



TOWN OF BECKET
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
557 Main Street, Becket, MA 01223-3252
TOWN HALL – (413) 623-8934 Ext. 113
FAX – (413) 623-6036

April 17, 2020

Dear Community,

The State has recently released the COVID-19 cases by community. The last time that I looked at the numbers, Becket had 10 cases. You can follow the release of information from the state at www.mass.gov.

At the April 15, 2020 Board of Selectmen meeting, two decisions were made regarding tax bills. Property tax bills that were due on May 1, 2020 have been extended until June 1, 2020. Additionally, interest and penalties were waived on excise tax bills if they are paid on or before June 29, 2020. Payments can be made through the mail, online, or outside the Town Hall into the drop box located next to the front door.

Last week, we said farewell to Highway Superintendent Chris Bouchard after seven years of service to the Town. He has moved on to another community. We have posted the position of Highway Superintendent in the Berkshire Eagle, Country Journal, on the MMA's website www.mma.org, and on the Town's website www.townofbecket.org. The priority deadline for this position is May 8, 2020. A search committee is being formed to select the Town's next Highway Superintendent. This will include a member of the Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, Highway Department Employee, an area Highway Superintendent, and a citizen. If you are interested in serving on the search committee, please send an email to administrator@townofbecket.org with a letter of interest no later than Friday May, 1, 2020. The Board of Selectmen will make a selection at their meeting on May 6, 2020.

Special Legislation was filed to cancel the Town Caucus for this spring. As a result, people were required to fill out nomination papers. Typically, the Annual Town Meeting is the second Saturday in May with the Annual Town Election on the third Saturday in May. This year, due to COVID-19, the Board of Selectmen in conjunction with the Town Moderator, Town Clerk and Town Administrator have postponed the Town Meeting and Election to June 6 and June 13 respectively. The warrant for the Town Meeting will have items for essential function of government. The location of our June 6th Annual Town Meeting will be at the Becket Center Ballfield adjacent to the Town Hall at 3:00pm. The Town Election, the following Saturday (June 13th), will be held from 12:00pm to 4:00pm. Logistics are currently being discussed with more information to follow. The state legislature allows for the expansion of absentee ballots which will be encouraged during this difficult time.

Please remember to follow the state and federal guidelines regarding COVID-19 for your safety as well as the safety of the people around you.

Sincerely,

William J. Caldwell
Town Administrator