

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, the Annual Town Meeting was called on May 13, 2017, 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 7:05 p.m. by the Moderator. There were 100 registered voters present (7.18% of 1,392 registered voters) and a total of 120 people attended the meeting. Town Officials Present: Bruce Garlow, Moderator; Ethan Klepetar, Deputy Moderator, Jeanne Pryor, Bill Elovirta, and Nicole Ledoux, Selectmen; Ann Spadafora, Maria Wallington, Dan Parnell, Ronald Defoe, 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). The Moderator reviewed the warrant and declared it to have been duly posted as evidenced by the attestation of the posting constable.

William Elovirta offered a brief statement in remembrance of Police Officer Michael Sawyer, who passed unexpectedly on Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 after suffering a massive heart attack. The meeting then observed a moment of silence for Michael Sawyer. Jeanne Pryor spoke on behalf of the Board of Selectmen honoring Bruce Garlow for his 21 years of service as Town Moderator. Dan Parnell gave a brief statement regarding the challenges in this year's budget. Bruce Garlow, as his swan-song, recited his poem "Town Meeting Farewell" celebrating the Town Meeting form of government and passing his gavel to his Deputy Moderator.

#### Town Meeting Farewell

Our tradition of town meeting is healthy and alive  
Becket's first was held here in 1765  
The state was just a colony, this was just a colonial town  
Under the thumb of a governor appointed by the Crown.

But we ran our local government mostly on our own  
Free from interference from the governor or the throne  
Free men debating and deciding the issues of the day  
Too bad it took so long to let the ladies have their say

It's a legislative body, like in Boston or D.C.  
But we finish up in just one night, that's our history  
Budgets, bylaws and taxes, the topics they dealt with back then  
Are revisited year after year and over and over again.

But all of it's important, it's how we govern our town  
The purest form of democracy anywhere around  
Everyone's a legislator, equal in every way  
Except your kindly moderator who stands above the fray.

After twenty years at the podium, it's time to step aside.  
I do so with humility and a bunch of Becket pride  
It's been my honor and privilege to serve every one of you  
But after I'm done here tonight my town meeting time is through.

I'll pass this battered gavel to a smarter, younger man  
If anyone can do this job I think that Ethan can.  
He'll serve in a position that's two hundred and fifty years strong  
I know his service will be distinguished, superior and long.

Thank you.

Bruce Garlow, May 13, 2017

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 \$165.00 to fund the following bills from previous fiscal years:

Vendor	Date	Amount
Carr Hardware (Equipment Rental Bldg. & Grounds)	4/6/2016	\$ 165.00

**Board of Selectmen: Recommends** **4/5 Vote Required**  
**Finance Committee: Recommends**

**Article 1** Was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

**Article 1 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Article 2:** To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to Chapter 41, section 108 of the General Laws, to fix the compensation of the Board of Selectmen at \$2,040 each and pursuant to Chapter 41, section 4A of the General Laws, to allow the following boards to employ their members at the listed hourly rates.

- 1.) Board of Health at the rate of \$14.85 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 \$14.85 per hour for the performance of their duties as Cemetery Commission members in maintaining the cemeteries that is in excess of their meeting time.

**Board of Selectmen: Recommends** **Majority Vote Required**  
**Finance Committee: Recommends**

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

**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 2018 Fiscal Year as set forth in the following line items:

**Board of Selectmen: Recommends** **Majority Vote Required**  
**Finance Committee: Recommends**

1	TOWN of BECKET	BUDGET	BUDGET	FIN COMM	Percent
2	FY2018	APPROVED	REQUEST	SELECTMEN	INCREASE
3		FY2017	FY2018	RECOMMENDED	(DECREASE)
4	<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>				
5	TOWN COUNSEL	\$18,000.00	\$21,000.00	\$18,000.00	0.00%
6	TOWN MEETING EXPENSES	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	0.00%

7	SELECTMEN'S SALARIES	\$6,000.00	\$6,120.00	\$6,120.00	2.00%
8	SELECTMEN'S EXPENSES	\$2,000.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	-10.00%
9	ADVERTISING	\$3,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	28.57%
10	TOWN SECRETARY	\$39,108.24	\$42,785.60	\$42,785.60	9.40%
11	TOWN ADMIN. SALARY	\$64,639.26	\$64,639.26	\$68,500.00	5.97%
12	TOWN ADMIN. EXPENSE	\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00	\$1,400.00	-17.65%
13	FINANCE COMMITTEE	\$650.00	\$650.00	\$650.00	0.00%
14	ASSESSORS SALARIES	\$73,825.68	\$73,178.37	\$72,178.37	-2.23%
15	ASSESSORS EXPENSE	\$62,090.00	\$63,610.00	\$63,610.00	2.45%
16	TOWN TREASURER SALARY	\$43,363.84	\$44,229.12	\$44,229.12	2.00%
17	TOWN TREASURER EXP.	\$5,530.00	\$5,530.00	\$5,530.00	0.00%
18	TAX COLLECTOR SALARY	\$54,308.88	\$55,390.40	\$55,390.40	1.99%
19	TAX COLLECTOR EXPENSE	\$7,580.00	\$7,580.00	\$7,580.00	0.00%
20	ASSIST. TAX COLLECTOR	\$45,205.20	\$46,108.40	\$46,108.40	2.00%
21	TOWN CLERK SALARY	\$27,516.84	\$28,055.04	\$28,055.04	1.96%
22	TOWN CLERK EXPENSE	\$2,145.00	\$2,145.00	\$2,145.00	0.00%
23	ELECTION-REGISTRATION	\$14,274.15	\$11,102.00	\$11,102.00	-22.22%
24	CLERK OF COMMITTEES		\$32,756.87	\$32,756.87	#DIV/0!
25	CONSERVATION COMM.	\$14,310.00	\$22,150.00	\$19,894.00	39.02%
26	PLANNING BOARD EXPENSE	\$7,202.65	\$7,202.65	\$2,224.81	-69.11%
27	REGIONAL PLAN COM.	\$1,316.24	\$1,349.15	\$1,349.15	2.50%
28	BOARD of APPEALS	\$3,510.00	\$3,510.00	\$1,500.00	-57.26%
29	RESERVE FUND	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$35,000.00	-12.50%
30	<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT TOTAL</b>	<b>\$541,275.98</b>	<b>\$590,591.86</b>	<b>\$575,908.76</b>	<b>6.40%</b>
31					
32	<b>HIGHWAY</b>				
33	SUMMER LABOR	\$215,720.10	\$222,319.59	\$222,319.59	3.06%
34	TRANSFER STATION LABOR	\$28,489.76	\$30,017.76	\$30,017.76	5.36%
35	<b>LABOR SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$244,209.86</b>	<b>\$252,337.35</b>	<b>\$252,337.35</b>	<b>3.33%</b>
36	WINTER ROAD SALARIES	\$146,879.30	\$149,543.13	\$149,543.13	1.81%
37	<i>Sand</i>	\$8,200.00	\$8,400.00	\$8,400.00	2.44%
38	<i>Stone Chips</i>	\$13,350.00	\$13,650.00	\$13,650.00	2.25%
39	<i>Salt</i>	\$46,800.00	\$47,900.00	\$47,900.00	2.35%
40	<i>Plow Blades</i>	\$4,250.00	\$4,300.00	\$4,300.00	1.18%
41	<i>Cold Patch</i>	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	0.00%
42	<i>Parts</i>	\$3,150.00	\$3,200.00	\$3,200.00	1.59%
43	<i>Sander Chains</i>	\$4,200.00	\$4,300.00	\$4,300.00	2.38%
44	<i>Bagged Deicer</i>		\$0.00	\$0.00	#DIV/0!
45	<b>WINTER ROADS (TOTAL)</b>	<b>\$81,150.00</b>	<b>\$82,950.00</b>	<b>\$82,950.00</b>	<b>2.22%</b>
46	<b>WINTER ROADS SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$228,029.30</b>	<b>\$232,493.13</b>	<b>\$232,493.13</b>	<b>1.96%</b>
47		<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>FIN COMM</b>	<b>Percent</b>
48		<b>APPROVED</b>	<b>REQUEST</b>	<b>SELECTMEN</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>
49		<b>FY2017</b>	<b>FY2018</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED</b>	<b>(DECREASE)</b>
50	<i>Inspections</i>	\$912.00	\$912.00	\$912.00	0.00%
51	<i>Tires</i>	\$8,800.00	\$8,900.00	\$8,900.00	1.14%
52	<i>Oil/Lubricants</i>	\$3,400.00	\$3,450.00	\$3,450.00	1.47%
53	<i>Repairs/Equipment</i>	\$31,000.00	\$19,000.00	\$19,000.00	-38.71%
54	<i>Parts/Supplies</i>	\$18,540.00	\$27,500.00	\$27,500.00	48.33%
55	<i>Welding Supplies</i>	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	0.00%

56	Radios	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	0.00%
57	Scanner Updates		\$825.00	\$825.00	#DIV/0!
58	Fleet Software Maintenance and Updates		\$2,200.00	\$2,200.00	#DIV/0!
59	Tools/Safety	\$825.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	263.64%
60	Purchase Vehicle Scan Equipment (Updates)	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	-100.00%
61	<b>MACHINERY ACCOUNT (TOTAL)</b>	<b>\$69,477.00</b>	<b>\$68,787.00</b>	<b>\$68,787.00</b>	<b>-0.99%</b>
62	Fuel	\$87,750.00	\$87,750.00	\$87,750.00	0.00%
63	Operator Contract	\$1,850.00	\$1,850.00	\$1,850.00	0.00%
64	Maintenance/Repair	\$2,575.00	\$2,900.00	\$2,900.00	12.62%
65	DEF Fluid	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	#DIV/0!
66	<b>FUEL ACCOUNT (TOTAL)</b>	<b>\$92,175.00</b>	<b>\$94,500.00</b>	<b>\$94,500.00</b>	<b>2.52%</b>
67	Mowing	\$2,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	-40.00%
68	Line Painting	\$10,180.00	\$10,430.00	\$10,430.00	2.46%
69	Gravel/Stone	\$38,500.00	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00	16.88%
70	Hot Mix Patch	\$15,200.00	\$15,600.00	\$15,600.00	2.63%
71	Rental Equipment	\$1,650.00	\$1,650.00	\$1,650.00	0.00%
72	Signs	\$3,200.00	\$3,200.00	\$3,200.00	0.00%
73	Culverts	\$3,100.00	\$3,100.00	\$3,100.00	0.00%
74	Beaver Maintenance	\$2,800.00	\$2,800.00	\$2,800.00	0.00%
75	Guardrail	\$1,600.00	\$1,650.00	\$1,650.00	3.13%
76	Crack Seal	\$15,000.00	\$15,350.00	\$15,350.00	2.33%
77	Catch Basin Cleaning	\$4,600.00	\$4,700.00	\$4,700.00	2.17%
78	Sweeping	\$7,300.00	\$7,480.00	\$7,480.00	2.47%
79	Hand Tools	\$730.00	\$730.00	\$730.00	0.00%
80	Misc.	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	0.00%
81	Road Improvement (Formerly Recon Gravel)	\$51,000.00	\$51,000.00	\$51,000.00	0.00%
82	<b>GENERAL MAINT MAT. &amp; EQUIP. (TOTAL)</b>	<b>\$158,960.00</b>	<b>\$165,790.00</b>	<b>\$165,790.00</b>	<b>4.30%</b>
83	Legal Ads	\$900.00	\$900.00	\$900.00	0.00%
84	Drug Testing	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	0.00%
85	License Reimbursement	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	0.00%
86	Repairs/Supplies	\$3,100.00	\$3,100.00	\$3,100.00	0.00%
87	Berkshire County Purchasing Group	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	0.00%
88	Office Supplies	\$640.00	\$640.00	\$640.00	0.00%
89	Education & Training	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	0.00%
90	Meeting/Dues Expenses	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	0.00%
91	Safety Gear	\$2,550.00	\$2,550.00	\$2,550.00	0.00%
92	<b>HIGHWAY GARAGE (TOTAL)</b>	<b>\$10,990.00</b>	<b>\$10,990.00</b>	<b>\$10,990.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

93		<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>FIN COMM</b>	<b>Percent</b>
94		<b>APPROVED</b>	<b>REQUEST</b>	<b>SELECTMEN</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>
95		<b>FY2017</b>	<b>FY2018</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED</b>	<b>(DECREASE)</b>
96	Rental Compactor	\$3,000.00	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00	20.00%
97	Rental Open Container (2)	\$1,800.00	\$2,700.00	\$2,700.00	50.00%
98	Trucking Compactor	\$6,300.00	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00	11.11%
99	Trucking Open Container	\$5,400.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	11.11%
100	Trucking Cans & Bottles	\$4,200.00	\$4,620.00	\$4,620.00	10.00%
101	Trucking Scrap Metal	\$2,520.00	\$2,800.00	\$2,800.00	11.11%

102	Trucking Paper Cardboard	\$3,000.00	\$3,300.00	\$3,300.00	10.00%
103	Trucking Rigid Plastics		\$2,640.00	\$2,640.00	#DIV/0!
104	Trucking Fuel Surcharge	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	0.00%
105	Disposal Solid Waste	\$24,000.00	\$24,300.00	\$24,300.00	1.25%
106	Disposal Bulky Waste	\$15,200.00	\$15,390.00	\$15,390.00	1.25%
107	Disposal Haz Mat	\$3,200.00	\$3,250.00	\$3,250.00	1.56%
108	Chemicals	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	0.00%
109	Permits	\$1,850.00	\$1,850.00	\$1,850.00	0.00%
110	MRF education	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	0.00%
111	Maintenance	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	0.00%
112	<b>TRANSFER STATION COSTS (TOTAL)</b>	<b>\$73,770.00</b>	<b>\$80,750.00</b>	<b>\$80,750.00</b>	<b>9.46%</b>
113	<b>MATERIALS AND SERVICES SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$405,372.00</b>	<b>\$420,817.00</b>	<b>\$420,817.00</b>	<b>3.81%</b>
114	<b>HIGHWAY TOTAL</b>	<b>\$877,611.16</b>	<b>\$905,647.48</b>	<b>\$905,647.48</b>	<b>3.19%</b>
115	CENTER CEMETERY	\$4,604.52	\$4,696.62	\$4,696.62	2.00%
116	NORTH CEMETERY	\$11,289.64	\$11,515.44	\$11,515.44	2.00%
117	WEST CEMETERY	\$1,273.46	\$1,298.94	\$1,298.94	2.00%
118	<b>CEMETERIES TOTAL</b>	<b>\$17,167.62</b>	<b>\$17,511.00</b>	<b>\$17,511.00</b>	<b>#REF!</b>
119	TREE ACCOUNT	\$10,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	50.00%
120	<b>FORESTRY TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>	<b>\$15,000.00</b>	<b>\$15,000.00</b>	<b>50.00%</b>
121					
122	<b>EDUCATION</b>				
123	CBRSO OPERATING ASSESSMENT	\$1,897,741.00	\$2,041,390.00	\$2,041,390.00	7.57%
124	VOCATIONAL TUITION	\$193,116.00	\$221,013.00	\$221,013.00	14.45%
125	VOCATIONAL TRANSPORT.	\$56,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$45,000.00	-19.64%
126	<b>TOTAL EDUCATION</b>	<b>\$2,146,857.00</b>	<b>\$2,312,403.00</b>	<b>\$2,307,403.00</b>	<b>7.48%</b>
127					
128	<b>PROTECT. PERSON &amp; PROP</b>				
129	POLICE DEPT. SALARIES	\$290,914.96	\$319,810.64	\$319,810.64	9.93%
130	POLICE DEPT. EXPENSE	\$17,950.00	\$21,276.00	\$15,876.00	-11.55%
131	HARBOR MASTER	\$1,414.00	\$1,426.00	\$1,426.00	0.85%
132	OUTREACH	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	0.00%
133	CONSTABLE EXPENSE	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	0.00%
134	FIRE CHIEF STIPEND	\$4,083.54	\$4,165.24	\$4,165.00	1.99%
135	FIRE DEPT. EXPENSES	\$30,000.00	\$30,600.00	\$30,600.00	2.00%
136	FIRE CALL STIPEND	\$15,400.00	\$14,000.00	\$14,000.00	-9.09%
137	FORESTRY FIRE DEPT. TOOLS & EQUIP.	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	0.00%
138	BUILDING INSP. SALARY	\$51,356.24	\$52,595.84	\$52,595.84	2.41%
139	BUILDING & CODE INSP. EXP	\$3,272.00	\$2,215.00	\$2,215.00	-32.30%
140	DEMOLITION FUND	\$18,000.00	\$19,800.00	\$19,800.00	10.00%
141	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT EXPENSES	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	0.00%
142		<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>FIN COMM</b>	<b>Percent</b>
143		<b>APPROVED</b>	<b>REQUEST</b>	<b>SELECTMEN</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>
144		<b>FY2017</b>	<b>FY2018</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED</b>	<b>(DECREASE)</b>
145	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TRAINING	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	0.00%
146	ANIMAL CONTROL SALARIES	\$8,041.26	\$8,041.26	\$8,041.26	0.00%
147	ANIMAL CONTROL EXPENSES	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	0.00%
148	<b>PERSON &amp; PROP. TOTAL</b>	<b>\$447,232.00</b>	<b>\$480,729.98</b>	<b>\$475,329.74</b>	<b>6.28%</b>
149	<b>HEALTH &amp; SANITATION</b>				
150	E911 COMMUNICATION	\$11,606.62	\$11,954.82	\$11,954.82	3.00%

151	INSPECTOR of ANIMALS	\$324.74	\$331.23	\$331.23	2.00%
152	SOUTH BERK. SOLID WASTE	\$8,000.00	\$8,328.15	\$8,328.15	4.10%
153	BOARD of HEALTH SALARIES	\$17,850.00	\$25,500.00	\$9,180.00	-48.57%
154	BOARD of HEALTH EXPENSES	\$18,500.00	\$23,160.00	\$25,160.00	36.00%
155	NURSING SERVICES	\$4,962.00	\$4,962.00	\$4,962.00	0.00%
156	VETERANS AGENT SALARY	\$2,056.64	\$2,097.84	\$2,097.84	2.00%
157	VETERANS AGENT EXPENSE	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	0.00%
158	VETERANS BENEFITS	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$28,000.00	-6.67%
159	<b>HEALTH &amp; SANITATION TOTAL</b>	<b>\$93,400.00</b>	<b>\$106,434.04</b>	<b>\$90,114.04</b>	<b>-3.52%</b>
160	<b>UNCLASSIFIED EXPENSES</b>				
161	OUTSIDE PAYROLL SERVICES	\$4,830.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	3.52%
162	TOWN ACCOUNTANT SALARIES	\$23,416.92	\$23,885.26	\$23,885.26	2.00%
163	TOWN ACCOUNTANT EXPENSES	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	0.00%
164	GENERAL INSURANCE	\$114,200.00	\$116,484.00	\$116,484.00	2.00%
165	STAFF COVERAGE	\$6,500.00	\$5,000.00	\$3,200.00	-50.77%
166	MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS LABOR	\$46,290.96	\$47,216.78	\$47,216.78	2.00%
167	MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS EXPENSES	\$58,515.00	\$58,515.00	\$54,975.00	-6.05%
168	MUNICIPAL BUILDING REPAIRS	\$11,500.00	\$10,000.00	\$9,500.00	-17.39%
169	SOFTWARE MAINT. AGREEMENT	\$23,096.31	\$24,167.33	\$24,167.33	4.64%
170	MUNICIPAL UTILITIES	\$69,000.00	\$69,000.00	\$61,000.00	-11.59%
171	STREET LIGHTS	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$8,500.00	-5.56%
172	WIRED WEST	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	0.00%
173	TOWN REPORTS	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	0.00%
174	POSTAGE	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	0.00%
175	COUNCIL on AGING	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	0.00%
176	PARKS & RECREATION	\$20,000.00	\$32,000.00	\$30,000.00	50.00%
177	WEED CENTER POND	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	0.00%
178	HISTORICAL COMMISSION	\$1,662.00	\$2,157.00	\$2,157.00	29.78%
179	INTEREST on SHORT-TERM DEBT	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	0.00%
180	COUNTY RETIREMENT	\$203,669.00	\$201,455.00	\$201,455.00	-1.09%
181	HEALTH INSURANCE	\$409,000.00	\$425,360.00	\$425,360.00	4.00%
182	PAYROLL TAX ACCOUNT	\$24,150.00	\$26,082.00	\$26,082.00	8.00%
183	LIBRARY	\$46,700.00	\$47,868.00	\$47,868.00	2.50%
184	MEMORIAL DAY	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	0.00%
185	CHILDRENS HOLIDAY PARTY		\$500.00	\$500.00	#DIV/0!
186	UNEMPLOYMENT EXPENSE	\$8,500.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	-41.18%
187	<b>UNCLASSIFIED EXPENSES TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,106,130.19</b>	<b>\$1,134,790.37</b>	<b>\$1,118,450.37</b>	<b>1.11%</b>
188	<b>OPERATING TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,239,673.95</b>	<b>\$5,563,107.73</b>	<b>\$5,505,364.39</b>	<b>5.07%</b>

**Article 3** Was moved and seconded from the floor. After a brief explanation of Line Items 26, 153, and 176 by Town Administrator Edward Gibson, 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 the sum of \$347,123.00 to fund the bond payments due in fiscal year 2018 for the following previously approved debt items:

Becket Washington School	\$ 103,171.00	<i>EFP 2025</i>
Nessacus Regional Middle School	\$ 2,415.00	<i>EFP 2018</i>

Wahconah Regional High School	\$ 7,947.00	EFP 2029
Wahconah Regional High School Sidewalks	\$ 905.00	EFP 2022
Kittredge School MSBA Windows	\$ 321.00	EFP 2022
District Security	\$ 955.00	EFP 2025
Dump Truck (Highway Department)	\$ 52,608.00	EFP 2021
Loader (Highway Department)	\$ 60,200.00	EFP 2020
Grader (Highway Department)	\$ 117,740.00	EFP 2018
Wahconah Regional High School Feasibility Study	\$ 861.00	

**Article 8:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$18,500.00 for an audit of the FY2017 financial records.

**Board of Selectmen:      Recommends**  
**Finance Committee:      Recommends**

**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.**

**Article 9:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$48,145.00 to reduce the amount of the FY2017 Snow and Ice deficit.

**Board of Selectmen:      Recommends**  
**Finance Committee:      Recommends**

**Majority Vote Required**

**Article 9** Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 9 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Article 10:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 for legal, advertising and related costs to process tax delinquent accounts.

**Board of Selectmen:      Recommends**  
**Finance Committee:      Recommends**

**Majority Vote Required**

**Article 10** Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 10 PASSED.**

**Article 11:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 for capital repairs and improvements at the Becket Athenaeum in order for Library Services to be provided to town residents.

**Board of Selectmen:      Recommends**  
**Finance Committee:      Recommends**

**Majority Vote Required**

**Article 11** Was moved and seconded from the floor. Gabriel Greenspan questioned what repairs would be made with these funds. Kathy Defoe stated that 2 of 6 halogen lamps would be replaced with LED lamps; three basement windows that don't close would be replaced, and a study of the existing septic system would be conducted. Jeremy Dunn questioned whether it was legal to raise and appropriate funds for repair of a building not owned by the Town. The Moderator stated that it was his belief that the Article was appropriately included in the Warrant and referred the question to Town Administrator Edward Gibson. Mr. Gibson stated that this issued had been specifically addressed by Town Counsel, Joel Bard, in connection with previous town meetings, and that Town Counsel had opined that such an activity was for the public good, and thus was a legitimate use of tax monies. A vote was taken and the motion on

**Article 11 PASSED.**

**Article 12:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$5,350.00 for the upgrade and improvement of replacing the front door, foundation repair and refurbish the stairs at the Becket Arts Center.

**Board of Selectmen:      Recommends**  
**Finance Committee:      Recommends**

**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 appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$38,000.00 to purchase, replace and install the two furnaces at Fire Station #1.

**Board of Selectmen:      Recommends**  
**Finance Committee:      Recommends**

**Majority Vote Required**

**Article 13** Was moved and seconded from the floor. Alvin Blake questioned what would happen to these monies if they were not spent, or if the amount raised and appropriated was not sufficient to affect the needed repairs. Town Administrator, Edward Gibson stated that if the monies were not spent, they would revert to free cash, and if the monies were not sufficient to affect the needed repairs, the project could be revisited in later years. A vote was taken and the motion on

**Article 13 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Article 14:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$48,000.00 for the purchase of a new truck for Buildings and Grounds.

**Board of Selectmen:      Recommends**  
**Finance Committee:      Recommends**

**Majority Vote Required**

**Article 14** Was moved and seconded from the floor. Jeremy Dunn asked if this purchase couldn't be deferred. Town Administrator Edward Gibson agreed that it could be deferred to another year, but noted that the current vehicle has recently spent more time being repaired than in service, and that the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee deemed a functioning Building and Grounds truck represents a high enough priority to be placed on this year's Warrant. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 14 PASSED.**

**Article 15:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from the Overlay Surplus Fund the sum of \$35,000 for the purpose of the demolition of the house at 21 Maple Street and decommissioning the well and septic system along with filling, grading and seeding the hole from the cellar foundation.

**Board of Selectmen:      Recommends**  
**Finance Committee:      Recommends**

**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 appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$39,911.00 for the purpose of reducing the fiscal year 2018 tax rate.

**Board of Selectmen:      Recommends**  
**Finance Committee:      Recommends**

**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 and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$6,900.00 to improve the erosion control and add a drainage swale and sand at the Town Beach

**Board of Selectmen:      Recommends**  
**Finance Committee:      Recommends**

**Majority 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 appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$12,200 for the purchase and installation of a replacement telephone system and telephones at Town Hall.

<b>Board of Selectmen:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	<b>Majority Vote Required</b>
<b>Finance Committee:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	

**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 appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$5,000.00 to purchase a new replacement mower and grass catcher for the North Becket Cemetery.

<b>Board of Selectmen:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	<b>Majority Vote Required</b>
<b>Finance Committee:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	

**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 and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$5,000.00 to index, print and bind the Town By Laws.

<b>Board of Selectmen:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	<b>Majority Vote Required</b>
<b>Finance Committee:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	

**Article 20** Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 20 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Article 21:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$250,000.00 to purchase a new Ambulance for the Ambulance Department, and to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow the sum of \$250,000.00 for said appropriation under applicable sections of Chapter 44 of the General Laws, and authorize the Board of Selectmen to trade or sell or otherwise dispose of the 2011 Ford F450 Ambulance.

<b>Board of Selectmen:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	<b>2/3 Vote Required</b>
<b>Finance Committee:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	

**Article 21** Was moved and seconded from the floor. John Govich asked what the expected trade in value of the old ambulance would be. Town Administrator Ed Gibson opined that the trade in value of the old ambulance might be 10 or 15 thousand dollars. Mr. Gibson also noted that the debt would likely be spread over at least 3 years. Mr. Gibson related that the Town of Washington appropriated \$8,000 for their contribution to the Becket Ambulance Department for ambulance service in Washington. A vote was taken and the motion on

**Article 21 PASSED BY 2/3 MAJORITY.**

**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:	\$10,000.00
	Gas Inspector:	\$10,000.00
	Wiring Inspector:	\$15,000.00
<b>Board of Selectmen:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	<b>Majority Vote Required</b>
<b>Finance Committee:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	

**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 2018, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation:

Appropriations:

From FY 2018 estimated revenues to Committee Administrative Expenses	\$500.00
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Reserves:

From FY 2018 estimated revenues to Historical Resources Reserve	\$ 4,859.00
From FY 2018 estimated revenues to Community Housing Reserve	\$ 4,859.00
From FY 2018 estimated revenues to Open Space Reserve	\$ 4,859.00
From FY 2018 estimated revenues to Undesignated Reserve	\$34,011.00

**Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee**

<b>Board of Selectmen:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	<b>Majority Vote Required</b>
<b>CPA Committee:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	
<b>Finance Committee:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	

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

**Article 24:** To see if the Town will vote to Transfer \$5,000.00 from the Historical Preservation Reserve Account and \$30,000.00 from the Undesignated Reserve Account of the Becket Community Preservation Fund for the carpentry repairs and exterior repainting of the Becket Arts Center (a Town owned building) said funds to be expended under the direction of the Becket Community Preservation Committee and the Board of Directors of the Becket Arts Center.

**Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee**

<b>Board of Selectmen:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	<b>Majority Vote Required</b>
<b>CPA Committee:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	
<b>Finance Committee:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	

**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:** To see if the Town will vote to Transfer \$3,500.00 from the Historical Resources Reserve Account of the Becket Community Preservation Fund for the purchase of two historic antique paintings of the Deweys (Abel &

Lydia Birchard Dewey) said funds to be expended under the direction of the Becket Community Preservation Committee and the Becket Historical Commission.

**Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee**

<b>Board of Selectmen:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	<b>Majority Vote Required</b>
<b>CPA Committee:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	
<b>Finance Committee:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	

**Article 25** Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 25 PASSED.**

**Article 26:** To see if the Town will vote to Transfer \$29,000.00 from the Community Housing Reserve Account of the Becket Community Preservation Fund for matching funds to be used for a Community Development Block Grant for Housing Rehabilitation said funds to be expended under the direction of the Becket Community Preservation Committee and the Becket Board of Selectmen.

**Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee**

<b>Board of Selectmen:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	<b>Majority Vote Required</b>
<b>CPA Committee:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	
<b>Finance Committee:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	

**Article 26** Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 26 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Article 27:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Becket By-Laws, Article 17 -- Town Betterment By-Law by adding a new Section 22-VACANT PROPERTIES as shown on a document on file with the Town Clerk and on the Town Website:

See Handout. Section 22 - Vacant Properties

**Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen & the Bylaw Review Committee**

<b>Board of Selectmen:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	<b>Majority Vote Required</b>
<b>Finance Committee:</b>	<b>Recommends</b>	

**Article 27** Was moved and seconded from the floor. A motion was made by Selectman Jeanne Pryor, upon advise of Town Counsel, to amend the language of proposed new section 22 of the Town Betterment By-Law, specifically Section 2.D. thereof by changing it from:

Once the property is no longer vacant or is sold, the owner shall provide the Commissioner with written notice of legal occupancy of proof of sale, as the case may be.

To:

Once the property is no longer vacant or **has been** sold, the owner shall provide the Commissioner with written notice of legal occupancy of proof of sale, as the case may be.

The above referenced motion to amend was seconded. A vote was taken and the motion to amend passed unanimously.

A second motion was made by Selectman Jeanne Pryor, upon the advice of Town Counsel, to amend the language of proposed new section 22 of the Town Betterment By-Law, specifically Section 3.A. (1) thereof by changing it from:

Maintain vacant properties subject to this section in accordance with the relevant sanitary, building and fire codes.

To:

Maintain vacant properties subject to this section in accordance with the relevant sanitary, building and fire codes **and in a manner to prevent blight.**

The above referenced motion to amend was seconded. After discussion, a vote was taken and the motion to amend passed.

A vote was taken and the motion on **Article 27, As Amended, PASSED.**

**Article 28:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Becket By-Laws, Article 20 – Dog Control By-Law as shown on a document on file with the Town Clerk:

See Handout amended Dog Control By-Law.

**Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen & the Bylaw Review Committee**

**Board of Selectmen:      Recommends**

**Majority Vote Required**

**Article 28** Was moved and seconded from the floor. A motion was made by Selectman Jeanne Pryor to refer this article back to committee. The motion to amend was seconded. A vote was taken and the motion to refer Article 28 back to committee passed unanimously.

**Article 28 Was Referred Back to Committee.**

**Article 29:** Withdrawn

**Article 30: ZONING ARTICLE:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Becket Zoning By-Laws by adding the following subsection 4.2.11 Driveways to the existing Dimensional Requirements section codifying existing practices, 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).

**The proposed change intended to reduce ambiguity in the application of driveway regulations throughout the community given the many different state, town, and district agencies and associations involved in the permitting process.**

**Formative changes that are codified and contextual are as follows:**

**Driveways:** Driveway access to public and private ways is permitted by right with concurrence of the State's, Town's or District's Highway/Superintendent and in case where this is not possible applicants may apply for a Special Permit from the Planning Board.

**Access/Location/Site Distances:** All driveways shall be constructed in a manner ensuring reasonable and safe access from the road servicing to within or less than one hundred (100) feet from the building or residential structure. Driveways shall maintain clear site line distance especially at intersections for the safety of vehicles and pedestrians and shall not be located within eighteen (18) feet of a sideline.

**Road-Line Angle/Grade/Distance:** The intersection with the road line shall not be less than 90 degrees for a distance of twenty (20) feet into the lot and the grade shall not exceed three (3%) in this area.

**Lead Petitioner: Steven Rosenthal**

See Sherwood Forest Road Maintenance District “Exhibit A” Special Legislation Amendment handout.

### **Majority Vote Required**

**Article 32** Was moved and seconded from the floor. Steven Rosenthal gave an introduction as to the purpose of this Article. Jeanne Pryor moved to amend the Article to by changing Section 12 lines 9 through 14 by deleting the words:

In the event that no member of the prudential committee shall remain in office due to resignation or otherwise, the selectmen of the town of Becket are empowered to issue a warrant for a special meeting of the district to occur within said thirty day period and shall, in the interim, exercise the powers and duties of the prudential committee until the successors shall be elected at such special meeting.

and replacing them with

In the event that no member of the prudential committee shall remain in office due to resignation or otherwise, the treasurer and clerk of the district shall issue a warrant for a special meeting of the district to elect new members of the prudential committee and shall, in the interim, appoint others to act on behalf of the prudential committee until the successors shall be elected at such special meeting.

The motion to amend was moved and seconded. A vote was taken and the **amendment passed**. Jeanne Pryor then moved to further amend the Article by changing Section 2.D. lines 1 through 2 by deleting the words:

To adopt by-laws for the regulation of its affairs in the conduct of its business, which by-laws shall be consistent with the powers conferred by this act.

and replacing them with

To adopt by-laws for the regulation of its affairs in the conduct of its business, which by-laws shall be consistent with the powers conferred by this act **and shall be submitted to the Attorney General for approval per MGL Chapter 40 section 32.**

The motion to amend was moved and seconded. After discussion, a vote was taken and the **amendment passed**.

Following the above referenced amendments to the article, and after lengthy comments by Steven Rosenthal, Julia Kay-Grace, Robert Grace and others both for and against the Article, a motion was made by Michael Lavery to refer this article back to committee (Sherwood Forest Road Maintenance District). The motion to refer this Article back to committee was seconded. A vote was taken and the motion to refer Article 32 back to committee passed.

**Article 32 Was Referred Back to Committee.**

It was moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn to the Annual Town Election which will be held one week from today on May 20, 2017, starting at 10:00 a.m. A vote was taken and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m. The checkers were Election Workers Julia Kay-Grace, Beth Van Ness, Patricia Clemons and Priscilla McEwen.

Respectfully submitted,

George E. Roberts

Town Clerk