

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, the Annual Town Meeting was called on May 12, 2012, 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 7:14 p.m. by the Moderator. There were 159 registered voters present (12 % of 1,289 voters) and a total of 169 people attended the meeting. Town Officials Present: Bruce Garlow, Moderator; Jeanne Pryor, George Fuller, and Mark Karlberg, Selectmen; Ann Spadafora, Stephen LaBelle, Sr., and Dan Parnell, Charles Andrews (in audience) Finance Committee Members; George E. Roberts, Town Clerk; Craig Kleman, Town Administrator; Joel Bard, Esq., Town Counsel.

The Moderator opened the meeting stating the rules to be followed. He asked for a showing of hands of non- voters and welcomed them, indicating that they could address the meeting but 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 noted it as having been duly posted.

The following articles were voted on:

Article 1: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$8,652 to fund the following deficits from FY 2011:

The Berkshire Eagle	\$650
WMECO	\$580
Westfield Vocational Technical High School	\$7,422

And to fund the appropriation by transferring \$8,652 from Free Cash.

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 to appropriate the sum of \$10,890 to fund the following deficits from FY2012:

Legal Expenses	\$ 2,375
Tax Title Expenses	7,359
Planning Board Expenses	1,156

and to fund this appropriation by transferring \$10,890 from Free Cash.

Majority Vote Required

Article 2 Was moved and seconded from the floor. Ms. O’Connor asked for and received an explanation of the Legal Expenses line item. There was no further discussion. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 2 Passed Unanimously.**

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to allow the following boards to employ their members, pursuant to Chapter 41, Section 4A of the Massachusetts General Laws and to pay members at the listed hourly rates.

- 1.) Board of Health at the rate of \$13.45 per hour for the performance of their duties as Board of Health members.
- 2.) Cemetery Commission at the rate of \$13.45 per hour for the performance of their duties as Cemetery Commission members in maintaining the cemeteries.

Majority Vote Required

Article 3 Was moved and seconded from the floor. Nancy Devane asked if these rates were higher than previous years. Administrator Kleman explained that the rates were the same as 2012. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 3 Passed Unanimously**

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money as may be needed to defray the expenses of the Town for the 2013 fiscal year and to fix the salaries and compensation of all elective officials as provided by Section 108 of Chapter 41 of the Massachusetts General Laws as set forth in the following line items:

TOWN of BECKET FY. 2013	BUDGET APPROVED	DEPARTMENT BUDGET REQUEST '13	FIN COMM/ SELECTBOARD BUDGET RECOMMEND	Percent INCREASE (DECREASE) FROM 2012
BUDGET 2012				
GENERAL GOVERNMENT				
6. TOWN COUNSEL	\$13,500.00	\$13,500.00	\$ 13,500.00	0.00%
7. LEGAL EXPENSE	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	0.00%
8. AUDIT	\$0.00	\$20,500.00	\$20,500.00	100.00%
9. SELECTMEN'S SALARIES	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00	0.00%
10. SELECTMEN'S EXPENSES	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$ 800.00	0.00%
11. ADVERTISING	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$ 2,500.00	(16.67%)
12. TOWN SECRETARY	\$41,781.00	\$41,781.00	\$ 41,781.00	0.00%
13. TOWN ADMIN. SALARY	\$51,500.00	\$53,000.00	\$ 51,500.00	0.00%
14. TOWN ADMIN. EXPENSE	\$1,500.00	\$1,700.00	\$ 1,700.00	13.33%
15. FINANCE COMMITTEE	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$ 400.00	0.00%
16. ASSESSORS SALARIES	\$115,861.00	\$120,990.00	\$117,599.00	1.50%
17. ASSESSORS EXPENSE	\$14,150.00	\$11,000.00	\$10,200.00	(27.92%)

18. TOWN TREASURER SALARY	\$37,192.00	\$38,308.00	\$37,750.00	1.50%
19. TOWN TREASURER EXP.	\$5,600.00	\$10,600.00	\$5,600.00	0.00%
20. TAX TITLE EXPENSES	\$8,000.00	\$22,000.00	\$ 22,000.00	175.00%
21. TAX COLLECTOR SALARY	\$52,977.00	\$53,684.00	\$53,772.00	1.50%
22. TAX COLLECTOR EXPENSE	\$6,185.00	\$10,545.00	\$6,185.00	0.00%
23. ASSIST. TAX COLLECTOR	\$34,384.00	\$44,512.00	\$34,900.00	1.50%
24. TOWN CLERK SALARY	\$25,584.00	\$25,746.00	\$25,584.00	0.00%
25. TOWN CLERK EXPENSE	\$3,720.00	\$2,520.00	\$2,520.00	(32.26%)
26. ELECTION-REGISTRATION	\$8,672.00	\$11,608.00	\$11,608.00	33.86%
27. CONSERVATION COMM.	\$7,500.00	\$7,925.00	\$7,500.00	0.00%
28. PLANNING BOARD EXPENSE	\$4,000.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,000.00	0.00%
29. REGIONAL PLAN COM.	\$1,116.00	\$1,193.00	\$ 1,193.00	6.90%
30. BOARD of APPEALS	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	0.00%
31. RESERVE FUND	\$17,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	76.47%
<u>SUBTOTAL GENERAL GOV'T.</u>	<u>\$466,422.00</u>	<u>\$531,812.00</u>	<u>\$515,092.00</u>	10.43%

HIGHWAY				
35. SUMMER LABOR	\$174,495.00	\$184,938.00	\$184,938.00	5.98%
36. SUMMER OVERTIME	\$12,387.00	\$17,959.00	\$17,959.00	44.98%
37. VACATION & HOLIDAYS	\$34,174.00		\$0.00	(100.00%)
38. TRANSFER STATION LABOR	\$22,307.00	\$22,307.00	\$22,307.00	0.00%
LABOR SUBTOTAL	\$243,363.00	\$225,204.00	\$225,204.00	(7.46%)
40. WINTER ROAD OVERTIME	\$29,294.00	\$34,894.00	\$34,894.00	19.12%
41. WINTER ROAD SALARIES	\$91,214.00	\$103,773.00	\$103,773.00	13.77%
42. WINTER ROAD FUELS	\$41,750.00	\$50,772.00	\$50,772.00	21.61%
43. WINTER ROADS	\$66,750.00	\$66,750.00	\$66,750.00	0.00%
WINTER ROADS SUBTOTAL	\$229,008.00	\$256,189.00	\$256,189.00	11.87%
45. MACHINERY ACCOUNT	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	0.00%
46. RECONST. of GRAVEL ROADS	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	0.00%
47. FUEL ACCOUNT	\$20,870.00	\$33,848.00	\$33,848.00	62.18%
48. GENERAL MAINT MAT. & EQUIP.	\$68,364.00	\$68,364.00	\$68,364.00	0.00%
49. TRANSFER STATION COSTS	\$70,317.00	\$70,317.00	\$70,317.00	0.00%
MATERIALS AND SERVICES	\$249,551.00	\$262,529.00	\$262,529.00	5.20%
HIGHWAY TOTAL	\$721,922.00	\$743,922.00	\$743,922.00	3.05%
52.CENTER CEMETERY	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	0.00%
53. NORTH CEMETERY	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	0.00%
54. WEST CEMETERY	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	0.00%
CEMETERIES TOTAL	\$10,700.00	\$10,700.00	\$10,700.00	0.00%
56. FORESTRY	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	0.00%
57. MOTH ACCOUNT	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	0.00%
58. TREE ACCOUNT	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	0.00%
FORESTRY TOTAL	\$5,400.00	\$5,400.00	\$5,400.00	0.00%

EDUCATION				
62. CBRSD OPERATING ASSESSMENT	\$2,011,055.00	\$1,984,071.00	\$1,984,071.00	(1.34%)
63. SCHOOL CAPITAL	\$31,990.00	\$6,461.00	\$26,893.00	(15.93%)
64. VOCATIONAL TUITION	\$187,000.00	\$190,000.00	\$190,000.00	1.60%
65. VOCATIONAL TRANSPORT.	\$77,000.00	\$77,000.00	\$77,000.00	0.00%
<u>SUBTOTAL EDUCATION</u>	<u>\$2,307,045.00</u>	<u>\$2,257,532.00</u>	<u>\$2,277,964.00</u>	(1.26%)

PROTECT. PERSON & PROP				
69. POLICE DEPT. SALARIES	\$173,700.00	\$219,600.00	\$219,600.00 *	26.42%
70. POLICE DEPT. EXPENSE	\$17,270.00	\$17,270.00	\$17,270.00	0.00%
71. HARBOR MASTER	\$990.00	\$1,790.00	\$1,390.00	40.40%
72. OUTREACH	\$2,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	(40.00%)
73. CONSTABLE EXPENSE	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	0.00%
74. FIRE CHIEF STIPEND	\$3,772.00	\$3,772.00	\$3,772.00	0.00%
75. FIRE DEPT. EXPENSES	\$27,000.00	\$27,000.00	\$27,000.00	0.00%
76. FIRE CALL STIPEND	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	0.00%
77. BUILDING INSP. SALARY	\$46,572.00	\$48,617.00	\$47,271.00	1.50%
78. BUILDING & CODE INSP. EXP	\$2,150.00	\$5,875.00	\$5,875.00	173.26%
79. DEMOLITION FUND	\$6,000.00	\$12,200.00	\$6,000.00	0.00%
80. PUBLIC SAFETY INSPECTIONS	\$11,000.00	\$13,000.00	\$11,500.00	4.55%
81. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	0.00%
82. DOG OFFICER SALARIES	\$7,400.00	\$7,400.00	\$7,400.00	0.00%
83. DOG OFFICER EXPENSES	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	0.00%
<u>SUBTOTAL PERSON & PROP.</u>	<u>\$310,154.00</u>	<u>\$369,824.00</u>	<u>\$360,378.00</u>	16.19%

HEALTH & SANITATION				
87. BECKET AMB. SALARIES	\$220,000.00	\$278,100.00	\$0.00	(100.00%)
88. BECKET AMB. DEPT. EXP.	\$60,000.00	\$16,300.00	\$0.00	(100.00%)

89. E911 COMMUNICATION	\$9,657.00	\$9,946.00	\$9,946.00	2.99%
90. INSPECTOR of ANIMALS	\$250.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	20.00%
91. SOUTH BERK. SOLID WASTE	\$6,000.00	\$5,960.00	\$5,960.00	(0.67%)
92. BOARD of HEALTH SALARIES	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	0.00%
93. BOARD of HEALTH EXPENSES	\$7,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$7,000.00	0.00%
94. LEE VISITING NURSE	\$4,962.00	\$4,962.00	\$4,962.00	0.00%
95.MENTAL HEALTH CENTER	\$570.00	\$550.00	\$550.00	(3.51%)
96. VETERANS AGENT SALARY	\$1,834.00	\$1,900.00	\$1,900.00	3.60%
97. VETERANS AGENT EXPENSE	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	0.00%
98. VETERANS BENEFITS	\$36,000.00	\$32,000.00	\$32,000.00	(11.11%)
SUBTOTAL HEALTH & SANIT.	<u>\$354,373.00</u>	<u>\$366,118.00</u>	<u>\$70,718.00</u>	(80.04%)

UNCLASSIFIED EXPENSES				
102. OUTSIDE PAYROLL SERVICES	\$6,210.00	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00	4.67%
103. TOWN ACCOUNTANT SALARIES	\$14,210.00	\$14,636.00	\$14,423.00	2.04%
104. GENERAL INSURANCE	\$66,000.00	\$66,000.00	\$66,000.00	0.00%
105. MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS	\$58,000.00	\$58,000.00	\$58,000.00	0.00%
106. SOFTWARE MAINT. AGREEMENT	\$0.00	\$12,420.00	\$12,420.00	100.00%
107. MUNICIPAL UTILITIES	\$60,000.00	\$61,800.00	\$61,800.00	3.00%
108. STREET LIGHTS	\$6,200.00	\$6,400.00	\$6,400.00	3.23%
109. WIRED WEST MEMBERSHIP	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	100.00%
110. TOWN REPORTS	\$2,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$3,000.00	50.00%
111. POSTAGE	\$15,000.00	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00	(13.33%)
112. COUNCIL on AGING	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	0.00%
113. RECREATION COMM.	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	0.00%
114. WEED TREATMENT CENTER POND	\$1,500.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,500.00	0.00%
115. PARKS COMM.	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	0.00%
116. HISTORIC COMMISSION	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$700.00	0.00%
117. INTEREST on SHORT-TERM DEBT	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	0.00%
118. COUNTY RETIREMENT	\$162,681.00	\$190,928.00	\$190,928.00	17.36%
119. HEALTH INSURANCE	\$329,000.00	\$421,481.00	\$421,481.00	28.11%
120. PAYROLL TAX ACCOUNT	\$19,000.00	\$19,600.00	\$19,600.00	3.16%
121. LIBRARY	\$42,000.00	\$42,000.00	\$42,000.00	0.00%
122. MEMORIAL DAY	\$550.00	\$550.00	\$550.00	0.00%
123. ARTS CENTER	\$1,500.00	\$2,200.00	\$1,800.00	20.00%
124. LITERACY NETWORK-SO. BERKSHIRE	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	0.00%
125. WOMEN'S AUXILIARY CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY PARTY	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	0.00%
126. COMMUNITY RECREATION	\$750.00	\$1,000.00	\$750.00	0.00%
SUBTOTAL UNCLASS. EXP.	<u>\$810,301.00</u>	<u>\$948,115.00</u>	<u>\$946,852.00</u>	16.86%
GRAND TOTAL	<u>\$4,986,317.00</u>	<u>\$5,233,423.00</u>	<u>\$4,931,026.00</u>	(1.11%)

Select Board: **Recommends** **Majority Vote Required**
Finance Committee: **Recommends**

** Note: Finance Committee recommends \$203,070 for Police Dept. Salaries versus \$219,600 recommended by the Selectboard.*

Article 4 The Moderator noted five corrections to the various line items presented in the Warrant. He noted that the FinComm/Selectboard Recommended amounts on line items 36, 37, 40 and 41 should be changed to read as follows: line item 36. SUMMER OVERTIME should be changed from \$17,959.00 to \$12,387.00; line item 37 VACATIONS & HOLIDAYS should be changed from \$0.00 to \$36,876.00, and; line item 40 WINTER ROAD OVERTIME should be changed from \$34,894.00 to \$29,294.00, and line item 41 WINTER ROAD SALARIES should be changed from \$103,773.00 to \$91,214.00. The Moderator also noted that the title of line item 114 should be changed from WEED TREATMENT CENTER POND to WEED SURVEYS CENTER POND.

Article 4 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/ Selectboard recommended amount. Following this, all line items having a “Hold” would then be voted on separately. “Holds” were placed on the following line items:

- 8 – Audit
- 13 – Town Administrator Salary
- 23 – Assistant Tax Collector
- 27 – Conservation Comm.
- 35 – Highway, Summer Labor
- 36 – Highway, Summer Overtime
- 37 – Highway, Vacation and Holidays
- 40 – Winter Roads Overtime
- 41 – Winter Roads Salaries
- 43 – Winter Roads
- 48 – General Maint. Mat. & Equip.
- 63 – School Capital
- 69 – Police Dept. Salaries
- 71 – Harbor Master
- 78 – Building & Code Ins. Exp.
- 79 – Demolition Fund

80 – Public Safety
92 – Board of Health Salaries
93 – Board of Health Expenses
105 – Municipal Buildings
115 – Parks Comm.
119 – Health Insurance

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

Line Item 8 – Audit. Jeremy Dunn explained that the Town wanted to have audits performed every year. They are expensive but necessary, especially to receive grant funds. The Finance Committee felt that having an audit every other year struck a balance between necessity and expense. A vote was taken. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectboard Budget Recommend amount **Line Item 8 Passed Unanimously**.

Line Item 13 - Town Administrator Salary. There was discussion from the floor regarding the level of Town Administrator Salary. Craig Kleman noted that the amount of salary that was authorized the previous year was more than his actual salary. Mr. Dunn also commented in response to the question. A vote was taken. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectboard Budget Recommend amount **Line Item 13 Passed**.

Line Item 23 – Assistant Tax Collector. Ms. O'Connor wanted to know why this new hire was getting a raise, but it was explained that the requested amount was not the recommended amount, and the amount being voted on was the recommended amount. A vote was taken. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectboard Budget Recommend amount **Line Item 23 Passed**.

Line Item 27 – Conservation Commission. Ms. O'Connor wanted to know what the Conservation Commission used its funding for. Town Administrator Kleman addressed her question noting that Conservation Commission pays for a Conservation Agent that is available for work up to 35 hours per week, paying for necessary legal advertising. A vote was taken. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectboard Budget Recommended amount **Line Item 27 Passed**.

Line Item 35 - Summer Labor. Robert Ronzio was curious about the changes in the percentages due to the corrections stated at the beginning of the meeting. Specifically the effect that correction in the recommended amount from \$184,938 to 172,551 would have on the far right percentage column in Line Item 35. Jeremy Dunn and Dan Parnell explained the effect that the changes would have. A vote was taken. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectboard Budget Recommended amount **Line Item 35 Passed Unanimously**.

Line Item 36 –Summer Overtime. There was no specific discussion on this line item. A vote was taken. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectboard Budget Recommended amount (as corrected above) **Line Item 36 Passed Unanimously**.

Line Item 37 – Vacation & Holiday. There was no specific discussion on this line item. A vote was taken. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectboard Budget Recommended amount (as corrected above) **Line Item 37 Passed Unanimously**.

Line Item 40 – Winter Road Overtime. There was no specific discussion on this line item. A vote was taken. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectboard Budget Recommended amount (as corrected above) **Line Item 40 Passed Unanimously**.

Line Item 41 – Winter Road Salaries. There was no specific discussion on this line item. A vote was taken. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectboard Budget Recommended amount (as corrected above) **Line Item 41 Passed Unanimously**.

Line Item 43 – Winter Roads. Ms. O'Connor asked if Winter Roads was just sand and salt. A vote was taken. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectboard Budget Recommended amount **Line Item 43 Passed Unanimously**.

Line Item 48 – General Maint. Mat. & Equipment. Ann Krawet inquired as to whether the Town Repaired equipment in-house or used outside repair vendors. Mr. Kleman explained that the Town attempted to make what repairs it could in house, but then would use outside mechanics. A vote was taken. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectboard Budget Recommended amount **Line Item 48 Passed Unanimously**.

Line Item 63 – School Capital. Mr. Dunn presented an explanation of the difference between the requested and recommended amount. He noted that the actual amount requested and the amount recommended were the same, \$26,893.00. A vote was taken. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectboard Budget Recommended amount **Line Item 63 Passed Unanimously**.

Line Item 69 – Police Dept. Salaries. William Elovirta gave a presentation noting that the budget was submitted as requested to include a full time Police Chief, two full time officers and five part time officers. He noted that police calls increased from 1407 to 3180 in 2012. He stated that he was a part time Police Chief because the Town had no full time police officers when he was appointed as Police Chief in 1989. He feels that now that the Town has both full and part time officers, the Chief position should be full time. He noted that the full time Chief would also do patrol duties. He discussed the classification differences that arise between a full time compared to a part-time Chief. He noted that currently the Town does not have an officer assigned to the midnight to 8 a.m. shift. He noted that there are officers paid to be on stand-by at the rate of \$32.00 per night, and that cost 11,680. The standby officer gets a minimum 2 hours of pay for answering any call while on standby. In 2011 there were 115 call outs and 230 hours at the part time rate of 16.53 per hour totaling \$3802.20. He noted that sometimes the call out lasts longer than two hours which results in additional part time police hours at a time and a half rate. He noted that the \$15,482.90 could be used to offset some of the \$45,000.00 salary of a full time midnight to eight shift officer. He observed that there had been several burglaries at Indian Lakes Estates over the winter, but after placing a midnight officer on duty for two nights per week, no further burglaries were reported. He noted that many motor vehicle violations were also issued by the midnight shift officers as well as many road hazards had been discovered, and a rekindled brush fire that could have caused a structure fire had been discovered before it could do structural damage. He also related that in discussions with the State Police he was informed that the State Police never have more than 2 midnight to eight patrols, and that they have to cover many communities, and are not familiar with the roads in Becket. He also observed that there is a large community of second home owners who pay taxes and do not have children in the schools system, which helps to keep Becket's tax rate low. He noted that these second home owners look for little in the way of services from the Town other than public safety; ambulance, fire and police. Chief Elovirta recommended that the Town

vote for the recommended amount of 219,600.00. Ms. O'Connor wasn't clear on whether the discussion was on having a midnight shift or a full time Chief. Jeremy Dunn noted that the current cost of a part time Police Chief was approximately \$19,000.00 per year, then referred to a memo from the Town Administrator to the Finance Committee that reveals that the total cost of a full time Police Chief would be \$105,000.00. Administrator Kleman contested this assertion, and stated that the bottom line number for a full time Police Chief was approximately \$82,703.00. Mr. Dunn observed that by his calculations the increase in cost to the Town going from a part time to full time Chief, with salary, health insurance and payroll tax was approximately \$64,000.00. Angela Hilton moved to reduce the amount voted for to the amount recommended by the Finance Committee of \$203,070. 00 for Police Dept. Salaries. The motion was seconded from the floor. Mrs. Roberts asked if the reduction would result in a decrease in protection. Mr. Elovirta responded that the reduced funding would not fully fund a midnight shift officer. Mrs. Devane asked the finance committee recommended amount would result in a full time Chief. Mr. Kleman responded that he believed a full time Chief would still be hired, and the Town would continue to rely on part time officers to fill staffing gaps. He also stated he didn't believe our full time officers would be reduced to part time officer. He believed that a part timer's patrol hours would be blended into the full time Chief's and that there would be one fewer part time police officers. Mr. Dunn noted that there were some part time officers that had expressed the intent to resign when Chief Elovirta resigned. John Amatto asked if we were voting on whether we were voting on a full time Police Chief, or the amount of money. The moderator explained that what was being voted on was the money appropriated for the budget, and that the Administrator and Selectboard would decide how to allocate those funds. Ms. Regan asked why the Selectboard supported the higher amount and what the increased cost to individual tax payers would be. Selectwoman Pryor explained the majority of the Selectboard felt that it was of paramount importance that the people of the Town be protected and approved the requested budget accordingly. Jeremy Dunn noted that the higher amount for Police Dept. Salaries would result in approximately 3 cents additional per thousand dollars of property tax valuation. Mrs. Swindlehurst made a motion to move the question. The motion was seconded from the floor. The moderator noted that for this motion to succeed it would have to pass by a 2/3 majority and that he was authorized by law and Town By-law to call a 2/3 majority on voice vote. A voice vote was taken and the Moderator determined that 2/3 had voted to cut off debate. The moderators call was doubted from the floor by more than 7 registered voters. The moderator then called for a show of hands and the election workers present, Eva Bonney and Patricia Clemons, counted those for and against the motion to end debate on the proposed amendment. The vote in favor of stopping debate on the proposed amendment was 91 and the vote against stopping debate was 45. The motion to end debate passed with 66.9%, or just slightly more than the 2/3 majority required for the motion to carry. A voice vote was then taken on the motion to substitute \$203,070 for 219,600.00, the moderator determined that the motion didn't pass. The moderator, upon expressions of doubt from the floor then called for a show of hands, and confirmed that the motion to substitute did not pass. There was additional discussion on what actual costs were included in the \$219,000.00, and it was reiterated that insurance costs and other employee costs were reflected in other line items of the budget. Pat Portieri made a motion to reduce this line item to \$173,700.00. There was a second for the floor. A voice vote was taken and the moderator was uncertain. A show of hands was called, and the motion failed. Doubt was expressed from the floor. A show of hands was called for and the vote was counted with those in favor 63 and those opposed 82, the motion to amend failed. Eva Birkett mentioned that when the vote now to be taken it was against the recommendation of the finance committee. Rita Furlong noted that our tax rate was going down, not up. Dan Parnell noted that the largest town expense was school expenses, and that school costs went down this year. The second largest expense is town employee salaries, and that it is very hard to lower employee costs when new employees are brought on board. Bob Ronzio discussed the cost of many part time officers might equal the cost of one or two full time police officers. Mr. Kleman discussed developments that lead up to the Board of Selectmen's decision to explore hiring a full time Police Chief. A vote was taken on the motion to approve the Selectboard recommended amount of \$219,600.00 and the motion on the Selectboard Budget Recommended amount **Line Item 69 Passed.**

Line Item 71 – Harbor Master. There was a question from the floor as to why the harbor master expenses for this year was almost double from the previous year. The Town Administrator and Jeremy Dunn commented on this question. A vote was taken and the motion on the Finance Committee/Selectboard Budget Recommended amount **Line Item 71 Passed.**

Line Item 78 – Building & Code Insp. Exp. Cindy Delpapa asked what this money was used for and why the increase. Mr. Kleman explained that the building inspector got new software and there is a software maintenance contract. The software will enable access to building permits online and other functions. Jeremy Dunn stated that the Finance Committee recommended approval contingent on the Selectboard increasing fees for the building inspector and permits. A vote was taken and the motion on the Finance Committee/Selectboard Budget Recommended amount **Line Item 78 Passed.**

Line Item 79 – Demolition Fund. Mr. Lerner asked what the fund was used for. Mr. Kleman explained that bids were solicited for contractors to remove dangerous buildings and eyesores. Mr. Lerner asked what the average number of houses removed over the last 5 years. Mr. Dunn responded to Mr. Lerner noting that the building inspector noted that there are as many as 30 properties in town that need to be destroyed. Mr. Dunn stated that the current budget was sufficient to destroy between 2 and 5 of those 30 properties. Mr. Lerner moved to increase the budget amount to \$12,200.00. The motion was seconded from the floor. There was discussion from the floor. A vote was taken and the motion to amend failed. A vote was taken and the motion on the Finance Committee/Selectboard Budget Recommended amount **Line Item 8 Passed Unanimously.**

Line Item 80 – Public Safety Inspections. Ms. O'Connor asked what this money was used for. It was explained that this was wiring, plumbing and gas inspectors. A vote was taken and the motion on the Finance Committee/Selectboard Budget Recommended amount **Line Item 80 Passed Unanimously.**

Line Item 92 – Board of Health Salaries. There was discussion on the floor concerning cost of Beach Permits being \$50.00. Ms. Conner stated it was a State Permit requirement, and reports were submitted by the Board of Health to the State. A vote was taken and the motion on the Finance Committee/Selectboard Budget Recommended amount **Line Item 92 passed unanimously.**

Line Item 93 – Board of Health Expenses. There was no discussion. A vote was taken. The motion on the Finance Committee/Selectboard Budget Recommended amount **Line Item 93 Passed Unanimously.**

Line Item 105 – Municipal Buildings. Ms. O'Connor wanted to know what municipal buildings were involved. Mr. Kleman responded: Town Hall, Fire Station One, Fire Station Two, the Highway Garage and the money was used for phone, supplies, and the like. The Arts Center and the Mullen house are not included in the Municipal Buildings. A vote was taken and the motion on the Finance Committee/Selectboard Budget Recommended amount **Line Item 105 Passed Unanimously.**

Line Item 106 – Software Maint. Agreement. Mr. Kleman explained that this was for new software packages that the Tax Assessor and Tax Collector’s offices received. He also noted that in previous years this was not a separate line item. A vote was taken and the motion on the Finance Committee/Selectboard Budget Recommended **amount Line Item 106 Passed.**

Line Item 115 – Parks Comm. Ms. O’Connor asked if Town Beach erosion remediation was coming out of this line item. Rita Furlong responded that Conservation Commission said that sand could no longer be placed the beach because it was washing into the pond. Last year’ money was spent to have engineering studies done and buy materials. She hopes to use this upcoming year’s funds for volley ball courts and the like. A vote was taken and the motion on the Finance Committee/Selectboard Budget Recommended amount **Line Item 115 Passed Unanimously.**

Line Item 119 – Health Insurance. There was discussion on the floor concerning the expense of health insurance, and whether the Town had done any comparison shopping. There was a vote was taken and the motion on the Finance Committee/Selectboard Budget Recommended amount **Line Item 119 Passed.**

Bob Ronzio moved to suspend the rules and advance Article 18 for immediate consideration, and it was seconded from the floor. The Town Moderator acknowledged the motion, noted that it was not debatable or subject to amendment and required a two thirds vote. A vote was taken, the Town Moderator declared that the motion to suspend the rules and advance Article 18 passed by the requisite 2/3 majority, and the rules were suspended and the meeting proceeded to consider Article 18.

Article 18: To see if the town will appoint Sergeant Marc J. Portieri, a police officer and resident of the town, as Police Chief for the Town of Becket for a term of one year or take any other action relative thereto.

Voted: That the town’s voting residents following the language in Article 3 Section 1 of the Town of Becket By-Laws, vote at the Town Meeting to appoint Marc J. Portieri as Police Chief and that vote to then be confirmed by secret ballot at the Town Election.

Article petitioned by voters.

The Town Moderator explained that this vote is advisory only and that Town Counsel had confirmed that the Town Charter and Town By-laws vested appointment authority for the Police Chief in the Town Administrator with the concurrence of the Board of Selectmen. There was lengthy discussion from the floor. Ms. Hilton moved to amend the Article to require the Town Administrator to appoint Marc Portieri, a Police Officer in the Town of Becket as Police Chief of the Town of Becket for a term of one year. The Town Moderator sought the opinion of Town Counsel as to whether this was a legitimate motion. Town Counsel opined that the motion was not a legitimate motion. The Town Moderator ruled the motion out of order. There was further discussion from the floor. The Article was moved and seconded from the floor. A voice vote was taken and the Town Moderator declared the vote failed. The vote was doubted, and vote was taken by showing hands, the Town Moderator was in doubt. A vote and count was taken with 58 in favor and 66 opposed, and the motion on **Article 18 Failed.**

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$333,935 to fund the bond payments due in fiscal year 2013 for the previously approved debt excluded items:

Becket Washington School	\$112,374
Nessacus Regional Middle School	\$ 13,764
Class A Fire Pumper	\$109,285
Ambulance & Truck Bodies	\$ 92,051
Craneville School	\$ 32
Wahconah Regional HS	\$ 6,429

Majority Vote Required

A motion was made by the Moderator on Article 5 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 raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 and to appropriate \$53,950 from Free Cash to fund the Stabilization Fund for a total of \$103,950 for fiscal year 2013.

2/3 Vote Required

A motion was made and seconded from the floor. Mr. Dunn made a brief statement that the amount being voted on was a compromise. Mr. Kleman noted that with the amount being voted on, should it pass, the Town would have about \$500,.000 available for emergencies. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 6 Passed Unanimously.**

Article 7: 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

A motion was made and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 7 Passed Unanimously**

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$24,039 from Free Cash for the purpose of providing the following:

	Requested	Finance Committee & Selectmen Recommendations
Police Server & Backup for Records Management	\$5,000	\$5,000

System		
Enhanced KVS Software	\$4,045	\$4,045
Highway Radio Upgrade	\$8,054	\$8,054
Computer Hardware & Software Replacement	\$6,940	\$6,940
Total	\$24,039	\$24,039

Majority Vote Required

A motion was made and seconded from the floor. There was discussion of changing from a Cobol to Windows based system. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 8 Passed**.

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$294,400 for the salaries (\$278,100) and expenses (\$16,300) of the Ambulance Enterprise Fund, and to fund said appropriation:

To raise and appropriate \$204,400 and to appropriate from Fiscal Year 2013 receipts \$70,000 and from the Ambulance Enterprise Free Cash \$20,000.

Majority Vote Required

A motion was made seconded from the floor. There was explaining that this was a change taking advantage of an accounting technique that would provide the Town with greater flexibility by allowing the Town to use ambulance receipts in the year they are received. There was further discussion on the expense and effect on the tax rate, and whether the Town of Washington could contribute financially. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 9 Passed Unanimously**.

Article 10: To establish an Ambulance Stabilization Account and to see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to said account and to fund this appropriation with \$20,000 from the Ambulance Enterprise Free Cash for future equipment.

2/3 Vote Required

A motion was made and seconded from the floor. There was explaining that this was a stabilization fund for only the ambulance department. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 10 Passed Unanimously**.

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to \$150,000 to purchase and equip a new single axle Dump Truck with a stainless steel body and to fund this appropriation by borrowing up to \$150,000 as a debt exclusion and to authorize the Select Board to sell or trade the 1992 International Dump Truck. Contingent upon favorable action on a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion vote on the annual town election ballot on May 19, 2012.

2/3 Vote Required

A motion was made and seconded from the floor to appropriate \$150,000 to purchase and equip a new single axle Dump Truck. There was discussion from the floor questioning if such an expensive vehicle is a major upgrade, and if the Town needed it. Mr. Tisdale explained that the Town would be replacing a 4x4 with a 4x4. Mr. Fuller also noted that the Town purchased a similar vehicle last year at a similar price. A voice vote was taken and the Town Moderator declared a 2/3 majority in favor, and the motion on **Article 11 Passed by 2/3 Majority**.

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to accept as gifts the following parcels of land, for general municipal purposes, including for the purposes of conveyance and authorize the Treasurer to sell these parcels at auction or through sealed bid sales, at her discretion:

- A: (Map 216, Lot 42) from Cary B & Hermine Meeks, 9181 Springview Loop, Estero, FL 33928, described as follows: (0.27 acre), located on Castle Lane. Recorded at the Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds in Book 1792, Page 298.
- B: (Map 215, Lot 88) from Marilyn Mitchell, Trustee Busch Family Nominee Trust, 20 Westwind Road, Pawling, NY 12564, described as follows: (0.28 acre), located on Blue Boar Lane. Recorded at the Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds in Book 2159, Page 69.
- C: (Map 215, Lot 69) from Maryann Giannotti, 220 Newfield St. Apt. 202, Middletown, CT 06457, described as follows: (0.52 acre), located on Robin Hood Lane. Recorded at the Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds in Book 1383, Page 424.
- D: (Map 216, Lot 39) from Linda Shaw, 58 Castle Lane, Becket, MA 01223, described as follows: (0.54 acre), located on Castle Lane. Recorded at the Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds in Book 1584, Page 1150.
- E: (Map 216, Lot 664) from Guy & Theresa Petruccelli, 450 Mountain Top Drive, Asheboro, NC 27203, described as follows: (0.24 acre), located on Prince John Drive. Recorded at the Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds in Book 957, Page 745.
- F: (Map 216, Lot 93) from Carla R. Troy, 9 Silver Lakes Drive, Darien, CT 06820, described as follows: (0.27 acre), located on Bowmans Lane. Recorded at the Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds in Book 966, Page 317.
- G: (Map 216, Lot 386) from Erhard Zimmer, 126 Leanna Drive, New Egypt, NJ 08533, described as follows: (0.27 acre), located on Minstrels Way. Recorded at the Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds in Book 1012, Page 845.
- H: (Map 216, Lot 651) from Ed Mendenhall, 5608 S. Blackmoor Dr., Murrells Inlet, SC 29576, described as follows: (0.48 acre), located on Prince John Drive. Recorded at the Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds in Book 945, Page 999.
- I: (Map 214, Lot 100) from Jeanne Goldstein, 819 Knollwood Terrace, Westfield, NJ 07090, described as follows: (0.77 acre), located on Long Bow Lane West. Recorded at the Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds in Book 1287, Page 624.
- J: (Map 215, Lot 67) from Christopher Sarafin, 4 Bromley Road, Huntington, MA 01050, described as follows: (0.26 acre), located on Robin Hood Lane. Recorded at the Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds in Book 4590, Page 1.
- K: (Map 215, Lot 68) from Christopher Sarafin, 4 Bromley Road, Huntington, MA 01050, described as follows: (0.26 acre), located on Robin Hood Lane. Recorded at the Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds in Book 4590, Page 1.
- L: (Map 216, Lot 41) from Christopher Sarafin, 4 Bromley Road, Huntington, MA 01050, described as follows: (0.27 acre), located on Castle Lane. Recorded at the Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds in Book 4590, Page 3.
- M: (Map 216, Lot 225) from Raymond Ramirez, 1820 Aroostook Road, Wallagrass, ME 04781, described as follows: (0.99 acre), located on Plow Road. Recorded at the Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds in Book 4017, Page 23.

Majority Vote Required

A motion was made 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 authorize the Select Board to take all necessary and appropriate action to establish and to maintain, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 164 of the General Laws and in accordance with the rules, regulations and orders of the Department of Public Utilities and the Department of Telecommunications & Cable, a municipal lighting plant for all purposes allowable under the laws of the Commonwealth, including without limitation the operation of a telecommunications system and any related services, or take any other action relative thereto.

2/3 Vote Required on Secret Paper Ballot

Article 13 was moved and seconded from the floor. Mr. Schatz spoke in favor of high speed internet. Mr. Garmin asked if the whole town would be connected. Mr. Ronzio said yes, but noted that Wired West would not be able to start until the trunk lines were laid, but noted that to avoid delay the Town should pass this Article today. Mrs. Swindlehurst inquired as to whether we could strike the “municipal power plant” language. Mr. Ronzio stated that the law required the language of the Article to pass as written. A secret ballot vote was taken, and there were 75 votes in favor and 3 votes against, and the motion on **Article 13 Passed by 2/3 Majority.**

Article 14: 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 2013, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation:

Appropriations:

From FY 2013 estimated revenues to Committee Administrative Expenses	\$500
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Reserves:

From FY 2013 estimated revenues to Historical Resources Reserve	\$4,355
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From FY 2013 estimated revenues to Community Housing Reserve	\$4,355
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From FY 2013 estimated revenues to Open Space Reserve	\$4,355
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From FY 2013 estimated revenues to Budgeted Reserve	\$30,500
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Majority Vote Required

Neil Toomey gave a brief presentation regarding the Becket Community Preservation Committee and what Community Preservation funds were used for. The Article was moved and seconded from the floor. There was discussion on the floor and an explanation of the appropriations. A vote was called, and the motion on **Article 14 Passed Unanimously.**

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$5,000 from the undesignated Budgeted Reserves of the Community Preservation Fund for historic preservation purposes to fund the completion of Phase IV of the Mullen House Education Center Restoration Project; said funds to be expended under the direction of the Community Preservation Committee and the Mullen House Educational Center Board of Directors.

Majority Vote Required

The Article was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. A vote was taken, and the motion on **Article 15 Passed.**

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the care, custody, management and control of two parcels of land from the Treasurer for tax title purposes to the Board of Selectmen for purposes of sale for conservation and passive recreation purposes, the first parcel being that certain parcel located on Meadow Lake Drive, now known as Jacobs Ladder Road, shown as Assessor’s Map 213, Lot 124, described in a Judgment in Tax Lien Case dated June 6, 2008, recorded with the Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds in Book 4085, Page 32, and the second parcel being that certain parcel located on Route 20, now known as Jacobs Ladder Road, shown as Assessor’s Map 213, Lot 125, described in a Judgment in Tax Lien Case dated March 8, 2000, recorded with the Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds in Book 1767, Page 128, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell all or any portion of said property on such terms, conditions and restrictions as the Selectmen shall deem appropriate and to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments as may be necessary to sell such property, or take any other action relative thereto.

2/3 Vote Required

The Town Moderator explained that the language at the end of the warrant article: “*or take any other action relative thereto*” should be deleted as the meeting was going to be taking specific action with this vote. The Article was moved and seconded from the floor. David Neelon gave a brief explanation of the need for this proposed action. A vote was called, and the motion on **Article 16 Passed Unanimously.**

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to petition the Legislature to enact Legislation to authorize the Selectmen to set an enforceable speed limit on certain roads; provided, that the Legislature may reasonably vary from the form and substance of the requested legislation within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition.

An Act to authorize the Town of Becket to establish a speed regulation on Fred Snow Road and Johnson Road.

Section 1.

The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Becket shall be authorized to establish an enforceable speed limit on Fred Snow Road and Johnson Road to promote public safety on these residential, rural gravel roads.

Section 2.

This Act shall take effect upon passage.

Majority Vote Required

The Article was moved and seconded from the floor. There was discussion questioning whether additional roads couldn't be added, and why these roads were chosen. There was also general discussion in agreement that many, if not all, town roads might benefit from similar action in the future. A vote was taken, and the motion on **Article 17 Passed.**

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to change the composition of the Select Board from a three member Board to a five member Board, or take any other action relative thereto.

Voted: That the Town of Becket contingent upon the passing of a ballot question at the Annual Town Election for the same purpose within thirty (30) immediately initiate any and all actions required by statute to effect this change, in accordance with G.L. c. 41, §1, and 21 and G.L. c. 40, § 32.
This article is contingent on the passing of a ballot question at the Annual Town Election. Legislative action is also required to effect this change.

Majority Vote Required

The Town Moderator moved that the Town vote to change the composition of the Select Board from a three-member board to a five-member board; and futher, to authorize the Select Board to submit special legislation on behalf of the Town, and in accordance with the Home Rule Amendment to the Massachusetts Constitution: 1) amending Chapter 662 of the Acts of 1990, as most recently amended by Chapter 184 of the Acts of 2000 so that Section 3 of Said act shall state, “ There shall be a board of selectmen, consisting of five members, elected as provided in Section 2.” 2) addressing the transition of the Select Board from three members to five; and 3) ratifying, validating and confirming the May 19, 2012 Town Election, despite technical non-compliance with G.L. c.54, section42B; provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Select Board approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court; and provided further that the Select Board is hereby authorized to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition; and further, to amend the Town of Becket By-laws, Article 2, Section 1, first sentence to stat: “There shall be five (5) SELECTMEN, each to serve for a term of three years.” There was discussion from the floor in favor and in opposition to the article. The motion was seconded. There was a motion to move the Article. The motion passed. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 19 Failed.**

Article 20: We the undersigned registered voters request that the selectmen, for the Town of Becket include in the warrant for the next applicable town meeting a request for participation by the town in the Berkshire County Mosquito Control Project to provide Integrate Mosquito Management services and surveillance for West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis to begin as soon as practicable in 2012.

Majority Vote Required

Article Petitioned by voters.

The Town Moderator moved that the Town authorize the Select Board to apply for membership in the Berkshire County Mosquito Control Project, as established under St. 1945, c.456, as amended for the purposes established by law, including integrated mosquito management services including surveillance of West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis. It was moved and seconded. There was discussion for and against participation in the program. Christopher Horton , Superintendent of Berkshire County Mosquito Control gave a brief outline of the program and addressed questions regarding cost, funding, safety and toxicity. There was a motion from the floor to move the question, it was seconded from the floor. The motion passed unanimously. A vote was called, and the motion on **Article 20 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 19, 2012, starting at 10:00 a.m. A vote was taken and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m. The checkers were Election Workers Eva Bonney and Patricia Clemons.

Respectfully submitted,

George E. Roberts
Town Clerk