

TOWN OF BECKET

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING



SATURDAY, May 8, 2021

7:00 P.M.

**BECKET WASHINGTON SCHOOL
12 MAPLE STREET
BECKET, MASSACHUSETTS**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLE 1 COMPENSATION3

ARTICLE 2 FY 2022 OPERATING BUDGET3

ARTICLE 3 DEBT SERVICE6

ARTICLE 4 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES7

ARTICLE 5 TRANSFER TO THE STABILIZATION FUND7

ARTICLE 6 ACCEPTANCE OF CHAPTER 90 FUNDS.....8

ARTICLE 7 AMBULANCE BUDGET8

ARTICLE 8 AMBULANCE STABILIZATION8

ARTICLE 9 REVOLVING FUNDS8

ARTICLE 10 LOCAL OPTION SPECIAL INJURY LEAVE INDEMNITY FUND9

ARTICLE 11 PAYMENT OF PRIOR YEAR BILL9

ARTICLE 12 RESCIND AUTHORIZED, UNISSUED DEBT9

ARTICLE 13 PARKING TICKET FINE CHANGE.....9

ARTICLE 14 FY 2022 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION AUTHORIZATION10

ARTICLE 15 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING FOR WALKING PATH.....10

ARTICLE 16 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING FOR ENERGY UPGRADES.....10

ARTICLE 17 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION10

ARTICLE 18 LOCAL OPTION EXCISE TAX EXEMPTION.....11

ARTICLE 19 CITIZEN PETITION: ENGINE BRAKE BYLAW11

ARTICLE 20 ANNUAL ELECTION.....12

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 BECKET WASHINGTON SCHOOL, 12 Maple Street, Becket, on the 8th Day of May 2021, at 7:00 P.M., for the following purposes:

ARTICLE 1 COMPENSATION

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to Chapter 41, section 108 of the General Laws, to fix the compensation of the Select Board at \$2,215 each and pursuant to Chapter 41, section 4A of the General Laws, to allow the following boards to employ their members at the listed hourly rates.

Board of Health at the rate of \$16.15 per hour for the performance of their duties as Board of Health members that is in excess of their meeting time.

Cemetery Commission at the rate of \$16.15 per hour for the performance of their duties as Cemetery Commission members in maintaining the cemeteries that is in excess of their meeting time; or take any other action relative thereto.

Summary: This article sets the compensation of elected officials.

MOTION: Move that the Town set wage and salary rates for municipal boards and commissions as presented in Article 1 of the Warrant for the May 8, 2021 Annual Town Meeting.

Select Board: Recommended Majority Vote Required
Finance Committee: Recommended

ARTICLE 2 FY 2022 OPERATING BUDGET

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate such sums of money as may be needed to defray the expense of the Town for the 2022 Fiscal Year; or take any other action relative thereto.

Summary: This article the Town's operating budget for Fiscal Year 2022. The line items are listed below. This will establish a tax rate around \$12.00.

MOTION: Move that the Town raise and appropriate \$7,039,413 for the Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2022 (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022).

Select Board: Recommended Majority Vote Required
Finance Committee: Recommended

Table with 7 columns: Item Number, Category, FY20 Actuals, FY21 ATM Approved, FY22 Recommended, \$ Change, % Change. Rows include General Government items like Advertising, Select Board Salaries, Select Board Expenses, Town Meeting Expenses, Town Admin. Salary, Town Admin. Expenses, Staff Coverage, Clerk of Committees, Finance Committee, Town Accountant Salaries, Outside Payroll Services, and Town Accountant.

	EXPENSES					
13	ASSESSORS SALARIES	67,152	68,000	65,000	(3,000)	-4.6%
14	ASSESSORS EXPENSE	58,793	71,000	70,000	(1,000)	-1.4%
15	TOWN TREASURER SALARY	46,452	47,387	48,335	948	2.0%
16	TOWN TREASURER EXP.	1,839	5,000	5,000	-	0.0%
17	TAX COLLECTOR SALARY	57,850	59,070	60,251	1,181	2.0%
18	ASSIST. TAX COLLECTOR	48,145	49,161	50,144	983	2.0%
19	TAX COLLECTOR EXPENSE	5,888	8,280	8,280	-	0.0%
20	TAX TITLE EXPENSES	53,454	30,000	30,000	-	0.0%
21	TOWN ADMIN ASST	46,510	47,502	48,452	950	2.0%
22	TOWN COUNSEL	30,025	20,000	20,000	-	0.0%
23	AUDIT EXPENSES	13,000	23,000	23,000	-	0.0%
24	POSTAGE	7,336	12,000	12,000	-	0.0%
25	TOWN REPORTS	3,120	3,500	3,500	-	0.0%
26	TOWN CLERK SALARY	29,188	29,918	30,516	598	2.0%
27	TOWN CLERK EXPENSE	1,752	2,145	2,145	-	0.0%
28	ELECTION-REGISTRATION	5,667	19,580	15,000	(4,580)	-30.5%
29	CONSERVATION COMM.	15,337	22,410	20,000	(2,410)	-12.1%
30	PLANNING BOARD EXPENSES	3,839	2,500	2,500	-	0.0%
31	ZONING BOARD of APPEALS	238	1,500	1,500	-	0.0%
32	BRPC	1,417	1,900	1,900	-	0.0%
33	MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS LABOR	49,774	50,288	51,294	1,006	2.0%
34	MUNICIPAL UTILITIES	40,212	57,000	55,000	(2,000)	-3.6%
35	MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS EXPENSES	19,079	31,975	31,975	-	0.0%
36	BROADBAND	1,338	2,500	2,000	(500)	-25.0%
37	BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS	31,584	35,000	35,000	-	0.0%
38	TECHNOLOGY	22,641	35,000	35,000	-	0.0%
39	RESERVE FUND		50,000	50,000	-	0.0%
40	General Government Total	805,308	944,219	937,936	(6,283)	-0.7%
	PUBLIC SAFETY					
41	POLICE DEPT. SALARIES	338,852	347,278	405,007	57,729	14.3%
42	POLICE DEPT. EXPENSE	16,964	20,000	21,000	1,000	4.8%
43	EM. MGMT EXP.	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	0.0%
44	EM. MGMT. TRAINING	-	1,000	1,000	-	0.0%
45	CONSTABLE EXPENSE	-	300	300	-	0.0%
46	FIRE DEPT. SALARIES/ CHIEF	7,300	7,483	7,633	150	2.0%
47	FIREFIGHTER STIPENDS	8,400	14,000	14,000	-	0.0%
48	FIRE DEPT. EXPENSES	22,665	37,000	37,000	-	0.0%
49	E911 COMMUNICATION	12,683	13,064	13,456	392	2.9%
50	BUILDING INSP. SALARY	54,636	55,000	55,000	-	0.0%
51	BUILDING & CODE INSP. EXP	5,055	2,215	2,350	135	5.7%
52	ANIMAL CONTROL SALARIES	4,933	5,638	5,751	113	2.0%
53	ANIMAL CONTROL EXPENSES	2,494	2,500	2,500	-	0.0%
54	HARBOR MASTER	1,713	1,474	1,474	-	0.0%
55	DEMOLITION FUND	21,215	25,000	25,000	-	0.0%
56	Public Safety Total	497,910	532,952	592,470	59,518	10.0%
	EDUCATION					
57	CBRSD OPERATING ASSESSMENT	2,308,156	2,318,893	2,392,842	73,949	3.1%
58	VOCATIONAL TUITION	180,249	185,000	190,000	5,000	2.6%
59	VOCATIONAL TRANSPORT.	45,918	75,000	75,000	-	0.0%
60	Education Total	2,534,323	2,578,893	2,657,842	78,949	3.0%
	FORESTRY					

61	TREE ACCOUNT	6,670	15,300	15,000	(300)	-2.0%
62	FORESTRY	-	500	500	-	0.0%
63	Forestry Total	6,670	15,800	15,500	(300)	-1.9%
	HIGHWAY					
64	SALARIES & WAGES	234,098	241,000	245,820	4,820	2.0%
65	SUMMER LABOR	-	16,800	16,800	-	
66	Salaries and Wages Subtotal	234,098	257,800	262,620	4,820	1.8%
67	General Maintenance Subtotal	150,222	179,800	176,000	(3,800)	-2.2%
68	Machinery Subtotal	66,563	71,950	71,950	-	0.0%
69	Fuel Subtotal	72,365	95,500	91,750	(3,750)	-4.1%
70	Highway Garage Subtotal	13,242	16,150	16,000	(150)	-0.9%
71	Winter Roads Total	250,363	241,825	246,662	4,837	2.0%
72	HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT TOTAL	786,854	863,025	864,982	1,957	0.2%
73	STREET LIGHTS	9,979	9,000	9,000	-	0.0%
74	Street Lights Total	9,979	9,000	9,000	-	0.0%
	TRANSFER STATION					
75	Transfer Station Labor	30,164	37,714	38,657	943	2.4%
76	Rental Compactor		13,200	13,200	-	0.0%
77	Rental Open Container (2)		4,500	4,500	-	0.0%
78	Trucking Compactor		10,500	11,375	875	7.7%
79	Trucking Open Container		8,250	9,000	750	8.3%
80	Trucking Cans & Bottles		6,300	6,825	525	7.7%
81	Trucking Scrap Metal		3,600	4,550	950	20.9%
82	Trucking Paper Cardboard		4,500	4,875	375	7.7%
83	Trucking Rigid Plastics		3,600	3,600	-	0.0%
84	Trucking Fuel Surcharge		1,400	1,400	-	0.0%
85	Disposal Solid Waste		28,200	30,000	1,800	6.0%
86	Disposal Bulky Waste		17,860	18,000	140	0.8%
87	Recycling Cans, Bottles, Paper		9,500	9,500	-	0.0%
88	Disposal Haz Mat		10,000	10,000	-	0.0%
89	Chemicals		300	300	-	0.0%
90	Permits		1,850	1,850	-	0.0%
91	MRF education		100	100	-	0.0%
92	Maintenance		1,500	1,500	-	0.0%
93	Inspections/Testing		2,500	2,500	-	0.0%
94	Total Expenses	124,806	127,660	133,075	5,415	4.1%
95	Transfer Station Total	154,970	165,374	171,732	6,358	3.7%
96	S. BERKSHIRE SOLID WASTE	5,900	3,200	3,260	60	1.8%
	CEMETERIES					
97	BECKET CENTER CEMETERY	4,944	5,000	5,000	-	0.0%
98	NORTH CEMETERY	19,781	16,500	16,500	-	0.0%
99	WEST CEMETERY	1,572	800	800	-	0.0%
100	Cemeteries Total	26,297	22,300	22,300	-	0.0%
	HEALTH & COMMUNITY SERVICES					
101	BOARD of HEALTH SALARIES	2,866	9,500	9,500	-	0.0%
102	BOARD of HEALTH EXPENSES	29,540	33,500	33,500	-	0.0%
103	INSPECTOR of ANIMALS	345	357	364	7	1.9%
104	NURSING SERVICES	3,826	5,200	5,200	-	0.0%

105	COUNCIL on AGING	4,748	3,500	3,500	-	0.0%
106	OUTREACH	-	500	500	-	0.0%
107	VETERANS AGENT SALARY	2,140	2,194	2,194	-	0.0%
108	VETERANS BENEFITS	34,529	38,500	35,000	(3,500)	-10.0%
109	VETERANS AGENT EXPENSE	-	100	100	-	0.0%
110	BECKET ARTS CENTER		10,000	10,000	-	0.0%
111	Health & Community Services Total	77,994	103,351	99,858	(8,493)	-9.0%
	LIBRARY					
112	LIBRARY	50,292	51,550	52,581	1,031	2.0%
113	CHILDRENS HOLIDAY PARTY	500	500	500	-	0.0%
114	Library Total	50,792	52,050	53,081	1,031	1.9%
	PARKS AND RECREATION					
115	WEED CENTER POND	2,500	3,000	3,000	-	0.0%
116	PARKS & RECREATION	34,505	30,610	30,610	-	0.0%
117	Parks & Recreation Total	37,005	33,610	33,610	-	0.0%
	HISTORICAL COMMISSION					
118	HISTORICAL COMMISSION	2,580	2,000	2,000	-	0.0%
119	Historical Commission Total	2,580	2,000	2,000	-	0.0%
	MEMORIAL DAY				-	
120	MEMORIAL/VETERANS DAY	910	1,500	1,500	-	0.0%
121	Memorial/Veterans Day Total	910	1,500	1,500	-	0.0%
	BENEFITS					
122	HEALTH/LIFE INSURANCE	388,388	425,000	457,213	32,213	7.0%
123	COUNTY RETIREMENT	219,163	237,932	253,604	15,672	6.2%
124	PAYROLL TAX ACCOUNT	25,143	27,700	28,254	554	2.0%
125	UNEMPLOYMENT EXPENSE	4,020	5,000	5,000	-	0.0%
126	GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE	121,532	123,000	125,460	2,460	2.0%
127	OPEB LIABILITY		15,000	15,000	-	0.0%
128	Benefits Total	758,245	833,632	884,531	50,899	5.8%
129	TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET	5,755,736	6,160,906	6,349,601	183,695	2.9%
	FUNDED THROUGH WARRANT ARTICLES					
	DEBT SERVICE					
130	Town & School Debt Service	406,613	504,318	384,812	(119,506)	-31.1%
	AMBULANCE					
131	From the General Fund	290,000	305,000	305,000	-	0.0%
132	TOTAL GENERAL FUND BUDGET INCLUDING WARRANT ARTICLES	6,452,349	6,970,224	7,039,413	64,189	0.9%

ARTICLE 3

DEBT SERVICE

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$384,812 to fund debt service due in Fiscal Year 2022 for the following previously approved borrowings:

Debt	FY2022 Amount	Maturity Date
Becket Washington School	\$95,863	FY2025
Wahconah RHS Doors	\$6,605	FY2029

Wahconah Sidewalks	\$760	FY2022
Kittredge School MSBA Windows	\$125	FY2022
Craneville Roof	\$310	FY2023
Craneville Air Handler	\$78	FY2022
Wahconah RHS New Construction	\$126,981	FY2047
District Security	\$916	FY2025
Highway Truck and Plow	\$65,000	FY2025
Broadband	\$86,674	-
Interest on Short Term Debt	\$1,500	-

Summary: *This article has the debt payments for borrowed funds for the Schools and Town.*

MOTION: Move that the Town raise and appropriate \$384,812 to pay principal and interest on school and Town debt for Fiscal 2022.

Select Board:

Recommended

Finance Committee

Recommended

Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 4

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds including free cash (FC) and overlay surplus (OS), borrowing premium (BP), Stabilization (ST), or borrow the sum of \$132,000, or any other sum, to be used to fund the Fiscal Year 2022 Capital Plan for the Town of Becket. This plan consists of the following items:

Project	Amount
Pavilion – Maple Street Park	\$5,000 (FC)
Town Hall HVAC/Renovation	\$15,000 (FC)
Town Hall Pavilion Extension	\$20,000 (\$10,406 BP) (\$9,594 FC)
Fire Department Hose and SCBA Equipment	\$20,000 (FC)
Highway Truck #5	132,000 (Borrow)
High Truck #5 Payment	\$44,858 (FC)
Town Hall Emergency Generator	\$35,000 (ST)

Summary: *This article is the capital expenditures for the upcoming year and the project and cost are described in the chart above.*

MOTION: Move that the Town transfer \$94,452 from Free Cash, \$10,406 in Borrowing Premiums, \$35,000 from Stabilization, and authorize the Treasurer to borrow up to \$132,000, for a total of \$227,000 to be used in the Fiscal Year 2022 Capital Plan.

Select Board:

Recommended

Finance Committee

Recommended

2/3 Vote Required

ARTICLE 5

TRANSFER TO THE STABILIZATION FUND

To see if the Town transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$100,000 to be deposited into the Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

Summary: *This article is the transfer of funds from Free Cash to the Stabilization Account. The Town’s policy is to transfer 50% of Free Cash into the Stabilization Account. The Stabilization Account balance is just over \$1 million.*

MOTION: Move that the Town transfer \$100,000 from certified Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund.

Select Board:

Recommended

Finance Committee:

Recommended

Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 6 ACCEPTANCE OF CHAPTER 90 FUNDS

To see if the Town will accept any monies appropriated by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation for Chapter 90 use; these funds to be used for maintenance and reconstruction of Town roads and to fund the appropriation by transferring said amounts from available funds with any unspent funds to carry over from year to year until spent by the Town; these sums to be reimbursed to the Town by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in accordance with Chapter 90 of the Massachusetts General Laws; or take any other action relative thereto.

Summary: This article allows the Town to accept Chapter 90 funds for road improvements. The Town receives about \$240,000 annually from the state.

MOTION: Move that the Town accept the grant of Chapter 90 funds for Fiscal Year 2022 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Select Board: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommended

ARTICLE 7

AMBULANCE BUDGET

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$445,000 for the salaries and expenses of the Ambulance Enterprise; and to fund said appropriation, to raise and appropriate \$305,000, use \$10,000 from Ambulance Stabilization, and to transfer \$130,000 from Fiscal Year 2021 Ambulance Receipts; or take any other action relative thereto.

Summary: This article is the operating budget for the Ambulance Department and includes both salaries and expenses. This year there are three funding sources for the Ambulance Department. The Stabilization balance is roughly \$120,000.

MOTION: Move that the Town raise and appropriate \$305,000, transfer \$10,000 from Ambulance Stabilization, and transfer \$130,000 from Ambulance Receipts to fund operations of the Ambulance Enterprise in Fiscal Year 2022.

Select Board: Recommended
Required

Two Thirds Vote

Finance Committee: Recommended

ARTICLE 8

To see if the Town will transfer the ambulance retained earnings funds sum of \$63,940 to the ambulance stabilization account; or take any other action relative thereto.

Summary: Retained Earnings are excess funds specifically from the Ambulance Department and in years that there are no capital expenditures, the balance is placed into stabilization.

MOTION: Move that the Town transfer the ambulance retained earnings funds in the sum of \$63,940 to the ambulance stabilization account.

Select Board: Recommended
Finance Committee: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 9

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 or take any other action relative thereto.

Summary: *This article sets the spending limits for revolving accounts utilized by the Town.*

MOTION: Move that the Town 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:

Program or Purpose	FY 2022 Spending Limit
Ambulance Training	\$10,000
Ambulance Details	\$15,000
Plumbing Inspector	\$10,000
Wiring Inspector	\$15,000
Gas Inspector	\$10,000
Police Details	\$20,000

Select Board: Recommended

Finance Committee: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 10 LOCAL OPTION SPECIAL INJURY LEAVE INDEMNITY FUND

To see if the Town will accept the provisions of G.L. c. 41, §111F (Paragraph 4) to establish a Special Injury Leave Indemnity Fund for the purpose of paying injury leave compensation and medical bills incurred by police officers and firefighters; or take any other action relative thereto.

Summary: *This article is to allow the Town set up a special revenue account for public safety officials injured on duty. The Town is reimbursed (50%) by insurance for injured on duty claims.*

MOTION: Move that the Town accept the provisions of G.L. c. 41, §111F (Paragraph 4) to establish a Special Injury Leave Indemnity Fund for the purpose of paying injury leave compensation and medical bills incurred by police officers and firefighters.

Select Board: Recommended

Finance Committee: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 11 PAYMENT OF PRIOR YEAR BILL

To see if the Town will transfer from Free Cash a sum of \$461.78 to pay a prior year bill (FY20) for the salary of the Animal Control Officer, or take any other action relative thereto.

Summary: *This article is to pay the Animal Control Officer’s payroll request which was received after 7/1/20.*

MOTION: Move that the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash a sum of \$461.78 to pay Fiscal Year 2020 Animal Control Officer Salary.

Select Board: Recommended

Finance Committee: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 12 RESCIND AUTHORIZED, UNISSUED DEBT

To see if the Town will vote to rescind the authorization for unissued debt that has been determined is no longer needed for the completion of various projects; or otherwise act thereon.

Summary: *This article is to remove the borrowing authorization for the Ambulance funds that were unused in the FY2019 purchase.*

MOTION: Move that the Town rescind the authorization for unissued debt for the ambulance totaling \$32,247.35 that has been determined is no longer needed, as approved at the May 13, 2017 Annual Town Meeting.

Select Board: Recommended

Finance Committee: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 13 PARKING TICKET FINE CHANGE

To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 17, Section 6 of the Town of Becket Bylaws by striking the fine of ten (10) dollars and replacing it with twenty-five (25) dollars; or otherwise act thereon.

Summary: *The Town seeks to increase the parking fine from \$10 to \$25. This has been a particular issue for illegal parking at the beach and the quarry.*

MOTION: Move that the Town amend Article 17, Section 6 of the Town of Becket Bylaws by striking the fine of ten (10) dollars and replacing it with twenty-five (25) dollars.

Select Board: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommended
Planning Board: Recommended

ARTICLE 14 FY 2022 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION AUTHORIZATION

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or reserve from Community Preservation Fiscal Year 2022 estimated annual revenues the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for Committee administrative expenses, community preservation projects and other expenses in Fiscal Year 2022, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation, all as set forth below:

Appropriations:

Committee Administrative Expenses \$500

Reserves:

Historical Resources Reserve \$4,259

Community Housing Reserve \$4,259

Open Space Reserve \$4,259

Undesignated Reserve \$29,316

Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee

Summary: This article authorizes and appropriates collected funds into the statutory groups.

MOTION: Move that the Town appropriate or reserve from Fiscal Year 2022 Community Preservation estimated annual revenues the amounts set forth in Article 14 of the Warrant for the May 8, 2021 Annual Town Meeting.

Select Board: Recommended Majority Vote Required
CPA Committee: Recommended
Finance Committee: Recommended

ARTICLE 15 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING FOR WALKING PATH

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$10,000 from Community Preservation Open Space Reserves for the creation of Esau's Heel walking path at Jacob's Well; or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee

Summary: This article is to approve \$10,000 for a walking path at Jacob's Well.

MOTION: Move that the Town transfer the sum of \$10,000 from the Community Preservation Open Space Reserves for the creation of Esau's Heel walking path at Jacob's Well.

Select Board: Recommended Majority Vote Required
CPA Committee: Recommended
Finance Committee: Recommended

ARTICLE 16 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING FOR ENERGY UPGRADES

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$21,887 from the Community Preservation Undesignated Funds to install insulation and window inserts at the Becket Arts Center Building; or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee

Summary: This article is to approve funding for energy efficiency upgrades at the Arts Center.

MOTION: Move that the Town transfer the sum of \$21,887 from the Community Preservation Undesignated Funds for the installation of insulation and window inserts at the Becket Arts Center Building.

Select Board: Recommended Majority Vote Required
CPA Committee: Recommended
Finance Committee: Recommended

ARTICLE 17 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Community Preservation funds the sum of \$100,000 (\$10,000 from Historical Preservation and \$90,000 from Undesignated Funds) to complete needed repairs to the belfry of the First Congregational Church; or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee

Summary: *This article is to approve funding for the historical restoration of the First Congregational Church.*

MOTION: Move that the Town transfer from Community Preservation funds the sum of \$100,000 (\$10,000 from Historical Preservation and \$90,000 from Undesignated Funds) to complete needed repairs to the belfry.

Select Board: **Recommended**
CPA Committee: **Recommended**
Finance Committee: **Recommended**

Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 18 LOCAL OPTION EXCISE TAX EXEMPTION

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of G.L. c.60A, s.1, eighth paragraph, adding an excise tax exemption for one vehicle owned and registered by or leased to a resident who is in active and full-time military service, as described in said statute, or otherwise act thereon.

Summary: *This article would allow Massachusetts service members an exemption on one vehicle when serving out of the country for more than 45 days of an excise year. A \$3 surcharge will be added to all delinquent bills.*

MOTION: Move that the Town vote to accept the provisions of G.L. c.60A, s.1, eighth paragraph, adding an automobile excise tax exemption as described in Article 18 of the warrant for the May 8, 2021 Annual Town Meeting.

Select Board: **Recommended**
Finance Committee: **Recommended**

Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 19 CITIZEN PETITION: ENGINE BRAKE BYLAW

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Becket Bylaws Article 17 – Town Betterment Bylaws – by adding a Section 25, “Engine Braking.”

Section 25 – Engine Braking

1. **Purpose:** The purpose of this bylaw is to prohibit the use of engine retarding and compression braking devices on thickly settled and residential roads of Becket.
2. **Prohibitions:** The use of compression release engine brake is associated with excessive noise that adversely affects the public health, safety, and wellbeing of the residents of Becket and is prohibited on all residential roads with speed limited of 35MPH or lower. The Town of Becket recognizes that compression release engine brakes can be an important accessory safety component of large commercial motor vehicles, but encourages commercial vehicles owners and operators to employ proper lower gear and service braking (as defined in CDL guidelines) and avoid the use of engine braking on all residential roadways except in emergency situations. In approved areas engine braking should be deployed judiciously and respectfully in our community, avoiding unnecessary use in non-emergency situations; in an unloaded or lightly loaded vehicle; to compensate for excessive speed or insufficient braking distances as a result of improper operation.
3. **Enforcement:** The use of engine brakes on prohibited roads shall result in a fine of \$300.00, which shall be recovered by indictment or on complaint before a district court, or by noncriminal disposition in accordance with [M.G.L.A. c 40 §21D]. Audible engine braking in residential areas shall be prima facie evidence of this section.
4. **Signage:** Signs shall be posted at any reasonable location within the Town that indicate the prohibition of engine braking pursuant to this section.
5. **Definitions:**

Engine braking – the use or operation of any mechanical exhaust device designed to aid in the braking or deceleration of any motor vehicle, changing normal engine compression and subsequently releasing that compression explosively from the vehicle exhaust. Common terms for these systems include, but are not limited to “Jake Brake”, “Jacob’s Brake”, “C-Brake”, “Compression release brake”, “Paccar Brake”.

Emergency Situation – use in which there is imminent danger of a collision with property and persons and/or animals and /or what is necessary for the health, safety, or welfare of the community.

Residential roads – any road with a posted speed limit of 35MPH or lower.

MOTION: Move that the Town will vote to amend Article 17, by adding Section 25 as listed above.

Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 20 ANNUAL ELECTION

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 15, 2021 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 on May 15, 2021 from 12:00pm to 4:00pm:

1 MEMBER, SELECT BOARD (3-year term)	Vote for One
1 MEMBER, BOARD OF HEALTH (3-year term)	Vote for One
1 CEMETERY COMMISSIONER (3-year term)	Vote for One
2 MEMBERS, FINANCE COMMITTEE (3-year term)	Vote for Two
1 MEMBER, PLANNING BOARD (5-year term)	Vote for One
2 CONSTABLES (3-year term)	Vote for Two

All of said officers and the ballot question to be voted for on the official ballots furnished at the polls. The polls will be opened at 12:00 PM and closed at 4:00 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 at least seven days 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 April 2021

SELECT BOARD

William H. Elovirta, Chair

Michael S. Lavery, Vice-Chair

Christopher Swindlehurst, Clerk

I have served this warrant as directed above.

Attest _____ Becket, Massachusetts _____
Constable (Date)