics		\$2,640.00	\$2,640.00	#DIV/0!
104	Trucking Fuel Surcharge	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	0.00%
105	Disposal Solid Waste	\$24,000.00	\$24,300.00	\$24,300.00	1.25%
106	Disposal Bulky Waste	\$15,200.00	\$15,390.00	\$15,390.00	1.25%
107	Disposal Haz Mat	\$3,200.00	\$3,250.00	\$3,250.00	1.56%
108	Chemicals	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	0.00%
109	Permits	\$1,850.00	\$1,850.00	\$1,850.00	0.00%
110	MRF education	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	0.00%
111	Maintenance	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	0.00%
112	<b>TRANSFER STATION COSTS (TOTAL)</b>	<b>\$73,770.00</b>	<b>\$80,750.00</b>	<b>\$80,750.00</b>	<b>9.46%</b>
113	<b>MATERIALS AND SERVICES SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$405,372.00</b>	<b>\$420,817.00</b>	<b>\$420,817.00</b>	<b>3.81%</b>
114	<b>HIGHWAY TOTAL</b>	<b>\$877,611.16</b>	<b>\$905,647.48</b>	<b>\$905,647.48</b>	<b>3.19%</b>
115	CENTER CEMETERY	\$4,604.52	\$4,696.62	\$4,696.62	2.00%
116	NORTH CEMETERY	\$11,289.64	\$11,515.44	\$11,515.44	2.00%
117	WEST CEMETERY	\$1,273.46	\$1,298.94	\$1,298.94	2.00%
118	<b>CEMETERIES TOTAL</b>	<b>\$17,167.62</b>	<b>\$17,511.00</b>	<b>\$17,511.00</b>	<b>#REF!</b>
119	TREE ACCOUNT	\$10,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	50.00%
120	<b>FORESTRY TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>	<b>\$15,000.00</b>	<b>\$15,000.00</b>	<b>50.00%</b>
121					
122	<b>EDUCATION</b>				
123	CBRSD OPERATING ASSESSMENT	\$1,897,741.00	\$2,041,390.00	\$2,041,390.00	7.57%
124	VOCATIONAL TUITION	\$193,116.00	\$221,013.00	\$221,013.00	14.45%
125	VOCATIONAL TRANSPORT.	\$56,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$45,000.00	-19.64%
126	<b>TOTAL EDUCATION</b>	<b>\$2,146,857.00</b>	<b>\$2,312,403.00</b>	<b>\$2,307,403.00</b>	<b>7.48%</b>
127					
128	<b>PROTECT. PERSON &amp; PROP</b>				
129	POLICE DEPT. SALARIES	\$290,914.96	\$319,810.64	\$319,810.64	9.93%
130	POLICE DEPT. EXPENSE	\$17,950.00	\$21,276.00	\$15,876.00	-11.55%
131	HARBOR MASTER	\$1,414.00	\$1,426.00	\$1,426.00	0.85%
132	OUTREACH	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	0.00%
133	CONSTABLE EXPENSE	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	0.00%
134	FIRE CHIEF STIPEND	\$4,083.54	\$4,165.24	\$4,165.00	1.99%
135	FIRE DEPT. EXPENSES	\$30,000.00	\$30,600.00	\$30,600.00	2.00%
136	FIRE CALL STIPEND	\$15,400.00	\$14,000.00	\$14,000.00	-9.09%
137	FORESTRY FIRE DEPT. TOOLS & EQUIP.	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	0.00%
138	BUILDING INSP. SALARY	\$51,356.24	\$52,595.84	\$52,595.84	2.41%
139	BUILDING & CODE INSP. EXP	\$3,272.00	\$2,215.00	\$2,215.00	-32.30%
140	DEMOLITION FUND	\$18,000.00	\$19,800.00	\$19,800.00	10.00%
141	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT EXPENSES	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	0.00%

		BUDGET APPROVED FY2017	BUDGET REQUEST FY2018	FIN COMM SELECTMEN RECOMMENDED	Percent INCREASE (DECREASE)
145	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TRAINING	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	0.00%
146	ANIMAL CONTROL SALARIES	\$8,041.26	\$8,041.26	\$8,041.26	0.00%
147	ANIMAL CONTROL EXPENSES	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	0.00%
148	<b>PERSON &amp; PROP. TOTAL</b>	<b>\$447,232.00</b>	<b>\$480,729.98</b>	<b>\$475,329.74</b>	<b>6.28%</b>
149	<b>HEALTH &amp; SANITATION</b>				
150	E911 COMMUNICATION	\$11,606.62	\$11,954.82	\$11,954.82	3.00%
151	INSPECTOR of ANIMALS	\$324.74	\$331.23	\$331.23	2.00%
152	SOUTH BERK. SOLID WASTE	\$8,000.00	\$8,328.15	\$8,328.15	4.10%
153	BOARD of HEALTH SALARIES	\$17,850.00	\$25,500.00	\$9,180.00	-48.57%
154	BOARD of HEALTH EXPENSES	\$18,500.00	\$23,160.00	\$25,160.00	36.00%
155	NURSING SERVICES	\$4,962.00	\$4,962.00	\$4,962.00	0.00%
156	VETERANS AGENT SALARY	\$2,056.64	\$2,097.84	\$2,097.84	2.00%
157	VETERANS AGENT EXPENSE	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	0.00%
158	VETERANS BENEFITS	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$28,000.00	-6.67%
159	<b>HEALTH &amp; SANITATION TOTAL</b>	<b>\$93,400.00</b>	<b>\$106,434.04</b>	<b>\$90,114.04</b>	<b>-3.52%</b>
160	<b>UNCLASSIFIED EXPENSES</b>				
161	OUTSIDE PAYROLL SERVICES	\$4,830.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	3.52%
162	TOWN ACCOUNTANT SALARIES	\$23,416.92	\$23,885.26	\$23,885.26	2.00%
163	TOWN ACCOUNTANT EXPENSES	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	0.00%
164	GENERAL INSURANCE	\$114,200.00	\$116,484.00	\$116,484.00	2.00%
165	STAFF COVERAGE	\$6,500.00	\$5,000.00	\$3,200.00	-50.77%
166	MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS LABOR	\$46,290.96	\$47,216.78	\$47,216.78	2.00%
167	MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS EXPENSES	\$58,515.00	\$58,515.00	\$54,975.00	-6.05%
168	MUNICIPAL BUILDING REPAIRS	\$11,500.00	\$10,000.00	\$9,500.00	-17.39%
169	SOFTWARE MAINT. AGREEMENT	\$23,096.31	\$24,167.33	\$24,167.33	4.64%
170	MUNICIPAL UTILITIES	\$69,000.00	\$69,000.00	\$61,000.00	-11.59%
171	STREET LIGHTS	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$8,500.00	-5.56%
172	WIRED WEST	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	0.00%
173	TOWN REPORTS	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	0.00%
174	POSTAGE	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	0.00%
175	COUNCIL on AGING	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	0.00%
176	PARKS & RECREATION	\$20,000.00	\$32,000.00	\$30,000.00	50.00%
177	WEED CENTER POND	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	0.00%
178	HISTORICAL COMMISSION	\$1,662.00	\$2,157.00	\$2,157.00	29.78%
179	INTEREST on SHORT-TERM DEBT	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	0.00%
180	COUNTY RETIREMENT	\$203,669.00	\$201,455.00	\$201,455.00	-1.09%
181	HEALTH INSURANCE	\$409,000.00	\$425,360.00	\$425,360.00	4.00%
182	PAYROLL TAX ACCOUNT	\$24,150.00	\$26,082.00	\$26,082.00	8.00%
183	LIBRARY	\$46,700.00	\$47,868.00	\$47,868.00	2.50%
184	MEMORIAL DAY	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	0.00%
185	CHILDRENS HOLIDAY PARTY		\$500.00	\$500.00	#DIV/0!
186	UNEMPLOYMENT EXPENSE	\$8,500.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	-41.18%
187	<b>UNCLASSIFIED EXPENSES TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,106,130.19</b>	<b>\$1,134,790.37</b>	<b>\$1,118,450.37</b>	<b>1.11%</b>
188	<b>OPERATING TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,239,673.95</b>	<b>\$5,563,107.73</b>	<b>\$5,505,364.39</b>	<b>5.07%</b>

Board of Selectmen:      Recommends  
Finance Committee:      Recommends

Majority Vote Required

Becket Washington School	\$ 103,171.00	EPF 2025
Nessacus Regional Middle School	\$ 2,415.00	EPF 2018
Wahconah Regional High School	\$ 7,947.00	EPF 2029
Wahconah Regional High School Sidewalks	\$ 905.00	EPF 2022
Kittredge School MSBA Windows	\$ 321.00	EPF 2022
District Security	\$ 955.00	EPF 2025
Dump Truck (Highway Department)	\$ 52,608.00	EPF 2021
Loader (Highway Department)	\$ 60,200.00	EPF 2020
Grader (Highway Department)	\$ 117,740.00	EPF 2018
Wahconah Regional High School Feasibility Study	\$ 861.00	

**Article 5:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$208,671.00 to fund the Stabilization Fund for Fiscal Year 2018.

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

**Article 7:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$385,574.00, for the salaries (\$338,444.00) and expenses (\$47,130.00) of the Ambulance Enterprise Fund and to fund said appropriation:

**Article 8:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$18,500.00 for an audit of the FY2017 financial records.

**Article 9:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$48,145.00 to reduce the amount of the FY2017 Snow and Ice deficit.

**Article 10:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 for legal, advertising and related costs to process tax delinquent accounts.

**Article 11:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 for capital repairs and improvements at the Becket Athenaeum in order for Library Services to be provided to town residents.

<b>Board of Selectmen:</b>	<b>Recommend</b>	<b>Majority Vote Required</b>
<b>Finance Committee:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	

**Article 12:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$5,350.00 for the upgrade and improvement of replacing the front door, foundation repair and refurbish the stairs at the Becket Arts Center.

<b>Board of Selectmen:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	<b>Majority Vote Required</b>
<b>Finance Committee:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	

**Article 13:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$38,000.00 to purchase, replace and install the two furnaces at Fire Station #1.

<b>Board of Selectmen:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	<b>Majority Vote Required</b>
<b>Finance Committee:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	

**Article 14:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$48,000.00 for the purchase of a new truck for Buildings and Grounds.

<b>Board of Selectmen:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	<b>Majority Vote Required</b>
<b>Finance Committee:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	

**Article 15:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from the Overlay Surplus Fund the sum of \$35,000 for the purpose of the demolition of the house at 21 Maple Street and decommissioning the well and septic system along with filling, grading and seeding the hole from the cellar foundation.

<b>Board of Selectmen:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	<b>Majority Vote Required</b>
<b>Finance Committee:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	

**Article 16:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$39,911.00 for the purpose of reducing the fiscal year 2018 tax rate.

<b>Board of Selectmen:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	<b>Majority Vote Required</b>
<b>Finance Committee:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	

**Article 17:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$6,900.00 to improve the erosion control and add a drainage swale and sand at the Town Beach

<b>Board of Selectmen:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	<b>Majority Vote Required</b>
<b>Finance Committee:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	

**Article 18:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$12,200 for the purchase and installation of a replacement telephone system and telephones at Town Hall.

<b>Board of Selectmen:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	<b>Majority Vote Required</b>
<b>Finance Committee:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	

**Article 19:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$5,000.00 to purchase a new replacement mower and grass catcher for the North Becket Cemetery.

<b>Board of Selectmen:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	<b>Majority Vote Required</b>
<b>Finance Committee:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	

**Article 20:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$5,000.00 to index, print and bind the Town By Laws.

<b>Board of Selectmen:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	<b>Majority Vote Required</b>
<b>Finance Committee:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	

**Article 21:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$250,000.00 to purchase a new Ambulance for the Ambulance Department, and to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow the sum of \$250,000.00 for said appropriation under applicable sections of Chapter 44 of the General Laws, and authorize the Board of Selectmen to trade or sell or otherwise dispose of the 2011 Ford F450 Ambulance.

<b>Board of Selectmen:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	<b>2/3 Vote Required</b>
<b>Finance Committee:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	

**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:	\$10,000.00
	Gas Inspector:	\$10,000.00
	Wiring Inspector:	\$15,000.00
<b>Board of Selectmen:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	<b>Majority Vote Required</b>
<b>Finance Committee:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	

**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 2018, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation:

Appropriations:

From FY 2018 estimated revenues to Committee Administrative Expenses	\$500.00
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Reserves:

From FY 2018 estimated revenues to Historical Resources Reserve	\$ 4,859.00
From FY 2018 estimated revenues to Community Housing Reserve	\$ 4,859.00
From FY 2018 estimated revenues to Open Space Reserve	\$ 4,859.00
From FY 2018 estimated revenues to Undesignated Reserve	\$34,011.00

**Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee**

<b>Board of Selectmen:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	<b>Majority Vote Required</b>
<b>CPA Committee:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	
<b>Finance Committee:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	

**Article 24:** To see if the Town will vote to Transfer \$5,000.00 from the Historical Preservation Reserve Account and \$30,000.00 from the Undesignated Reserve Account of the Becket Community Preservation Fund for the carpentry repairs and exterior repainting of the Becket Arts Center (a Town owned building) said funds to be expended under the direction of the Becket Community Preservation Committee and the Board of Directors of the Becket Arts Center.

**Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee**

<b>Board of Selectmen:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	<b>Majority Vote Required</b>
<b>CPA Committee:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	
<b>Finance Committee:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	

**Article 25:** To see if the Town will vote to Transfer \$3,500.00 from the Historical Resources Reserve Account of the Becket Community Preservation Fund for the purchase of two historic antique paintings of the Deweys (Abel & Lydia Birchard Dewey) said funds to be expended under the direction of the Becket Community Preservation Committee and the Becket Historical Commission.

**Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee**

<b>Board of Selectmen:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	<b>Majority Vote Required</b>
<b>CPA Committee:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	
<b>Finance Committee:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	



**Article 26:** To see if the Town will vote to Transfer \$29,000.00 from the Community Housing Reserve Account of the Becket Community Preservation Fund for matching funds to be used for a Community Development Block Grant for Housing Rehabilitation said funds to be expended under the direction of the Becket Community Preservation Committee and the Becket Board of Selectmen.

**Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee**

<b>Board of Selectmen:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	<b>Majority Vote Required</b>
<b>CPA Committee:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	
<b>Finance Committee:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	

**Article 27:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Becket By-Laws, Article 17 -- Town Betterment By-Law by adding a new Section 22-VACANT PROPERTIES as shown on a document on file with the Town Clerk and on the Town Website:

See Handout. Section 22 - Vacant Properties

**Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen & the Bylaw Review Committee**

<b>Board of Selectmen:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	<b>Majority Vote Required</b>
<b>Finance Committee:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	

**Article 28:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Becket By-Laws, Article 20 – Dog Control By-Law as shown on a document on file with the Town Clerk:

See Handout amended Dog Control By-Law.

**Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen & the Bylaw Review Committee**

<b>Board of Selectmen:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	<b>Majority Vote Required</b>
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**Article 29:** Withdrawn

**Article 30: ZONING ARTICLE:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Becket Zoning By-Laws by adding the following subsection 4.2.11 Driveways to the existing Dimensional Requirements section codifying existing practices, as 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).

**The proposed change intended to reduce ambiguity in the application of driveway regulations throughout the community given the many different state, town, and district agencies and associations involved in the permitting process.**

**Formative changes that are codified and contextual are as follows:**

**Driveways:** Driveway access to public and private ways is permitted by right with concurrence of the State's, Town's or District's Highway/Superintendent and in case where this is not possible applicants may apply for a Special Permit from the Planning Board.

**Access/Location/Site Distances:** All driveways shall be constructed in a manner ensuring reasonable and safe access from the road servicing to within or less than one hundred (100) feet from the building or residential structure. Driveways shall maintain clear site line distance especially at intersections for the safety of vehicles and pedestrians and shall not be located within eighteen (18) feet of a sideline.

**Road-Line Angle/Grade/Distance:** The intersection with the road line shall not be less than 90 degrees for a distance of twenty (20) feet into the lot and the grade shall not exceed three (3%) in this area.

**Width/Surface/Drainage:** Driveways shall have minimum cleared width of (twelve) 12 feet at the entrance to the road for the first twenty (20) feet, be construct of approved graded material. Water from the driveway shall not drain on the road or abutter property.

**Environmental/Maintenance/Numbering:** Any adjacent disturbed areas during construction of a driveway shall be stabilized and planted with ground cover prior to completion. Residential address numbers shall be clearly displayed at the intersection of the driveway entrance with the road. Maintenance of the driveway curb cut shall be maintained to the satisfaction of the approving authority.

And by amending the Becket Zoning Bylaws **Table of Contents SECTION 4.0, DIMENSIONAL REQUIREMENTS, by adding a new subsection 4.2.11 Driveway Permits.**

See Driveway Permits Handout  
**Sponsored by the Planning Board**

**2/3 Vote Required**

**Planning Board:                Recommends**  
**Board of Selectmen:        Does Not Recommend**

**Article 31: Petitioned Article:** We, the undersigned citizens of Becket, Massachusetts:

To see if the Town will vote to approve the following Declaration:

Be it known that the Town of Becket is a compassionate community whose residents respect the rights, dignity, and integrity of its citizens and visitors. As a welcoming community, we celebrate diversity, honor privacy and safety, and affirm and promote equality for all.

And furthermore, to instruct the Board of Selectmen to send a copy of this Declaration to our Senators and Representatives in Congress and in the Massachusetts Legislature; the Governor of the Commonwealth; and to be posted at Town buildings and on the Town website.

**Lead Petitioner: W. Katherine Hoak**

**Board of Selectmen:        Recommends**

**Majority Vote Required**

**Article 32: Petitioned Article:** We, the undersigned citizens of Becket, Massachusetts:

To see if the Town will Vote to authorize the Selectmen to petition the Legislature to enact amendments to the special act numbered as Chapter 380 of the Acts of 1982 and entitled “AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE Sherwood FOREST ROAD MAINTENANCE DISTRICT IN THE TOWN OF BECKET.”; a copy of which has been provided to the Board of Selectmen, is on file with the Town Clerk, and is attached hereto as “Exhibit A” and made part of this Warrant; provided that the Legislature may reasonably vary the form and substance of the requested legislation within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition; or take any action relative thereto.

**Lead Petitioner: Steven Rosenthal**

See Sherwood Forest Road Maintenance District “Exhibit A” Special Legislation Amendment handout.

**Majority Vote Required**

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You are also required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Becket who are qualified to vote in Town elections, to meet at Precinct 1 in Becket Town Hall at 557 Main Street, Becket on Saturday, May 20, 2017 from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM then and there to bring in their votes for the election of the following Town Officers:

To cast their votes in the ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION for the election of candidates for the following offices:

<b>1 MEMBER, BOARD OF SELECTMEN (3-year term)</b>	<b>Vote for One</b>
<b>1 MEMBER, BOARD OF HEALTH (3-year term)</b>	<b>Vote for One</b>
<b>1 CEMETERY COMMISSIONER (3-year term)</b>	<b>Vote for One</b>
<b>1 MEMBER, FINANCE COMMITTEE (3-year term)</b>	<b>Vote for One</b>
<b>1 MEMBER, PLANNING BOARD (5-year term)</b>	<b>Vote for One</b>
<b>1 MEMBER, PLANNING BOARD (4-year term)</b>	<b>Vote for One</b>
<b>1 MODERATOR (3-year term)</b>	<b>Vote for One</b>
<b>1 TOWN CLERK (3-year term)</b>	<b>Vote for One</b>

All of said officers to be voted for on the official ballots furnished at the polls. The polls will be opened at 10:00 AM and closed at 7:00 PM.

And you are further directed to serve this warrant by posting attested copies of the same at the usual places designated by the town seven days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

Hereof fail not, and make due return of this warrant with your doings thereon at the time and place of said meeting.

Given under our hands this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

_____	<b>Selectmen</b>
William H. Elovirta	
_____	<b>of</b>
Jeanne W. Pryor	
_____	<b>Becket</b>
Nicole D. Ledoux	

I have served this warrant as directed above.

Attest \_\_\_\_\_ Becket, Massachusetts \_\_\_\_\_

Constable

(Date)

## **WARRANT ARTICLE EXPLANATIONS-FY2018**

**Stabilization Fund: \$703,684.15**

**Ambulance Enterprise Stabilization: \$40,000.00**

**Certified Free Cash Available: \$417,342.00**

**Certified Ambulance Free Cash Available: \$17,537.00**

### **Article 1:**

This Article is for the payment of bills which were incurred in a previous fiscal year. There is one bills totaling \$165.00 which the Town has been made aware of which was submitted by Carr Hardware for rental equipment for last fiscal year. The invoice was sent to a different department than the one who used the equipment. A 4/5 Vote is required to pass this Article and allow payment of this invoice.

### **Article 2:**

According to State Law, Town Meeting must “fix” or set the rate of pay received by elected officials. This Article sets the rate of pay for members of the Board of Selectmen at \$2,040.00 each per year, which is the same as the rate for the current fiscal year, and allows the elected members of the Board of Health and Cemetery Commission to perform work for their respective boards at the rate of \$14.85 per hour which contains a 2% Cost of Living Adjustment.

### **Article 3:**

This Article constitutes the Municipal Budget for Fiscal Year 2017. The budget has been developed jointly by the Finance Committee, Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator who all are in agreement on the specific line item amounts. Major points of the budget include the following:

- Town employee’s wages are based on all employees receiving a 2% Cost of Living Adjustment. However, there is one (1) less day in the FY 2018 payroll year as there was during the FY 2017 payroll scheduled year.
- The Town’s operating assessment from the Central Berkshire Regional School District has increased 7.57 % or \$143,649 this year which has caused considerable constraints in the Town’s fiscal year 2018 budget. We are one of the only communities who is showing a rise in school enrollment.
- The Town Secretary’s salary also reflects a change of job duties and increase responsibilities as of January 1, 2017 primarily due to the requirements of the new Massachusetts Public Records Law.
- The Clerk of Committee’s position salary has been changed to be reflected in one line item (new account) this year. This position was previously funded through the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Board of Health and staff Coverage accounts. Those accounts have been reduced proportionally for the upcoming fiscal year to reflect the transfer of funds into one account.
- We are expecting an increase of two additional students attending Vocational High School for the 2017 – 2018 school year. This is an increase of \$14.45 % or \$27,897.
- Election-Registration account is decreased this fiscal year due to the reduced number of elections and primaries.
- Reserve Fund is reduced by \$5,000 for the upcoming fiscal year for unforeseen expenses due to the unusual budget constraints.

- Conservation account is increased due to the request for increased hours for the Conservation Agent due to increased activity and filing of applications and Notices of Determination. This will increase the average hours for the Conservation Agent to 17.5 per week.
- The cost for Highway Department Summer Labor and Winter Road Salaries increased to include the 2% COLA. Due to the breakdown of how the summer and winter hours fall into the payroll schedule the actual increase may vary slightly from 2%
- Highway Department Machinery account is decreased slightly this year due to less planned repairs to the equipment. The funding to repair the backhoe was done in the FY 2017 budget.
- The Highway Department Fuel account has increased slightly due to the increase in the required fuel system monitoring costs.
- Highway Department General Maintenance Material and Equipment account has been increased this year due to a planned increase in the amount of Gravel/Stone to be purchased for the maintenance of gravel roads. This account was severely underfunded and an effort is being made to increase this account up to \$45,000 over a period of four years.
- Transfer Station Expenses has increased due to expected increased trucking costs and anticipated increases for a new contract with a vendor for services supplied to operate the Transfer Station.
- Tree Account is increased as in addition to trees in the public way the Town also removes trees in our parks and cemeteries when necessary.
- Police Department Salaries is increased this year due to having one full time officer in the Police Academy for twenty-six weeks. This will require the payment of salary to the officer while in the Academy as well as another officer during the same time frame to be on duty. We are hopeful that this will be a one-time occurrence and won't happen again for a number of years.
- Police department Expenses decreased slightly mainly due to payment for tuition into the full-time Police Academy will occur during the current fiscal year and not during FY 2018.
- Demolition Fund budget has increased slightly due to the requirement to do asbestos surveys before demolishing buildings.
- Call Fire Stipends is decreased slightly this year due to a decrease in the number of volunteer firefighters who are expected to be eligible for the stipend after a successful recruiting year for volunteer firefighters. To be eligible to receive this stipend the volunteers must attend 50% of the meetings and 50% of the fire calls.
- Building and Code Inspectors Expense has decreased due to the fact that the purchase of the newest edition of the revised Building Code Manual was done in the current 2017 fiscal year and will not have to be repeated.
- Board of Health Expenses has increased due to the increased workload of inspections and enforcement for the Health Agent who is contracted to work for the Board of Health through the Berkshire Health Alliance.
- Veterans Benefits has increased due to additional Veterans who are eligible for benefits. The Town receives a reimbursement of 75% of the costs of these benefits from the State in the fiscal year after the benefits have been paid.
- General Insurance (property, casualty and workers comp.) has received a slight increase mainly due to an increase in our property values.

- Municipal Building Expenses has been decreased slightly for FY 2018 due to the budgetary constraints.
- Municipal Utilities has been decreased to reflect the decrease in the electricity usage rates through our newly negotiated contract for electricity supply.
- Parks and Recreation has requested an increase due to pay increases for summer help, additional hours for guards at the access of the Town Beach and a new Yoga program along with replacement of picnic tables.
- Health Insurance has increased primarily due to a 4.00% increase in rates. The range of increases for the program we participate in for municipalities this year was from a low of four percent to a high of eleven percent.
- County Retirement has a slight decrease for this fiscal year due to the predetermined funding requirement and the actuarial study performed for Berkshire County Retirement.

Article 4:

This Article provides for the annual bond payments due for debt previously approved by the Town for the specific purposes noted. EFP = Ending Fiscal Year Final Payment.

Article 5:

The Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee strongly recommended that a substantial portion of this year's Certified Free Cash be appropriated back to the Stabilization fund. The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee believe it is important to have a substantial balance in the Stabilization Fund to protect against unexpected circumstances and maintain a strong financial position which helps reduce borrowing costs. The Finance Committee has recommended a Financial Reserve Policy which the Board of Selectmen has approved recommending that 50% of the Town's Certified Free Cash each year be appropriated into the Stabilization Fund. The current balance including appropriations from last year is \$703,684.15. If this Article passes, the balance would increase to \$912,355.15. A majority vote is required for this article.

Article 6:

This article allows the Town to expend Chapter 90 funds provided by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the improvement of local roads.

Article 7:

This Article provides funding for the Ambulance Department for the previously approved Ambulance Enterprise Fund for fiscal year 2018 by using \$270,574 of property taxes and \$115,000.00 from Ambulance receipts for a total of \$385,574.

Article 8:

This article will appropriate \$18,500 to have an Auditing Firm perform an audit of the Town's Fiscal Year 2017 financial records.

Article 9: This article will appropriate and transfer \$48,145.00 from Free Cash to reduce the amount of the FY 2017 Snow and Ice deficit.

Article 10:

This Article will provide funding for the legal, advertising, and related costs of acquiring those properties which are in tax title and are delinquent in paying their property taxes. Once acquired, the Town will then dispose of them through auction to put them back on the tax rolls.

Article 11:

This article seeks funding of \$10,000 for capital repairs and improvements at the Becket Athenaeum. Funding for these purposes are being requested separately from operating expenses to assure that this amount is not utilized in

the Athenaeum operating budget for calculating the minimum amount of effort required by the Commonwealth to maintain certification and state funding.

Article 12:

This Article would provide funding for the Becket Arts Center (a Town owned building) for the upgrade and improvement of replacing the front door, repairing the foundation and refurbishing the stairs to the second floor in the amount of \$5,350. This funding is requested to be transferred from Free Cash.

Article 13:

This Article will provide funding in the amount of \$38,000 to purchase, replace and install two furnaces and change the heating system to propane from oil at Fire Station #1. Funding for this Article is requested to be transferred from Free Cash.

Article 14:

This Article authorizes the purchase of a new truck in the amount of \$48,000. This vehicle will replace the existing 2007 Chevy Silverado for the Building and Grounds Department. The 2007 Chevy Silverado will be transferred to the Highway Department for the use of the Town Mechanic to pick up parts. Funding for this purchase is requested to be transferred from Free Cash.

Article 15:

This Article authorizes \$35,000 for the demolition of the house at 21 Maple Street (a Town owned property) and decommissioning the well and septic systems along with filling, grading and seeding the hole from the cellar foundation. Funding for this purchase is requested to be transferred from the Overlay Surplus Fund.

Article 16:

This Article authorizes the transfer of \$39,911 from Free Cash for the purpose of reducing the FY 2018 tax rate.

Article 17:

This Article would provide funding in the amount of \$6,900 for materials to improve the erosion control and add a drainage swale and sand at the Town Beach. Funding for this improvement is requested to be transferred from Free Cash.

Article 18:

This Article authorizes the purchase/replacement of the telephone answering and voicemail system as well as the telephones in Town Hall in the amount of \$12,200. The current telephone system is beyond the end of its useful life and when parts are still available for repairs they are not warrantied. Funding for this replacement is requested to be transferred from Free Cash.

Article 19:

This Article seeks funding in the amount of \$5,000 for the purchase of a new replacement mower and grass catcher for the North Becket Cemetery. The current mower and engine have required a good deal of repairs to keep it functioning over the past several years. Funding to replace this mower is requested to be transferred from Free Cash.

Article 20:

This article seeks funding in the amount of \$5,000 for the purpose of indexing, printing and binding of the Town By-Laws. This appropriation has been requested by the Bylaw Review Committee. It is my understanding that it has been quite a number of years since this was last done. Funding for this is requested to be transferred from Free Cash.

Article 21:

This article seeks funding for the purchase of a new Ambulance for the Ambulance Department to be housed at Fire Station #2/Ambulance Garage in the amount of \$250,000. The article will authorize the borrowing of \$250,000 for the purchase of the new Ambulance for replacement of the existing 2011 Ford F450 vehicle. The Selectmen will trade, sell or otherwise dispose of the existing 2011 F450 Ambulance. A 2/3 Vote is required.

#### Article 22:

This Article would reauthorize the three (3) Revolving Accounts which would provide for Public Safety inspections (wiring, plumbing and gas) to be paid out of the appropriate Revolving Account. This method allows more flexibility to account for activity in such inspections and allows the part time inspectors to be paid from the funds collected from applicants for wiring, plumbing and gas permits. The amounts noted are only to set a maximum level which can be received and paid each year in each of the funds and do not involve a direct appropriation. As such, these funds have no impact on the tax rate. These funds must be authorized annually.

#### Article 23:

As required by the Community Preservation Act (CPA), this Article authorizes an initial designation of an estimated \$49,088 in Community preservation Funds as follows: Administrative Expenses - \$500, \$4,859 or ten (10) percent for a Reserve in each of the three (3) required categories (Historical Preservation, Community Housing, and Open Space) and the remainder \$34,011 to an Undesignated Reserve for later designation.

#### Article 24:

The Community Preservation Committee has recommended that a total of \$35,000 in Community Preservation funds (\$5,000 from the Historical Preservation Reserve and \$30,000 from the Undesignated Reserve) be approved for the carpentry repairs and exterior scraping and painting at the Becket Arts Center (a Town owned building) at 7 Brooker Hill Road.

#### Article 25:

The Community Preservation Committee has recommended that a total of \$3,500 in Community Preservation funds (all \$3,500 from the Historical Resources Reserve) be approved for the purchase of two antique historic paintings one of Abel Dewey and one of Lydia Birchard Dewey, who have historic significance to the Town of Becket. The paintings once acquired will be displayed in Becket Town Hall.

#### Article 26:

The Community Preservation Committee has recommended that a total of \$29,000 in Community Preservation funds (all \$29,000 from the Community Housing Reserve) be approved for the use by the Board of Selectmen as matching funds for a Community Development Block Grant application to be used for Housing Rehabilitation by Becket residents. The funds available from the federal government if Becket is awarded this grant are \$600,000.

#### Article 27:

This Article is an addition to the Town of Becket By-Laws sponsored by the Bylaw Review Committee. This addition to Article 17 Town Betterment By-Law of the Town By-Laws will add a new Section 22 to protect the health, safety and welfare of the Town and its residents by requiring all owners of vacant properties to register them with the town and provide for the maintenance of these properties.

On 10/14/15, the Bylaw Review Committee discussed a Draft addition to Town Bylaws, Article 21-Vacant Properties that the Board of Selectmen agreed should be reviewed and worked on by the Bylaw Review Committee. It was originally proposed by the Building Inspector a number of years ago. Bill Girard, Building Inspector, attended a Bylaw Review Committee meeting to explain the process for inspections of vacant and abandoned properties and to answer questions. The intent of the Bylaw is for compliance and not punishment.

A Public Hearing regarding an addition to Town Bylaws, Article 21-Vacant Properties was held on September 14, 2016, at which time comments were received. The Bylaw Review Committee discussed these comments at their October 19th and November 16, 2016 meetings and addressed the concerns expressed at the hearing:

- Definition of the terms: vacant property (does not include seasonal absences), blight, local as 20 miles
- Concern about the requirement that utilities be shut off at properties vacant for six months or more and the provision that only a street address may be used for an owner registering a property, rather than a postal box.
- Notification to the property owner and whether it would be by certified mail.
- Would complaints have to be in writing?
- Fee for registering the property
- The bylaw should be explicit that work under a valid building permit would be exempt.



These concerns were incorporated into the proposed Bylaw and it was decided to add this as a new Section to Article 17 Town Betterment By-Law rather than creating a new separate Article for this Amendment. Proposed amendment is available at the Town Hall and on the Town website.

Article 28:

This Article is an amendment to the Town of Becket By-Laws, Article 20 Dog Control By-Law. The State Legislature updated the State Statutes pertaining to Dog or Animal Control laws and requirements of a local Animal Control Officer a few years back. The Bylaw Review Committee has spent considerable time and effort in updating our local By-Law so that this amendment (although fairly substantial) would be modernized and in compliance and conformity with these new Massachusetts statutes. Proposed amendment is available at the Town Hall and on the Town website.

Article 29:

Withdrawn.

Article 30:

This is a Zoning By-Law amendment sponsored by the Planning Board which would amend the existing Dimensional Requirements for Driveway permits in subsection 4.2.11. This amendment is sponsored by the Planning Board and addresses driveway access to public and private ways, access/location and site distances for the location of said driveways width/surface and drainage of construction of driveways, environmental impacts to the area a driveway is constructed and maintenance of the driveway curb cut and numbering of the residence. A special permit may be required from the Planning Board where conformance with these regulations is not possible. Proposed amendment is available at the Town Hall and on the Town website.

Article 31:

This is a petitioned Article requesting that Town Meeting designate Becket as a compassionate community whose residents respect the rights of its citizens and visitors and is a welcoming community. If so designated the Board of Selectmen shall notify the federal and state delegation and Governor to such as well as posting at Town buildings and on the town website. Lead Petitioner is W. Katherine Hoak.

Article 32:

This is a petitioned Article requesting that the Town vote to authorize the Board of selectmen to petition the Legislature to enact amendments to the special act numbered 380 of the Acts of 1982 and entitled "AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SHERWOOD FOREST ROAD MAINTENANCE DISTRICT IN THE TOWN OF BECKET." Proposed amendment is available at the Town Hall in the Town Clerk's office and on the Town website. Lead Petitioner is Steven Rosenthal.

***The Annual Town Report will be available on and after May 1, 2017 on the Town website at [www.TownofBecket.org](http://www.TownofBecket.org) If you are a Becket resident and should you wish to have an Annual Town Report mailed to you please request so in writing addressed to the Town Secretary at the Becket Town Hall, 557 Main Street, Becket, MA. 01223.***