

TOWN OF BECKET

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING



SATURDAY, May 14, 2022

7:00 P.M.

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

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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 14th Day of May 2022, at 7:00 P.M.**, for the following purposes:

ARTICLE 1COMPENSATION

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 \$2,274 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 \$16.55 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 \$16.55 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.

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 14, 2022 Annual Town Meeting.

Select Board: RecommendedMajority Vote Required
Finance Committee: Recommended

ARTICLE 2FY 2023 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 2023 Fiscal Year; or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move that the Town raise and appropriate \$7,418,441 for the Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2022 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023).

Select Board: RecommendedMajority Vote Required
Finance Committee: Recommended

	GENERAL GOVERNMENT	FY21 Actuals	FY 22 Approved	FY23 Rec.	\$ Change	% Diff.
1	ADVERTISING	907	4,000	4,000	-	0.0%
2	SELECTMEN'S SALARIES	6,525	6,656	6,822	166	2.4%
3	SELECTMEN'S EXPENSES	627	2,200	2,200	-	0.0%
4	TOWN MEETING EXPENSES	1,625	6,000	6,000	-	0.0%
5	TOWN ADMIN. SALARY	80,000	81,600	84,888	3,288	3.9%
6	TOWN ADMIN. EXPENSES	1,164	2,200	2,200	-	0.0%
7	STAFF COVERAGE	1,248	3,500	3,500	-	0.0%
8	CLERK OF COMMITTEES	12,121	20,000	20,400	400	2.0%
9	FINANCE COMMITTEE	135	600	600	-	0.0%
10	TOWN ACCOUNTANT SALARIES	25,478	25,988	26,638	650	2.4%
11	OUTSIDE PAYROLL SERVICES	11,365	7,000	8,000	1,000	12.5%
12	TOWN ACCOUNTANT EXPENSES	-	400	400	-	0.0%
13	ASSESSORS SALARIES	44,002	65,000	65,000	-	0.0%
14	ASSESSORS EXPENSE	71,291	70,000	72,000	2,000	2.8%
15	TOWN TREASURER SALARY	47,384	48,335	49,543	1,208	2.4%
16	TOWN TREASURER EXP.	2,549	5,000	5,000	-	0.0%
17	TAX COLLECTOR SALARY	59,070	60,251	61,757	1,506	2.4%
18	ASSIST. TAX COLLECTOR	49,152	50,144	51,398	1,254	2.4%

19	TAX COLLECTOR EXPENSE	5,507	8,280	8,280	-	0.0%
20	TAX TITLE EXPENSES	20,679	30,000	30,000	-	0.0%
21	TOWN ADMIN ASST	47,502	48,452	49,663	1,211	2.4%
22	TOWN COUNSEL	20,663	20,000	20,000	-	0.0%
23	AUDIT EXPENSES	15,500	23,000	23,000	-	0.0%
24	POSTAGE	7,570	12,000	12,000	-	0.0%
25	TOWN REPORTS	3,074	3,500	3,500	-	0.0%
26	TOWN CLERK SALARY	29,918	30,516	31,279	763	2.4%
27	TOWN CLERK EXPENSE	1,492	2,145	2,245	100	4.5%
28	ELECTION-REGISTRATION	17,554	15,000	16,543	1,543	9.3%
29	CONSERVATION COMM.	14,161	20,000	20,000	-	0.0%
30	PLANNING BOARD EXPENSES	2,143	2,500	2,500	-	0.0%
31	ZONING BOARD of APPEALS	1,540	1,500	1,500	-	0.0%
32	BRPC	1,417	1,900	1,900	-	0.0%
33	MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS LABOR	50,958	51,294	52,576	1,282	2.4%
34	MUNICIPAL UTILITIES	42,270	55,000	55,000	-	0.0%
35	MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS EXPENSES	22,102	31,975	31,975	-	0.0%
36	BROADBAND	210	2,000	2,000	-	0.0%
37	BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS	24,189	35,000	35,000	-	0.0%
38	TECHNOLOGY	27,611	35,000	45,000	10,000	22.2%
39	RESERVE FUND		50,000	50,000	-	0.0%
40	General Government Total	770,702	937,936	964,308	26,372	2.7%
41	PUBLIC SAFETY					
42	POLICE DEPT. SALARIES	369,226	405,007	457,837	52,830	11.5%
43	POLICE DEPT. EXPENSE	18,241	21,000	24,954	3,954	15.8%
44	EM. MGMT EXP.	-	1,000	1,000	-	0.0%
45	EM. MGMT. TRAINING	-	1,000	1,000	-	0.0%
46	CONSTABLE EXPENSE	-	300	300	-	0.0%
47	FIRE DEPT. SALARIES/ CHIEF	7,483	7,633	7,824	191	2.4%
48	FIREFIGHTER STIPENDS	9,700	14,000	14,000	-	0.0%
49	FIRE DEPT. EXPENSES	19,278	37,000	38,000	1,000	2.6%
50	E911 COMMUNICATION	13,063	13,456	13,860	404	2.9%
51	BUILDING INSP. SALARY	48,172	55,000	55,000	-	0.0%
52	BUILDING & CODE INSP. EXP	775	2,350	2,350	-	0.0%
53	ANIMAL CONTROL SALARIES	5,638	5,751	5,895	144	2.4%
54	ANIMAL CONTROL EXPENSES	2,119	2,500	2,500	-	0.0%
55	HARBOR MASTER	953	1,474	1,511	37	2.4%
56	DEMOLITION FUND	18,850	25,000	25,000	-	0.0%
57	Public Safety	513,500	592,471	651,030	58,559	9.0%
58	EDUCATION					
59	CBRSD OPERATING ASSESSMENT	2,318,893	2,392,842	2,520,651	127,809	5.1%
60	VOCATIONAL TUITION	201,776	190,000	190,000	-	0.0%
61	VOCATIONAL TRANSPORT.	29,552	75,000	75,000	-	0.0%
62	Education Total	2,550,221	2,657,842	2,785,651	127,809	4.6%
	FORESTRY					
63	TREE ACCOUNT	4,720	15,000	15,000	-	0.0%
64	FORESTRY	-	500	500	-	0.0%
65	Forestry Total		15,500	15,500	-	0.0%
	HIGHWAY					
66	SALARIES & WAGES	210,540	245,820	251,966	6,145	2.4%
67	SUMMER LABOR	-	16,800	17,225	425	
68	Salaries and Wages Subtotal	210,540	262,620	269,191	6,571	2.4%
69	GENERAL MAINTENANCE					

70	General Maintenance Subtotal	158,922	176,000	183,150	7,150	3.9%
	MACHINERY				-	
71	Machinery Subtotal	75,353	71,950	85,000	13,050	15.4%
72	FUEL					
73	Fuel Subtotal	65,515	91,750	92,250	500	0.5%
74	HIGHWAY GARAGE					
75	Highway Garage Subtotal	16,230	16,000	16,500	500	3.0%
	WINTER ROADS					
76	Winter Roads Total	274,468	246,662	259,763	13,101	5.0%
77						
78	HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT TOTAL	801,028	864,982	905,854	40,872	4.5%
79	STREET LIGHTS	10,061	9,000	9,000	-	0.0%
80	Street Lights Total	10,061	9,000	9,000	-	0.0%
	TRANSFER STATION					
81	Transfer Station Labor	38,233	38,657	43,845	5,188	11.8%
82	Rental Compactor		13,200	13,200	-	0.0%
83	Rental Open Container (2)		4,500	4,500	-	0.0%
84	Trucking Compactor		11,375	12,250	875	7.1%
85	Trucking Open Container		9,000	9,750	750	7.7%
86	Trucking Cans & Bottles		6,825	7,350	525	7.1%
87	Trucking Scrap Metal		4,550	4,900	350	7.1%
88	Trucking Paper Cardboard		4,875	5,250	375	7.1%
89	Trucking Rigid Plastics		3,600	3,600	-	0.0%
90	Trucking Fuel Surcharge		1,400	1,400	-	0.0%
91	Disposal Solid Waste		30,000	32,400	2,400	7.4%
92	Disposal Bulky Waste		18,000	18,620	620	3.3%
93	Recycling Cans, Bottles, Paper		9,500	11,500	2,000	17.4%
94	Disposal Haz Mat		10,000	10,500	500	4.8%
95	Chemicals		300	300	-	0.0%
96	Permits		1,850	1,850	-	0.0%
97	MRF education		100	100	-	0.0%
98	Maintenance		1,500	1,500	-	0.0%
99	Inspections/Testing		2,500	2,500	-	0.0%
100	Total Expenses	126,071	133,075	141,470	8,395	5.9%
101	Transfer Station Total	164,304	171,732	185,315	13,583	7.3%
102	S. BERKSHIRE SOLID WASTE	1,865	3,260	3,260	-	0.0%
	CEMETERIES					
103	BECKET CENTER CEMETERY	4,910	5,000	5,000	-	0.0%
104	NORTH CEMETERY	13,321	16,500	16,500	-	0.0%
105	WEST CEMETERY	1,030	800	800	-	0.0%
106	Cemeteries Total	19,261	22,300	22,300	-	0.0%
	HEALTH & COMMUNITY SERVICES					
107	BOARD of HEALTH SALARIES	1,932	9,500	9,500	-	0.0%
108	BOARD of HEALTH EXPENSES	33,110	33,500	33,500	-	0.0%
109	INSPECTOR of ANIMALS	357	364	373	9	2.4%
110	NURSING SERVICES	-	5,200	5,200	-	0.0%
111	COUNCIL on AGING	1,904	3,500	3,500	-	0.0%
112	OUTREACH		500	500	-	0.0%
113	VETERANS AGENT SALARY	2,193	2,194	2,249	55	2.4%
114	VETERANS BENEFITS	21,359	35,000	35,000	-	0.0%
115	VETERANS AGENT EXPENSE		100	100	-	0.0%

116	Health & Community Services Total	70,856	99,858	89,922	(10,000)	
	LIBRARY					
117	LIBRARY	51,549	52,581	54,160	1,579	2.9%
118	CHILDRENS HOLIDAY PARTY	500	500	500	-	0.0%
119	Library Total	52,049	53,081	54,660	2,106	3.8%
	PARKS AND RECREATION					
120	WEED CENTER POND	3,000	3,000	4,500	1,500	33.3%
121	PARKS & RECREATION	19,949	30,610	32,768	2,158	6.6%
122	Parks & Recreation Total	22,949	33,610	37,268	3,658	9.8%
	HISTORICAL COMMISSION					
123	HISTORICAL COMMISSION	1,287	2,000	2,000	-	0.0%
124	Historical Commission Total	1,287	2,000	2,000	-	0.0%
	MEMORIAL DAY				-	
125	MEMORIAL/VETERANS DAY	1,512	1,500	1,500	-	0.0%
	Memorial/Veterans Day Total	1,512	1,500	1,500	-	0.0%
	BENEFITS					
126	HEALTH/LIFE INSURANCE	372,678	457,213	468,643	11,430	2.4%
127	COUNTY RETIREMENT	237,932	253,604	288,704	35,100	12.2%
128	PAYROLL TAX ACCOUNT	23,440	28,254	28,819	565	2.0%
129	UNEMPLOYMENT EXPENSE	426	5,000	5,000	-	0.0%
130	GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE	110,948	125,460	127,969	2,509	2.0%
131	OPEB LIABILITY	-	15,000	15,000	-	0.0%
132	Benefits Total	745,423	884,531	934,136	49,605	5.3%
133	TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET	5,193,288	6,349,603	6,661,703	312,627	4.7%
134	FUNDED THROUGH WARRANT ARTICLES					
	DEBT SERVICE					
135	Town & School Debt Service		384,812	418,738	33,926	8.1%
	AMBULANCE					
136	From the General Fund		305,000	338,000	33,000	9.8%
137	TOTAL GENERAL FUND BUDGET INCLUDING WARRANT ARTICLES		7,039,415	7,418,441	379,553	5.1%

ARTICLE 3 DEBT SERVICE

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$418,738 to fund debt service due in Fiscal Year 2023 for the following previously approved borrowings:

Debt	FY2023 Amount	Maturity Date
Becket Washington School	\$95,063	FY2025
Wahconah RHS Doors	\$7,063	FY2029
Craneville Roof	\$141	FY2023
Wahconah RHS New Construction	\$140,343	FY2047
Highway Truck #2	\$63,780	FY2025
Highway Truck #5	\$45,848	FY2024
Broadband	\$65,000	-
Interest on Short Term Debt	\$1,500	-

MOTION: Move that the Town raise and appropriate \$418,738 to pay principal and interest on School and Town debt for Fiscal 2023.

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) or borrow the sum of up to \$1,045,000, or any other sum, to be used to fund the Fiscal Year 2023 Capital Plan for the Town of Becket. This plan consists of the following items:

Project	Amount
Police Department – Police Cruiser	\$60,000 (FC)
Town Hall Renovation/Furniture	\$12,500 (FC)
Town Backup Generators	\$50,000 (FC)
DER Grant Match – Benton Hill Culvert	\$21,814 (FC)
Town Hall Pavilion Expansion	\$15,000 (FC)
Becket Arts Center – Heating System	\$18,500 (FC)
Fire Department Grant Match - Engine	\$38,000 (FC)* grant contingent
Fire Department Engine	\$750,000 (Borrow) *grant contingent
Becket Athenaeum – Maintenance	\$10,000 (FC)
Highway Department – Truck Replacement	\$295,000 (Borrow)

MOTION: Move that the Town transfer \$225,814 from Free Cash and authorize the Treasurer to borrow up to \$1,045,000 for a total of \$1,270,814 to be used in the Fiscal Year 2023 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 \$282,989 to be deposited into the Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move that the Town transfer \$282,989 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.

MOTION: Move that the Town accept the grant of Chapter 90 funds for Fiscal Year 2023 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Select Board: Recommended
Finance Committee: Recommended Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 7 **AMBULANCE BUDGET**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$488,000 for the salaries and expenses of the Ambulance Enterprise; and to fund said appropriation, to raise and appropriate \$338,000, use \$10,000 from Ambulance Stabilization, and to transfer \$140,000 from Fiscal Year 2022 Ambulance Receipts; or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move that the Town raise and appropriate \$338,000, transfer \$10,000 from Ambulance Stabilization, and transfer \$140,000 from Ambulance Receipts to fund operations of the Ambulance Enterprise in Fiscal Year 2022.

Select Board: Recommended 2/3 Vote Required
Finance Committee: Recommended

ARTICLE 8 **AMBULANCE CAPITAL**

To see if the Town will transfer from the Ambulance Stabilization account a sum of \$23,214.57 for a USDA grant match for equipment; or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move that the Town transfer from the Ambulance Stabilization account the sum of \$23,214.57 for a USDA grant match.

Select Board: Recommended 2/3 Vote Required
Finance Committee: Recommended

ARTICLE 9 **AMBULANCE STABILIZATION**

To see if the Town will transfer the ambulance retained earnings funds sum of \$16,726, to the ambulance stabilization account; or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move that the Town transfer the ambulance retained earnings funds in the sum of \$16,726 to the ambulance stabilization account.

Select Board: Recommended Majority Vote Required
Finance Committee: Recommended

ARTICLE 10 **REVOLVING FUNDS**

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.

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 2023 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 Majority Vote Required
Finance Committee: Recommended

Answer: 1000

[illegible]

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AN ACT REGULATING ELECTIONS IN THE TOWN OF BECKET

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding chapter 53 of the general laws, or any other general or special law or by-law of the town of Becket to the contrary, the caucus for the nomination of town officers shall be eliminated in the town of Becket, and the nomination of eligible candidates for town offices shall be made by the filing of nomination papers in accordance with sections 7 and 10 of chapter 53 of the general laws.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

MOTION: Move that the Town authorize the Select Board to seek special legislation to eliminate the municipal caucus for the nomination of candidates for local office.

Select Board: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 15

TOWN CLERK

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to seek special legislation to amend the Town of Becket special act Town Charter, Chapter 662 of the Acts of 1989, as most recently amended, to change the position of Town Clerk from elected to appointed by the Select Board, or to take any other action related thereto.

MOTION: Move that the Town authorize the Select Board to seek special legislation to amend the Town of Becket special act Town Charter, Chapter 662 of the Acts of 1989, as most recently amended, to change the position of Town Clerk from elected to appointed by the Select Board.

Select Board: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 16

CITIZENS PETITION – FAIR SHARE AMENDMENT

Whereas, In June of 2021, with a vote of 159 in favor and 41 opposed, the Massachusetts Legislature's Constitutional Convention voted to place the **Fair Share Amendment** on the November, 2022 state wide ballot; and

Whereas, To help all families and build a stronger economy for everyone, we must have quality public education, including our public colleges and universities; and safe and reliable public transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, We must make long term investments in public education to help students academically, socially, and emotionally, especially in light of the Covid-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, We must reduce tuition and fees charged in our public education institutions in order to make higher education affordable and reduce student debt; and

WHEREAS, We have a backlog of neglected and substantially impaired public transportation infrastructure in need of repair and maintenance; and

WHEREAS, We must have safe, modern, and reliable public transportation infrastructure including roads, bridges, trains, buses, and trail ways for biking and walking; and

WHEREAS, Additional state revenue is needed to improve public schools, Pre-K through 12, and make higher public education more affordable, and reinvest in our public transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Even before the Covid-19 pandemic, Massachusetts needed additional investment in public education and transportation infrastructure to ensure a more equitable and long lasting economy for everyone; and

WHEREAS, Our highest income residents pay a lower share of their income in state and local taxes than the majority of taxpayers;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That during the 2022 Becket Annual Town Meeting residents of Becket discuss and show support for the adoption of the proposed **Fair Share Amendment** that would create an additional tax of four percentage points on annual income above one million dollars and dedicate these funds raised by this tax for quality public education and affordable public colleges and universities, and for the repair and maintenance of public roads, bridges and public transportation.

ANNUAL ELECTION

1. ☐ 2. ☐ 3. ☐ 4. ☐ 5. ☐ 6. ☐ 7. ☐ 8. ☐ 9. ☐ 10. ☐ 11. ☐ 12. ☐ 13. ☐ 14. ☐ 15. ☐ 16. ☐ 17. ☐ 18. ☐ 19. ☐ 20. ☐ 21. ☐ 22. ☐ 23. ☐ 24. ☐ 25. ☐ 26. ☐ 27. ☐ 28. ☐ 29. ☐ 30. ☐ 31. ☐ 32. ☐ 33. ☐ 34. ☐ 35. ☐ 36. ☐ 37. ☐ 38. ☐ 39. ☐ 40. ☐ 41. ☐ 42. ☐ 43. ☐ 44. ☐ 45. ☐ 46. ☐ 47. ☐ 48. ☐ 49. ☐ 50. ☐ 51. ☐ 52. ☐ 53. ☐ 54. ☐ 55. ☐ 56. ☐ 57. ☐ 58. ☐ 59. ☐ 60. ☐ 61. ☐ 62. ☐ 63. ☐ 64. ☐ 65. ☐ 66. ☐ 67. ☐ 68. ☐ 69. ☐ 70. ☐ 71. ☐ 72. ☐ 73. ☐ 74. ☐ 75. ☐ 76. ☐ 77. ☐ 78. ☐ 79. ☐ 80. ☐ 81. ☐ 82. ☐ 83. ☐ 84. ☐ 85. ☐ 86. ☐ 87. ☐ 88. ☐ 89. ☐ 90. ☐ 91. ☐ 92. ☐ 93. ☐ 94. ☐ 95. ☐ 96. ☐ 97. ☐ 98. ☐ 99. ☐ 100. ☐

.....

1 MEMBER, PLANNING BOARD (5-year term) **Vote for One**

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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 29th day of April 2022

SELECT BOARD

William H. Elovirta

William H. Elovirta, Chair

Michael S. Lavery (Clerk)

Michael S. Lavery, Vice-Chair

Christopher Swindlehurst Vice chair

Christopher Swindlehurst, Clerk

I have served this warrant as directed above.

Attest William H. Elovirta

Constable

Becket, Massachusetts 5/3/2022

(Date)