

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, the Annual Town Meeting was called on May 9, 2015, 7:00 p.m. at Becket Washington School, 12 Maple Street, Becket, MA 01223 . There being a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by the Moderator. There were 142 registered voters present (10.24 % of 1,386 registered voters) and a total of 176 people attended the meeting. Town Officials Present: Bruce Garlow, Moderator; Jeanne Pryor, Bill Elovirta, and Angela Hilton, Selectmen; Ann Spadafora, Maria Wallington, Dan Parnell, and Mark Karlberg; Finance Committee Members; George E. Roberts, Town Clerk; Edward Gibson, Town Administrator; Joel Bard, Esq., Town Counsel.

The Moderator opened the meeting stating the rules to be followed. He welcomed all non-voters and noted that while they could address the meeting, they could not vote. The Moderator noted measures he would take to speed up the meeting, including paraphrasing each article (as the articles are available in written form) and not having the Town Clerk read the call of the meeting and officer’s return of service. The Moderator reviewed the warrant and declared it to have been duly posted as evidenced by the attestation of the posting constable.

Ann Spadafora gave a brief opening statement on behalf of the Finance Committee.

The following articles were voted on:

**Article 1:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$434.55 to fund the following bills from previous fiscal years:

Vendor	Invoice	Date	Amount
Dickson Auto Parts	8795-1100	11/15/2013	\$126.45
Dickson Auto Parts	8795-8797	2/11/2014	\$104.09
Dickson Auto Parts	8795-14177	4/10/2014	\$ 23.49
Dickson Auto Parts	8795-17298	5/09/2014	\$ 91.07
Galls	000130895	10/25/2012	\$ 58.47
Galls	000132281	10/26/2012	\$ 8.99
Galls	000204770	11/26/2012	\$ 21.99

4/5 Vote Required

**Article 1** Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 1 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Article 2:** To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to Chapter 41, Section 108 of General Laws, to fix the compensation of the Board of Selectmen at \$2,000 each and pursuant to Chapter 41, Section 4A of General Laws, to allow the following boards to employ their members at the listed hourly rates.

- 1.) Board of Health at the rate of \$14.27 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 \$14.27 per hour for the performance of their duties as Cemetery Commission members in maintaining the cemeteries that is in excess of their meeting time.

Majority Vote Required

**Article 2** Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 2 PASSED.**

**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 2016 Fiscal Year as set forth in the following line items:

TOWN of BECKET	BUDGET	DEPARTMENT	FIN COMM	Percent
FY2016	APPROVED	REQUESTED	SELECTMEN	INCREASE
	FY2015	FY2016	RECOMMENDED	(DECREASE)
GENERAL GOVERNMENT				
1. TOWN COUNSEL	\$13,500.00	\$17,000.00	\$15,000.00	11.11%
2. LEGAL EXPENSE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
3. TOWN MEETING EXPENSES	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	0.00%
4. SELECTMEN'S SALARIES	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	0.00%
5. SELECTMEN'S EXPENSES	\$1,000.00	\$2,150.00	\$2,150.00	115.00%
6. ADVERTISING	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	0.00%
7. TOWN SECRETARY	\$43,469.34	\$38,482.56	\$38,482.56	-11.47%
8. TOWN ADMIN. SALARY	\$61,200.00	\$61,200.00	\$63,000.00	2.94%
9. TOWN ADMIN. EXPENSE	\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00	0.00%
10. FINANCE COMMITTEE	\$400.00	\$650.00	\$650.00	62.50%
11. ASSESSORS SALARIES	\$122,431.40	\$72,738.40	\$72,738.40	-40.59%
12. ASSESSORS EXPENSE	\$10,505.00	\$59,735.00	\$59,735.00	468.63%
13. TOWN TREASURER SALARY	\$39,275.10	\$40,242.30	\$40,242.30	2.46%
14. TOWN TREASURER EXP.	\$5,481.49	\$5,530.00	\$5,530.00	0.88%
15. TAX COLLECTOR SALARY	\$55,944.96	\$53,448.00	\$53,448.00	-4.46%
16. TAX COLLECTOR EXPENSE	\$6,985.00	\$7,575.00	\$7,575.00	8.45%
17. ASSIST. TAX COLLECTOR	\$42,062.76	\$44,498.08	\$44,498.08	5.79%

18. TOWN CLERK SALARY	\$26,617.92	\$27,150.01	\$27,150.01	2.00%
19. TOWN CLERK EXPENSE	\$2,845.00	\$3,445.00	\$3,445.00	21.09%
20. ELECTION-REGISTRATION	\$9,075.00	\$12,047.73	\$12,047.73	32.76%
21. CONSERVATION COMM.	\$8,618.75	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00	50.83%
22. PLANNING BOARD EXPENSE	\$6,706.00	\$6,926.63	\$6,926.63	3.29%
23. REGIONAL PLAN COM.	\$1,252.82	\$1,284.14	\$1,284.14	2.50%
24. BOARD of APPEALS	\$3,350.00	\$3,450.00	\$3,450.00	2.99%
25. RESERVE FUND	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$35,000.00	-12.50%
<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT TOTAL</b>	<b>\$515,420.54</b>	<b>\$525,252.85</b>	<b>\$520,052.85</b>	<b>0.90%</b>

<b>HIGHWAY</b>				
26. SUMMER LABOR	\$195,344.46	\$209,324.96	\$209,324.96	7.16%
27. TRANSFER STATION LABOR	\$28,084.72	\$27,900.16	\$27,900.16	-0.66%
<b>LABOR SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$223,429.18</b>	<b>\$237,225.12</b>	<b>\$237,225.12</b>	<b>6.17%</b>
<b>28. WINTER ROAD SALARIES</b>	<b>\$132,235.86</b>	<b>\$146,585.51</b>	<b>\$146,585.51</b>	<b>10.85%</b>
29. Sand (\$7,850)		\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	
30. Stone Chips ( \$12,610)		\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00	
31. Salt (\$44,125)		\$45,450.00	\$45,450.00	
32. Plow Blades (\$4,000)		\$4,150.00	\$4,150.00	
33. Misc. (\$0)		\$0.00	\$0.00	
34. Cold Patch (\$1,100)		\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	
35. Parts (\$3,000)		\$3,100.00	\$3,100.00	
36. Sander Chains (\$4,000)		\$4,150.00	\$4,150.00	
37. Bagged Deicer (\$0)				
<b>38. WINTER ROADS Total of 29 to 37</b>	<b>\$76,685.00</b>	<b>\$79,050.00</b>	<b>\$79,050.00</b>	<b>3.08%</b>
<b>WINTER ROADS SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$208,920.86</b>	<b>\$225,635.51</b>	<b>\$225,635.51</b>	<b>8.00%</b>
39. Inspections (\$760)		\$912.00	\$912.00	
40. Tires (\$8,000)		\$8,600.00	\$8,600.00	
41. Oil/Lubricants (\$3,245)		\$3,345.00	\$3,345.00	
42. Repairs/Equipment (\$22,785)		\$19,474.00	\$19,474.00	
43. Parts/Supplies (\$18,540)		\$28,074.00	\$26,074.00	
44. Welding Supplies (\$2,000)		\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	
45. Radios (\$500)		\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
46. Tools/Safety (\$1,500)		\$1,550.00	\$1,550.00	
47. Purchase Scan Equipment (Updates) (\$3,600)		\$800.00	\$800.00	
<b>48. MACHINERY ACCOUNT Total 39 to 47</b>	<b>\$60,930.00</b>	<b>\$65,755.00</b>	<b>\$63,755.00</b>	<b>4.64%</b>
49. RECONST. of GRAVEL ROADS \$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	
50. Fuel (\$92,300)		\$94,900.00	\$94,900.00	
51. Operator Contract (\$1,800)		\$1,850.00	\$1,850.00	
52. Maintenance/Repair (\$2,500)		\$2,575.00	\$2,575.00	
<b>53. FUEL ACCOUNT Total of 50 to 52</b>	<b>\$96,600.00</b>	<b>\$99,325.00</b>	<b>\$99,325.00</b>	<b>2.82%</b>
54. Mowing (\$2,500)		\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	
55. Line Painting (\$9,638)		\$9,930.00	\$9,930.00	
56. Gravel/Stone (\$16,000)		\$32,000.00	\$27,000.00	
57. Hot Mix Patch (\$14,000)		\$14,800.00	\$14,800.00	
58. Rental Equipment (\$1,500)		\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	
59. Signs (\$3,000)		\$3,100.00	\$3,100.00	
60. Culverts (\$3,000)		\$3,100.00	\$3,100.00	
61. Beaver Maintenance (\$5,000)		\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	
62. Guardrail (\$1,500)		\$1,545.00	\$1,545.00	
63. Crack Seal (14,250)		\$14,600.00	\$14,600.00	
64. Catch Basin Cleaning (1,500)		\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	
65. Sweeping (\$6,900)		\$7,100.00	\$7,100.00	
66. Hand Tools (\$700)		\$720.00	\$720.00	
67. Misc. (\$1,500)		\$1,545.00	\$1,545.00	
68. Road Improvement (Formerly Recon Gravel)(\$50,000)		\$51,000.00	\$51,000.00	
<b>69. GENERAL MAINT MAT. &amp; EQUIP. TOTAL 54 to 68</b>	<b>\$133,862.00</b>	<b>\$150,540.00</b>	<b>\$145,540.00</b>	<b>8.72%</b>
70. Legal Ads (\$900)		\$900.00	\$900.00	
71. Drug Testing (\$250)		\$400.00	\$400.00	
72. License Reimbursement (\$420)		\$520.00	\$520.00	
73. Repairs/Supplies (\$3,000)		\$3,100.00	\$3,100.00	
74. Berkshire County Purchasing Group (\$600)		\$600.00	\$600.00	
75. Office Supplies (\$600)		\$620.00	\$620.00	
76. Education & Training (\$1,500)		\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	
77. Meeting/Dues Expenses (\$600)		\$600.00	\$600.00	
78. Safety Gear (\$2,400)		\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	

<b>79. HIGHWAY GARAGE TOTAL 70 to 78</b>	<b>\$10,270.00</b>	<b>\$10,840.00</b>	<b>\$10,840.00</b>	<b>5.55%</b>
80. Rental Compactor (\$3,000)		\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	
81. Rental Open Container (2) (\$1,200)		\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	
82. Trucking Compactor (\$6,300)		\$6,300.00	\$6,300.00	
83. Trucking Open Container (\$5,400)		\$5,400.00	\$5,400.00	
84. Trucking Cans & Bottles (\$4,200)		\$4,200.00	\$4,200.00	
85. Trucking Scrap Metal (\$2,520)		\$2,520.00	\$2,520.00	
86. Trucking Paper Cardboard (\$3,000)		\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	
87. Trucking Fuel Surcharge (\$1,400)		\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	
88. Disposal Solid Waste (\$22,800)		\$23,400.00	\$23,400.00	
89. Disposal Bulky Waste (\$14,400)		\$14,820.00	\$14,820.00	
90. Disposal Haz Mat (\$3,000)		\$3,100.00	\$3,100.00	
91. Chemicals (\$300)		\$300.00	\$300.00	
92. Permits (\$1,300)		\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	
93. MRF Education (\$100)		\$100.00	\$100.00	
94. Maintenance (\$1,000)		\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00	
<b>95. TRANSFER STATION COSTS TOTAL 80 to 94</b>	<b>\$69,960.00</b>	<b>\$72,240.00</b>	<b>\$72,240.00</b>	<b>3.26%</b>
<b>MATERIALS AND SERVICES SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$371,622.00</b>	<b>\$398,700.00</b>	<b>\$391,700.00</b>	<b>5.40%</b>
<b>HIGHWAY TOTAL</b>	<b>\$803,972.04</b>	<b>\$861,560.63</b>	<b>\$854,560.63</b>	<b>6.29%</b>
96. CENTER CEMETERY	\$3,641.40	\$3,714.23	\$3,714.23	2.00%
97. NORTH CEMETERY	\$6,242.40	\$6,367.25	\$6,367.25	2.00%
98. WEST CEMETERY	\$1,224.00	\$1,248.48	\$1,248.48	2.00%
<b>CEMETERIES TOTAL</b>	<b>\$11,107.80</b>	<b>\$11,329.96</b>	<b>\$11,329.96</b>	<b>2.00%</b>
99. MOTH ACCOUNT	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	0.00%
100. TREE ACCOUNT	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	0.00%
<b>FORESTRY TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,001.00</b>	<b>\$10,001.00</b>	<b>\$10,001.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>EDUCATION</b>				
101. CBRSD OPERATING ASSESSMENT	<b>\$1,817,535.00</b>	\$1,914,640.00	\$1,914,640.00	5.34%
102. VOCATIONAL TUITION	\$195,000.00	\$175,560.00	\$167,560.00	-14.07%
103. VOCATIONAL TRANSPORT.	\$90,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00	-16.67%
<b>TOTAL EDUCATION</b>	<b>\$2,102,535.00</b>	<b>\$2,165,200.00</b>	<b>\$2,157,200.00</b>	<b>2.60%</b>
<b>PROTECT. PERSON &amp; PROP</b>				
104. POLICE DEPT. SALARIES	\$231,879.66	\$253,114.21	\$253,114.21	9.16%
105. POLICE DEPT. EXPENSE	\$17,270.00	\$17,270.00	\$17,270.00	0.00%
106. HARBOR MASTER	\$1,390.00	\$1,402.00	\$1,402.00	0.86%
107. OUTREACH	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	0.00%
108. CONSTABLE EXPENSE	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	0.00%
109. FIRE CHIEF STIPEND	\$3,924.96	\$4,003.46	\$4,003.46	2.00%
110. FIRE DEPT. EXPENSES	\$27,000.00	\$29,500.00	\$29,500.00	9.26%
111. FIRE CALL STIPEND	\$10,000.00	\$14,000.00	\$14,000.00	40.00%
112. DRY HYDRANTS	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	-100.00%
113. FORESTRY FIRE DEPARTMENT TOOLS & EQUIPMENT	\$300.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	66.67%
114. BUILDING INSP. SALARY	\$49,165.02	\$50,552.32	\$50,552.32	2.82%
115. BUILDING & CODE INSP. EXP	\$3,065.00	\$2,065.00	\$2,065.00	-32.63%
116. DEMOLITION FUND	\$13,420.00	\$13,500.00	\$18,000.00	34.13%
117. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	0.00%
118. EMERGENCY TRAINING	\$1,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$2,000.00	100.00%
119. ANIMAL CONTROL SALARIES	\$7,698.96	\$7,883.58	\$7,883.58	2.40%
120. ANIMAL CONTROL EXPENSES	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	0.00%
<b>PERSON &amp; PROP. TOTAL</b>	<b>\$372,413.60</b>	<b>\$403,090.57</b>	<b>\$404,590.57</b>	<b>8.64%</b>
<b>HEALTH &amp; SANITATION</b>				
121. E911 COMMUNICATION	\$10,941.00	\$11,268.56	\$11,268.56	2.99%
122. INSPECTOR of ANIMALS	\$312.12	\$318.36	\$318.36	2.00%
123. SOUTH BERK. SOLID WASTE (Transfer Station Responsibility)	\$5,960.00	\$7,894.00	\$7,894.00	32.45%
124. BOARD of HEALTH SALARIES	\$7,000.00	\$16,779.20	\$14,000.00	100.00%
125. BOARD of HEALTH EXPENSES	\$19,500.00	\$22,545.00	\$18,500.00	-5.13%
126. NURSING SERVICES	\$4,962.00	\$4,962.00	\$4,962.00	0.00%
127. MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES	\$550.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	-100.00%
128. VETERANS AGENT SALARY	\$1,976.76	\$2,016.30	\$2,016.30	2.00%
129. VETERANS AGENT EXPENSE	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	0.00%
130. VETERANS BENEFITS	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	0.00%
<b>HEALTH &amp; SANITATION TOTAL</b>	<b>\$71,301.88</b>	<b>\$85,883.42</b>	<b>\$79,059.22</b>	<b>10.88%</b>

UNCLASSIFIED EXPENSES				
131. OUTSIDE PAYROLL SERVICES	\$4,500.00	\$4,600.00	\$4,600.00	2.22%
132. TOWN ACCOUNTANT SALARIES	\$22,509.36	\$23,045.52	\$23,045.52	2.38%
133. TOWN ACCOUNTANT EXPENSES	\$200.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	100.00%
134. GENERAL INSURANCE	\$99,900.00	\$104,000.00	\$104,000.00	4.10%
135. STAFF COVERAGE	\$7,500.00	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00	-13.33%
136. MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS LABOR	\$44,469.96	\$45,567.04	\$45,567.04	2.47%
137. MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS EXPENSES	\$63,000.00	\$63,000.00	\$63,000.00	0.00%
138. MUNICIPAL BUILDING REPAIRS	\$15,500.00	\$15,500.00	\$12,500.00	-19.35%
139. SOFTWARE MAINT. AGREEMENT	\$20,390.85	\$20,367.00	\$20,367.00	-0.12%
140. MUNICIPAL UTILITIES	\$67,900.00	\$74,000.00	\$73,000.00	7.51%
141. STREET LIGHTS	\$8,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	12.50%
142. WIRED WEST MEMBERSHIP	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00	0.00%
143. TOWN REPORTS	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	0.00%
144. POSTAGE	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	0.00%
145. COUNCIL on AGING	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	0.00%
146. PARKS & RECREATION	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	0.00%
147. WEED REMOVAL PULLING CENTER POND	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	0.00%
148. HISTORICAL COMMISSION	\$700.00		\$700.00	0.00%
149. INTEREST on SHORT-TERM DEBT	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	0.00%
150. COUNTY RETIREMENT	\$219,155.00	\$204,432.00	\$204,432.00	-6.72%
151. HEALTH INSURANCE	\$399,750.00	\$399,750.00	\$384,500.00	-3.81%
152. PAYROLL TAX ACCOUNT	\$22,050.00	\$23,000.00	\$23,000.00	4.31%
153. LIBRARY	\$44,540.00	\$45,560.00	\$45,560.00	2.29%
154. MEMORIAL DAY	\$750.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	33.33%
155. ARTS CENTER	\$2,000.00		\$0.00	-100.00%
156. CHILDRENS HOLIDAY PARTY	\$500.00		\$0.00	-100.00%
157. UNEMPLOYMENT EXPENSE	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	0.00%
UNCLASSIFIED EXPENSES TOTAL	\$1,097,815.17	\$1,093,221.56	\$1,075,671.56	-2.02%
OPERATING TOTAL	\$4,984,567.03	\$5,155,539.99	\$5,112,465.79	2.57%

Majority Vote Required

**Article 3** was moved seconded from the floor. The Moderator stated that he would not read each line item but rather, if there were to be any questions or discussion of any item, a “Hold” would be asked to be placed on that item. At the end of the process for any line items to be held, all items not having a “Hold” put on them would be voted on. The Moderator stated that in the non-held line items, the figure being voted on would be the Finance Committee/ Selectmen recommended amount. Following this, all line items having a “Hold” would then be voted on separately. “Holds” were placed on the following line items:

5. SELECTMEN’S EXPENSES
7. TOWN SECRETARY
8. TOWN ADMIN. SALARY
11. ASSESSORS SALARIES
12. ASSESSORS EXPENSES
21. CONSERVATION COMM.
98. WEST CEMETERY
99. MOTH ACCOUNT
101. CBRSD OPERATING ASSESSMENT
124. BOARD OF HEALTH SALARIES
125. BOARD OF HEALTH EXPENSES
133. TOWN ACCOUNTANT EXPENSES
151. HEALTH INSURANCE

After placing holds on the above referenced line items, a vote was taken. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen recommended amounts that were not held above, **Passed Unanimously.**

**Line Item 5. SELECTMEN’S EXPENSES:** Adelaide Dunn inquired as to why there was such a significant increase in this item. Town Administrator, Ed Gibson explained that the increased expenses were a result of the cost of increased training, including meals and lodging for one or more selectmen to attend Massachusetts Municipal Association Annual Meeting in the Boston area.

**Line Item 5** was moved and seconded. A vote was taken. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for

**Line Item 5 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Line Item 7. TOWN SECRETARY**

was moved and seconded. A vote was taken. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 7.**

The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item7 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Line Item 8. TOWN ADMIN. SALARY**

was moved and seconded. A vote was taken. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 8.**

The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 8 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Line Item 11. ASSESSORS SALARIES**

was moved and seconded. A vote was taken. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 11.**

The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 11 PASSED.**

**Line Item 12. ASSESSORS EXPENSES**

was moved and seconded. A vote was taken. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 12.**

The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 12 PASSED.**

**Line Item 21. CONSERVATION COMM.**

was moved and seconded. A vote was taken. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 21.**

The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 21 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Line Item 98. WEST CEMETERY**

was moved and seconded. A vote was taken. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 98.**

The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 98 PASSED.**

**Line Item 99. MOTH ACCOUNT**

was moved and seconded. A vote was taken. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 99.**

The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 99 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Line Item 101. CBRSD OPERATING ASSESSMENT**

was moved and seconded. A vote was taken. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 101.**

The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 101 PASSED.**

**Line Item 124. BOARD OF HEALTH SALARIES**

was moved and seconded. A vote was taken. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 124.**

The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 124 PASSED.**

**Line Item 125. BOARD OF HEALTH EXPENSES**

was moved and seconded. A vote was taken. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 125.**

The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 125 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Line Item 133. TOWN ACCOUNTANT EXPENSES**

was moved and seconded. A vote was taken. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 133.**

The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 133 PASSED.**

**Line Item 151. HEALTH INSURANCE**

was moved and seconded. A vote was taken. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 151**

The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectmen Recommend amount for **Line Item 151 PASSED.**

**Article 4:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$376,658 to fund the bond payments due in Fiscal Year 2016 for the following previously approved debt items:

Becket Washington School	\$109,728
Nessacus Regional Middle School	7,303
Fire Pumper and Truck Bodies	50,625
Wahconah Regional High School	4,494
Kittredge School	170
Kittredge MSBA Windows	183
District Security FY14	1,883
Dump Truck and Tractor	80,022
Grader Highway Department	122,250

**Majority Vote Required.**

**Article 4** Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 4 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Article 5:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$400,000 to fund the Stabilization Fund for Fiscal Year 2016.

**2/3 Vote Required.**

**Article 5** Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 5 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**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 appropriations 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.

**Majority Vote Required.**

**Article 6** Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 6 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Article 7:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$324,467.00, for the salaries (\$296,467.00) and expenses (28,000.00) of the Ambulance Enterprise Fund and to fund said appropriation:

To raise and appropriate \$225,467.00 and to appropriate from Fiscal Year 2016 Ambulance Receipts \$99,000.  
**Majority Vote Required.**

**Article 7** Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 7 PASSED.**

**Article 8:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$18,500 for an audit of FY2015 financial records.

**Majority Vote Required.**

**Article 8** Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 8 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Article 9:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$83,587.45, from the FY 2015 Health Insurance Account the sum of \$11,000, and from the FY 2015 Legal Expense Account the sum of \$20,000 to reduce the amount of the FY2015 Snow and Ice deficit.

**Majority Vote Required.**

**Article 9** Was moved and seconded from the floor. A motion was made by Bill Elovirta to amend the Article to read: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$83,587.45, from the FY 2015 Health Insurance Account the sum of **\$7,381.42**, and from the FY 2015 Legal Expense Account the sum of \$20,000 to reduce the amount of the FY2015 Snow and Ice deficit. The motion to amend was seconded. Town administrator, Ed Gibson explained that when the article was originally drafted the exact amount needed was not known, but now it appears that all bills are in, and the new amount is all that is needed. A vote was taken on the proposed amendment, and the amendment **PASSED**.

There was no further discussion. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 9 as amended PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Article 10:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 for legal, advertising and related costs to process tax delinquent accounts.

**Majority Vote Required.**

**Article 10** Was moved and seconded from the floor. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 10 PASSED.**

**Article 11:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to \$3,810,000 for the Town's share of the costs of construction and installation of a high-speed broadband network, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, such project to be carried out by the Town's Municipal Light Plant; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow up to \$3,810,000 under Chapter 44, Section 8(8) of the General Laws or any other enabling authority; that the Board of Selectmen and any other Town official is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this project; provided, however, that this vote shall not take effect unless and until the voters of the Town agree by vote to exempt from the limitation on total taxes imposed by G.L. c.59, s21C (Proposition 2½) amounts required to pay the principal of and interest on the borrowing authorized by this vote.

**2/3 Vote Required.**

**Article 11** Was moved and seconded from the floor. A motion was made by Bill Elovirta to amend the Article to delete the language in the first sentence "up to" so that that Article would read: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$3,810,000 for the Town's share of the costs of construction and installation of a high-speed broadband network, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, such project to be carried out by the Town's Municipal Light Plant; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow up to \$3,810,000 under Chapter 44, Section 8(8) of the General Laws or any other enabling authority; that the Board of Selectmen and any other Town official is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this project; provided, however, that this vote shall not take effect unless and until the voters of the Town agree by vote to exempt from the limitation on total taxes imposed by G.L. c.59, s21C (Proposition 2½) amounts required to pay the principal of and interest on the borrowing authorized by this vote. The motion to amend was seconded. Town administrator, Ed Gibson explained that counsel had advised that the "up to" language was improper for an appropriation. A vote was taken on the proposed amendment, and the amendment **PASSED**.

Jim Draw provided an in depth presentation about the goals of the Wired West project and responded to questions from the meeting. There was discussion from the floor on this Article with comments both for and against this Article.

A vote was taken on Article 11, as amended and the motion on

**Article 11, as amended, PASSED BY 2/3 VOTE.**

**Article 12:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 for capital repairs and improvements at the Becket Athenaeum in order for Library Services to be provided to Town residents.

**Majority Vote Required.**

**Article 12** Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 12 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Article 13:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate up to the sum of \$7,000 for the addition of an ADA Lift in the Becket Arts Center. Such sum to be paid only if the Becket Arts Center raises the balance needed to purchase and install the ADA Lift from donations, grants or other fundraising efforts.

**Majority Vote Required.**

**Article 13** Was moved and seconded from the floor. A motion was made to remove the language "up to" in the first sentence of the Article so that that Article would read: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,000 for the addition of an ADA Lift in the Becket Arts Center. Such sum to be paid only if the Becket Arts Center raises the balance needed to purchase and install the ADA Lift from donations, grants or other

fundraising efforts. The motion to amend was seconded. A vote was taken on the proposed amendment, and the amendment PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

vote was taken on Article 13, as amended and the motion on  
**Article 13, as amended, PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Article 14:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,575 to replace the Town Hall fire escapes (2).

**Majority Vote Required.**

**Article 14** Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 14 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Article 15:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 for the purchase, replacement and installation of energy efficient windows at Fire Station #1.

**Majority Vote Required.**

**Article 15** Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 15 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Article 16:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 to purchase two Thermal Imaging Cameras for use by the Fire Department. One camera to be located at Station #1 and the second camera to be located at Station#2.

**Majority Vote Required.**

**Article 16** Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 16 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Article 17:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$240,000 to purchase a new Dump Truck 4X4 Plow and Sander for the Highway Department, and to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow the sum of \$240,000 for said appropriation under applicable sections of Chapter 44 of the General Laws, and authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell or otherwise dispose of Truck #3 the 2004 International 7500 4X4 Dump Truck as surplus property.

**2/3 Vote Required.**

**Article 17** Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 17 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Article 18:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$16,536.96 for the purchase of a replacement automatic stretcher for the Ambulance Department.

**Majority Vote Required.**

**Article 18** Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 18 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Article 19:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,900 for the purchase of computers and software along with related network work.

**Majority Vote Required.**

**Article 19** Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 19 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Article 20:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$85,500 to replace the shingled roof at Town Hall, and to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow the sum of \$85,500 for said appropriation under applicable sections of Chapter 44 of the General Laws.

**2/3 Vote Required.**

**Article 20** Was moved and seconded from the floor. Jeff Wilkinson questioned why a new roof was so expensive. Ed Gibson explained that the requirements for a municipal bid required bonding, payment of prevailing wage, and was generally at least 20%-30% more expensive than the same work performed on a residence. A vote was taken, and the motion on

**Article 20 PASSED BY 2/3 VOTE.**

**Article 21:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$120,000 to replace the Heating and A/C system at Town Hall, and to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow the sum of \$120,000 for said appropriation under applicable sections of Chapter 44 of the General Laws.

**2/3 Vote Required.**



**Article 21** Was moved and seconded from the floor. Chris Swindlehurst questioned the expense of the project. Ed Gibson explained that the project would involve more than just fixing or replacing the existing furnaces; that it would involve installing furnaces that didn't run on oil, installation of a central air conditioning system to replace window unit air conditioners, removal of the underground oil tanks and installing new ductwork to provide distribution of not only heat but air conditioning. A vote was taken, and the motion on **Article 21 PASSED BY 2/3 VOTE.**

**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
Gas Inspector:	\$10,000
Wiring Inspector:	\$15,000

**Majority Vote Required.**

**Article 22** Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 22 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**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 2016, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation:

Appropriations:

From FY 2016 estimated revenues to Committee Administrative Expenses	\$500
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Reserves:

From FY 2016 estimated revenues to Historical Resources Reserve	\$ 4,676
From FY 2016 estimated revenues to Community Housing Reserve	\$ 4,676
From FY 2016 estimated revenues to Open Space Reserve	\$ 4,676
From FY 2016 estimated revenues to Undesignated Reserve	\$32,728

**Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee**

**Majority Vote Required.**

**Article 23** Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 23 PASSED .**

**Article 24:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$6,000 from the Historical Resources Reserve and \$6,108 from the Undesignated Reserve Account of the Community Preservation Fund for the installation of storm windows and repair of the roof trim on the Becket Athenaeum: said funds to be expended under the direction of the Community Preservation Committee and the Board of Trustees of the Becket Athenaeum.

**Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee**

**Majority Vote Required.**

**Article 24** Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 24 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Article 25: ZONING ARTICLE:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Becket Zoning By-Laws by clarifying language in various sections of the Large Wind Energy System, 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).

**Most of the changes are grammatical, syntactical or organizational and are intended to reduce ambiguity. Changes that were formative or contextual were as follows:**

**Meteorological Towers.** All meteorological towers shall be set back at least 1.5 times its height from all public and private ways, excluding a dedicated site access road, and off-site buildings.

**Post Construction Noise Monitoring.** The large wind energy system's owner(s) / operator(s) shall pay a town appointed acoustical engineer to conduct quarterly post construction noise monitoring, at the property lines, on a quarterly basis during the first year of operation and every five years thereafter. All reports will be submitted to the SPGA

Large Wind Energy System - **A wind energy system with a height equal to or greater than two hundred feet (200').**

Noise Regulations - **written permission is granted and maintained by all individuals or entities with control over the adjacent affected real properties**

Transportation Plan. **All anticipated road closures and traffic disruptions that may affect emergency response vehicles and plans to manage these road closures and traffic disruptions in cooperation full compliance with local emergency officials**

Abandonment & Removal of Large Wind Energy Systems. - **The Building Inspector may engage, at the (most recent applicant's expense) most recent operator(s)/owner(s) expense, a licensed professional engineer to help determine whether the large wind energy system has been abandoned.**

And by amending the Becket Zoning Bylaws SECTION 3.0, USE REGULATION, by adding one new line in the Industrial Uses section as follows:

Large Wind Energy System Site/Facility

### **2/3 Vote Required.**

**Article 25** Was moved and seconded from the floor. Ann Krawet provided a brief summary of the proposed changes in and the reasoning behind them. There was discussion from the floor expressing both support and opposition to the proposed changes. A motion was made to move the question. The motion to move the question was seconded. A vote was taken and the motion to move the question passed by 2/3 majority. A vote was taken on Article 25, and the motion on

**Article 25 PASSED BY 2/3 VOTE.**

**Article 26: ZONING ARTICLE:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning By-Laws by clarifying language in various sections of the *Small Wind Energy Systems* to parallel language in Large Wind Energy System, as summarized below and as on file in the office of the Town Clerk and at [www.townofbecket.org](http://www.townofbecket.org).

**Most of the changes are grammatical, syntactical or organizational and are intended to reduce ambiguity. Changes that were formative or contextual were as follows:**

Definitions. - **Special Permit Granting Authority (SPGA):** The SPGA shall be the Planning Board.

Color and Finish. Appearance: - **All Small Wind Energy Systems shall be finished in a neutral (white or gray) non-reflective color to minimize visual impact.**

Noise: **The operation of the SWES Small Wind Energy System and appurtenant equipment shall not increase the noise level by greater than five (5) dBA above ambient noise levels as measured at the property lines of the SWES Small Wind Energy System site.**

Abandonment and Removal. **Language similar to the language in Large Wind Energy Systems**

### **2/3 Vote Required.**

**Article 26** Was moved and seconded from the floor. Ann Krawet provided a brief summary of the proposed changes in and the reasoning behind them. There was discussion from the floor expressing both support and opposition to the proposed changes. A vote was taken on Article 26, and the motion on

**Article 26 PASSED BY 2/3 VOTE.**

**Article 27:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell and convey, at auction or through sealed bid sale, at its discretion, a certain parcel of land located on Sir Galahad Drive, deeded to the Town of Becket by a deed recorded at the Berkshire Middle District registry of Deeds in Book 4666, Page 47, and shown on Assessor's Map 217, Lot 64. The transfer shall be subject to the following conditions: (i) the purchaser shall share in the cost of maintaining and repairing the dam on Lancelot Lake; (ii) the purchaser shall comply with all restrictions regarding the dam on said parcel, including with complying with any enforcement order and fines as may be required by the Office of Dam Safety of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and (iii) the parcel contains protected wetland areas and the purchaser shall comply with the Wetlands Protection act with regard to such resource areas; and (iv) such other terms, conditions and restrictions as the Board of Selectmen deem appropriate; or take any other action relative thereto.

### **Majority Vote Required.**

**Article 27** Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken on Article 27, and the motion on

**Article 27 PASSED .**

**Article 28:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the care, custody, control and management from the Treasurer to the Board of Selectmen for general municipal purposes and the purpose of conveyance a certain parcel of land located on Sir Galahad Drive, described in a deed recorded at the Berkshire Middle District registry of Deeds in Book 5419, Page 323, and shown on Assessor's Map 217, Lot 63. The sale/conveyance shall be subject to the following conditions: (i) the purchaser shall share in the cost of maintaining and repairing the dam on Lancelot Lake; (ii) the purchaser shall comply with all restrictions regarding the dam on said parcel, including any enforcement order and fines as may be required by the Office of Dam Safety of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; (iii) the purchaser shall comply with the Wetlands Protection Act with regard to wetland areas located on the parcel; (iv) the purchaser shall remove the house and foundation on said parcel, and shall meet all such regulations of decommissioning the septic system and well; and (v) the purchaser shall comply with such other

terms, conditions and restrictions as the Board of Selectmen deem appropriate; or take any other action relative thereto.

**2/3 Vote Required.**

**Article 28** Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken on Article 28, and the motion on

**Article 28 PASSED BY 2/3 VOTE.**

**Article 29:** We, the undersigned citizens of Becket, Massachusetts,

“To see if the Town will vote to rescind Article 17 of the May 12, 2007 Annual Town Meeting, specifically Sections 3 to 7, inclusive of Chapter 44B of the Massachusetts General Laws, otherwise known as the Massachusetts Community Preservation Act, or take any other action related thereto”.

**Majority Vote Required.**

**Article 29** Was moved and seconded from the floor. The petitioner, Jan Elovirta gave a presentation in support of rescission. There was significant discussion expressing both support and opposition to the Article. A vote was taken on Article 29, and the motion on

**Article 29 FAILED .**

**Article 30:** We, the undersigned citizens of Becket, Massachusetts,

**RESOLUTION ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS**

To see if Becket will vote to approve the following resolution on the Climate Crisis:

WHEREAS, man-made greenhouse gases in the atmosphere have contributed significantly to global warming, glacial melt, sea level rise, weather extremes including droughts, heavy rainfall and storms, resulting in wild fires, floods, crop failures, destruction of homes and communities, and loss of life; and

WHEREAS, there is a limit to the amount of carbon and other greenhouse gases the atmosphere can contain beyond which life on the planet as we know it is being severely compromised and will be ultimately unsustainable; and

WHEREAS, the fossil fuel industry is exercising excessive power over policy makers and legislators by means of financial contributions, insuring favorable legislation and the continuation of governmental subsidies that should be shifted instead to support clean, renewable, and sustainable energy; and

WHEREAS, the town of Becket has chosen to become a GREEN COMMUNITY and under the Energy Committee, tasked by the Board of Selectmen, significant progress has already been achieved in making our municipal buildings more energy efficient;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the citizens of Becket commit themselves to meeting both individual and collective responsibility in the face of the increasing climate crisis by urging our elected state officials to direct the managers of the State Pension Funds to divest its holdings in fossil fuel industries and to invest, instead, in alternative sustainable energy companies, a step consistent with the Commonwealth’s commitment to clean, renewable, green energy.

The town Clerk is requested to send copies of this approved Resolution to Governor Charlie Baker, State Treasurer Deb Goldberg, State Senator Ben Downing, and State Representative Smitty Pignatelli and to take any other action relative thereto.

**Majority Vote Required.**

**Article 30** Was moved and seconded from the floor. Selectman Jeanne Pryor made a brief statement regarding the work of the Energy Committee. Katherine Hoak read a statement in support of the resolution on behalf of the petitioner, Energy Committee. There was lengthy discussion expressing both support and opposition to the Article. A vote was taken on Article 30, and the motion on

**Article 30 FAILED.**

It was moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn to the Annual Town Election which will be held one week from today on May 16, 2015, starting at 10:00 a.m. A vote was taken and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. The checkers were Election Workers Eva Bonney, Meredyth Babcock Patricia Clemons and Priscilla McEwen.

Respectfully submitted,

George E. Roberts  
Town Clerk