

TOWN OF BECKET

TOWN COUNSEL POLICY

1. Access to Town Counsel

All requests for access to Town Counsel by governmental bodies, town officials, and department heads shall be made through the Town Administrator.

2. Oral Advice

Requests for oral advice or guidance from Town Counsel shall be approved by the Town Administrator.

3. Requests for Written Opinions or Access for Litigation Matters

Written opinions or advice from Town Counsel or requests for access to Town Counsel for ongoing or imminently threatened litigation may be requested only upon the recorded vote of a governmental body or the written request of a town official. Such requests shall be made through the Town Administrator. No town official can be defended, nor can he/she bring suit through the town counsel's office, without the approval of the Board of Selectmen.

4. Petitioner's Articles

The Town Administrator is available to consult with registered voters who have been identified as the lead petitioner and desire to submit or who have submitted an article for consideration at an annual or special town meeting, as a "petitioner's article" without sponsorship of a town board. The Town Administrator may consult with Town Counsel to (1) suggest language that reflects the petitioner's legislative intent in presenting articles for insertion in the warrant and (2) prepare the main motion for Town Meeting.

5. Town Meeting/Election Warrants

The Board of Selectmen shall have all warrant articles and ballot questions reviewed by Town Counsel.

(Approved by the Board of Selectmen May 15, 2013)