

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, the Annual Town Meeting was called on May 14, 2016, 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 7:06 p.m. by the Moderator. There were 87 registered voters present (6.38 % of 1,362 registered voters) and a total of 96 people attended the meeting. Town Officials Present: Ethan Klepetar, Deputy Moderator; Jeanne Pryor, and Bill Elovirta, 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 Deputy 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 Deputy Moderator reviewed the warrant and declared it to have been duly posted as evidenced by the attestation of the posting constable.

Dan Parnell 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 \$127.00 to fund the following bills from previous fiscal years:

Vendor/Reimbursement	Date	Amount
Karen Karlberg Con. Com. reimbursement	4/11/2015	\$ 12.00
Cindy Delpapa Con. Com. reimbursement	2/10/2015	\$115.00
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 with there being 79 votes in favor and one vote against.

Article 1 PASSED BY 4/5 MAJORITY

Article 2: For Fiscal Year 2016, to see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$15,000.00 from the FY 2016 Vocational School Transportation Account to the Ambulance Enterprise Fund; Ambulance Expenses to reduce the FY 2016 deficit.

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

Article 2 Was moved and seconded. There was a brief discussion with Town Administrator Ed Gibson explaining this Article. A vote was taken and

Article 2 PASSED

Article 3: 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 \$14.56 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 \$14.56 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 3 Was moved and seconded. There was a question from the floor as to why \$14.56 and not an even \$15.00. The Town Administrator explained that this number was a result of a two percent increase in the previous year's rate. A vote was taken and

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 expense of the Town for the 2017 Fiscal Year as set forth in the following line items:

TOWN of BECKET FY2017	BUDGET APPROVED FY2016	DEPARTMENT REQUEST FY2017	FIN COMM SELECTMEN RECOMMENDED	PERCENT INCREASE -DECREASE
GENERAL GOVERNMENT				
1. TOWN COUNSEL	\$15,000.00	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00	20.00%
2. LEGAL EXPENSE	\$0.00	\$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	\$2,150.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	-6.98%
6. ADVERTISING	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	0.00%
7. TOWN SECRETARY	\$38,482.56	\$39,108.24	\$39,108.24	1.63%
8. TOWN ADMIN. SALARY	\$63,000.00	\$64,639.26	\$64,639.26	2.60%
9. TOWN ADMIN. EXPENSE	\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00	0.00%
10. FINANCE COMMITTEE	\$650.00	\$650.00	\$650.00	0.00%
11. ASSESSORS SALARIES	\$72,738.40	\$73,825.68	\$73,825.68	1.49%
12. ASSESSORS EXPENSE	\$59,735.00	\$62,090.00	\$62,090.00	3.94%
13. TOWN TREASURER SALARY	\$40,242.30	\$43,363.84	\$43,363.84	7.76%
14. TOWN TREASURER EXP.	\$5,530.00	\$5,530.00	\$5,530.00	0.00%
15. TAX COLLECTOR SALARY	\$53,448.00	\$54,308.88	\$54,308.88	1.61%
16. TAX COLLECTOR EXPENSE	\$7,575.00	\$7,580.00	\$7,580.00	0.07%
17. ASSIST. TAX COLLECTOR	\$44,498.08	\$45,205.20	\$45,205.20	1.59%
18. TOWN CLERK SALARY	\$27,150.01	\$27,516.84	\$27,516.84	1.35%
19. TOWN CLERK EXPENSE	\$3,445.00	\$2,145.00	\$2,145.00	-37.74%
20. ELECTION-REGISTRATION	\$12,047.73	\$14,274.15	\$14,274.15	18.48%
21. CONSERVATION COMM.	\$13,000.00	\$14,310.00	\$14,310.00	10.08%
22. PLANNING BOARD EXPENSE	\$6,926.63	\$7,202.65	\$7,202.65	3.98%
23. REGIONAL PLAN COM.	\$1,284.14	\$1,316.24	\$1,316.24	2.50%
24. BOARD of APPEALS	\$3,450.00	\$3,510.00	\$3,510.00	1.74%
25. RESERVE FUND	\$35,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	14.29%
GENERAL GOVERNMENT TOTAL	\$520,052.85	\$541,275.98	\$541,275.98	4.08%
HIGHWAY				
26. SUMMER LABOR	\$209,324.96	\$215,720.10	\$215,720.10	3.06%
27. TRANSFER STATION LABOR	\$27,900.16	\$28,489.76	\$28,489.76	2.11%
LABOR SUBTOTAL	\$237,225.12	\$244,209.86	\$244,209.86	2.94%
28. WINTER ROAD SALARIES	\$146,585.51	\$146,879.30	\$146,879.30	0.20%
29. Sand	\$8,000.00	\$8,200.00	\$8,200.00	2.50%
30. Stone Chips	\$13,000.00	\$13,350.00	\$13,350.00	2.69%
31. Salt	\$45,450.00	\$46,800.00	\$46,800.00	2.97%
32. Plow Blades	\$4,150.00	\$4,250.00	\$4,250.00	2.41%
33. Misc.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%

34. Cold Patch	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	0.00%
35. Parts	\$3,100.00	\$3,150.00	\$3,150.00	1.61%
36. Sander Chains	\$4,150.00	\$4,200.00	\$4,200.00	1.20%
37. Bagged Deicer	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
38. WINTER ROADS (TOTAL)	\$79,050.00	\$81,150.00	\$81,150.00	2.66%
WINTER ROADS SUBTOTAL	\$225,635.51	\$228,029.30	\$228,029.30	1.06%
39. Inspections	\$912.00	\$912.00	\$912.00	0.00%
40. Tires	\$8,600.00	\$8,800.00	\$8,800.00	2.33%
41. Oil/Lubricants	\$3,345.00	\$3,400.00	\$3,400.00	1.64%
42. Repairs/Equipment	\$19,474.00	\$31,000.00	\$31,000.00	59.19%
43. Parts/Supplies	\$26,074.00	\$18,540.00	\$18,540.00	-28.89%
44. Welding Supplies	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	0.00%
45. Radios	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	0.00%
46. Tools/Safety	\$1,550.00	\$825.00	\$825.00	-46.77%
47. Purchase Vehicle Scan Equipment (Updates)	\$800.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	275.00%
48. MACHINERY ACCOUNT (TOTAL)	\$63,755.00	\$69,477.00	\$69,477.00	8.97%
49. RECONST. of GRAVEL ROADS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
50. Fuel	\$94,900.00	\$87,750.00	\$87,750.00	-7.53%
51. Operator Contract	\$1,850.00	\$1,850.00	\$1,850.00	0.00%
52. Maintenance/Repair	\$2,575.00	\$2,575.00	\$2,575.00	0.00%
53. FUEL ACCOUNT (TOTAL)	\$99,325.00	\$92,175.00	\$92,175.00	-7.20%
54. Mowing	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	0.00%
55. Line Painting	\$9,930.00	\$10,180.00	\$10,180.00	2.52%
56. Gravel/Stone	\$27,000.00	\$38,500.00	\$38,500.00	42.59%
57. Hot Mix Patch	\$14,800.00	\$15,200.00	\$15,200.00	2.70%
58. Rental Equipment	\$1,600.00	\$1,650.00	\$1,650.00	3.13%
59. Signs	\$3,100.00	\$3,200.00	\$3,200.00	3.23%
60. Culverts	\$3,100.00	\$3,100.00	\$3,100.00	0.00%
61. Beaver Maintenance	\$2,500.00	\$2,800.00	\$2,800.00	12.00%
62. Guardrail	\$1,545.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	3.56%
63. Crack Seal	\$14,600.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	2.74%
64. Catch Basin Cleaning	\$4,500.00	\$4,600.00	\$4,600.00	2.22%
65. Sweeping	\$7,100.00	\$7,300.00	\$7,300.00	2.82%
66. Hand Tools	\$720.00	\$730.00	\$730.00	1.39%
67. Misc.	\$1,545.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	3.56%
68. Road Improvement (Formerly Recon Gravel)	\$51,000.00	\$51,000.00	\$51,000.00	0.00%
69. GENERAL MAINT MAT. & EQUIP. (TOTAL)	\$145,540.00	\$158,960.00	\$158,960.00	9.22%
70. Legal Ads	\$900.00	\$900.00	\$900.00	0.00%
71. Drug Testing	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	0.00%
72. License Reimbursement	\$520.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	15.38%
73. Repairs/Supplies	\$3,100.00	\$3,100.00	\$3,100.00	0.00%
74. Berkshire County Purchasing Group	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	0.00%
75. Office Supplies	\$620.00	\$640.00	\$640.00	3.23%
76. Education & Training	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	0.00%
77. Meeting/Dues Expenses	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	0.00%
78. Safety Gear	\$2,500.00	\$2,550.00	\$2,550.00	2.00%
79. HIGHWAY GARAGE (TOTAL)	\$10,840.00	\$10,990.00	\$10,990.00	1.38%
80. Rental Compactor	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	0.00%
81. Rental Open Container (2)	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	0.00%

82. Trucking Compactor	\$6,300.00	\$6,300.00	\$6,300.00	0.00%
83. Trucking Open Container	\$5,400.00	\$5,400.00	\$5,400.00	0.00%
84. Trucking Cans & Bottles	\$4,200.00	\$4,200.00	\$4,200.00	0.00%
85. Trucking Scrap Metal	\$2,520.00	\$2,520.00	\$2,520.00	0.00%
86. Trucking Paper Cardboard	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	0.00%
87. Trucking Fuel Surcharge	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	0.00%
88. Disposal Solid Waste	\$23,400.00	\$24,000.00	\$24,000.00	2.56%
89. Disposal Bulky Waste	\$14,820.00	\$15,200.00	\$15,200.00	2.56%
90. Disposal Haz Mat	\$3,100.00	\$3,200.00	\$3,200.00	3.23%
91. Chemicals	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	0.00%
92. Permits	\$1,800.00	\$1,850.00	\$1,850.00	2.78%
93. MRF education	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	0.00%
94. Maintenance	\$1,100.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	36.36%
95. TRANSFER STATION COSTS (TOTAL)	\$72,240.00	\$73,770.00	\$73,770.00	2.12%
MATERIALS AND SERVICES SUBTOTAL	\$391,700.00	\$405,372.00	\$405,372.00	3.49%
HIGHWAY TOTAL	\$854,560.63	\$877,611.16	\$877,611.16	2.70%
96. CENTER CEMETERY	\$3,714.23	\$4,604.52	\$4,604.52	23.97%
97. NORTH CEMETERY	\$6,367.25	\$11,289.64	\$11,289.64	77.31%
98. WEST CEMETERY	\$1,248.48	\$1,273.46	\$1,273.46	2.00%
CEMETERIES TOTAL	\$11,329.96	\$17,167.62	\$17,167.62	51.52%
99. MOTH ACCOUNT	\$1.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	-100.00%
100. TREE ACCOUNT	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	0.00%
FORESTRY TOTAL	\$10,001.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	-0.01%
EDUCATION				
101. CBRSD OPERATING ASSESSMENT	\$1,914,640.00	\$1,897,741.00	\$1,897,741.00	-0.88%
102. VOCATIONAL TUITION	\$167,560.00	\$193,116.00	\$193,116.00	15.25%
103. VOCATIONAL TRANSPORT.	\$75,000.00	\$56,000.00	\$56,000.00	-25.33%
TOTAL EDUCATION	\$2,157,200.00	\$2,146,857.00	\$2,146,857.00	-0.48%
PROTECT. PERSON & PROP				
104. POLICE DEPT. SALARIES	\$253,114.21	\$290,914.96	\$290,914.96	14.93%
105. POLICE DEPT. EXPENSE	\$17,270.00	\$17,950.00	\$17,950.00	3.94%
106. HARBOR MASTER	\$1,402.00	\$1,414.00	\$1,414.00	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	\$4,003.46	\$4,083.54	\$4,083.54	2.00%
110. FIRE DEPT. EXPENSES	\$29,500.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	1.69%
111. FIRE CALL STIPEND	\$14,000.00	\$15,400.00	\$15,400.00	10.00%
112. DRY HYDRANTS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
113. FORESTRY FIRE DEPARTMENT TOOLS & EQUIPMENT	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	0.00%
114. BUILDING INSP. SALARY	\$50,552.32	\$51,356.24	\$51,356.24	1.59%
115. BUILDING & CODE INSP. EXP	\$2,065.00	\$3,272.00	\$3,272.00	58.45%
116. DEMOLITION FUND	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00	0.00%
117. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT EXPENSES	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	0.00%
118. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TRAINING	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	0.00%
119. ANIMAL CONTROL SALARIES	\$7,883.58	\$8,041.26	\$8,041.26	2.00%
120. ANIMAL CONTROL EXPENSES	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	0.00%
PERSON & PROP. TOTAL	\$404,590.57	\$447,232.00	\$447,232.00	10.54%

HEALTH & SANITATION				
121. E911 COMMUNICATION	\$11,268.56	\$11,606.62	\$11,606.62	3.00%
122. INSPECTOR of ANIMALS	\$318.36	\$324.74	\$324.74	2.00%
123. SOUTH BERK. SOLID WASTE	\$7,894.00	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	1.34%
124. BOARD of HEALTH SALARIES	\$14,000.00	\$17,850.00	\$17,850.00	27.50%
125. BOARD of HEALTH EXPENSES	\$18,500.00	\$18,500.00	\$18,500.00	0.00%
126. NURSING SERVICES	\$4,962.00	\$4,962.00	\$4,962.00	0.00%
127. MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
128. VETERANS AGENT SALARY	\$2,016.30	\$2,056.64	\$2,056.64	2.00%
129. VETERANS AGENT EXPENSE	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	0.00%
130. VETERANS BENEFITS	\$20,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	50.00%
HEALTH & SANITATION TOTAL	\$79,059.22	\$93,400.00	\$93,400.00	18.14%

UNCLASSIFIED EXPENSES				
131. OUTSIDE PAYROLL SERVICES	\$4,600.00	\$4,830.00	\$4,830.00	5.00%
132. TOWN ACCOUNTANT SALARIES	\$23,045.52	\$23,416.92	\$23,416.92	1.61%
133. TOWN ACCOUNTANT EXPENSES	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	0.00%
134. GENERAL INSURANCE	\$104,000.00	\$114,200.00	\$114,200.00	9.81%
135. STAFF COVERAGE	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00	0.00%
136. MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS LABOR	\$45,567.04	\$46,290.96	\$46,290.96	1.59%
137. MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS EXPENSES	\$63,000.00	\$58,515.00	\$58,515.00	-7.12%
138. MUNICIPAL BUILDING REPAIRS	\$12,500.00	\$11,500.00	\$11,500.00	-8.00%
139. SOFTWARE MAINT. AGREEMENT	\$20,367.00	\$23,096.31	\$23,096.31	13.40%
140. MUNICIPAL UTILITIES	\$73,000.00	\$69,000.00	\$69,000.00	-5.48%
141. STREET LIGHTS	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	0.00%
142. WIRED WEST	\$1,000.00	\$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 CENTER POND	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	0.00%
148. HISTORICAL COMMISSION	\$700.00	\$1,662.00	\$1,662.00	137.43%
149. INTEREST on SHORT-TERM DEBT	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	0.00%
150. COUNTY RETIREMENT	\$204,432.00	\$203,669.00	\$203,669.00	-0.37%
151. HEALTH INSURANCE	\$384,500.00	\$409,000.00	\$409,000.00	6.37%
152. PAYROLL TAX ACCOUNT	\$23,000.00	\$24,150.00	\$24,150.00	5.00%
153. LIBRARY	\$45,560.00	\$46,700.00	\$46,700.00	2.50%
154. MEMORIAL DAY	\$1,000.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	20.00%
155. ARTS CENTER	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
156. CHILDRENS HOLIDAY PARTY	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
157. UNEMPLOYMENT EXPENSE	\$10,000.00	\$8,500.00	\$8,500.00	-15.00%
UNCLASSIFIED EXPENSES TOTAL	\$1,075,671.56	\$1,106,130.19	\$1,106,130.19	2.83%

		<u>OPERATING TOTAL</u>	<u>\$5,112,465.79</u>	<u>\$5,239,673.95</u>	<u>\$5,239,673.95</u>	<u>2.49%</u>
Board of Selectmen:	Recommends	Majority Vote Required				
Finance Committee:	Recommends					

Article 4 was moved seconded. 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:

- 8. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S SALARY
- 21. CONSERVATION COMMISSION
- 96. CENTER CEMETERY
- 97. NORTH CEMETERY
- 104. POLICE DEPT. SALARIES
- 128. VETTRAN’S AGENT SALARY
- 139. SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT
- 146. PARKS AND RECREATION
- 151. HEALTH INSURANCE
- 154. MEMORIAL DAY
- 155. ARTS CENTER

After placing holds on the above referenced line items, a vote was taken and

Article 4 less the held line items, Passed Unanimously.

Each of the held line items were then considered individually and the following action was taken as follows:

Line Item 8. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S SALARY:

Line Item 8 was moved and seconded. There was a question from the floor as to why the Town Administrator’s percentage of salary increase was greater than other employees of the Town. It was explained that this increase was the result of negotiated employment contract provisions. A vote was taken and

Line Item 8 PASSED.

Line Item 21. CONSERVATION COMMISSION:

Line Item 21 was moved and seconded. A vote was taken and

Line Item 21 PASSED.

Line Item 96. CENTER CEMETERY:

Line Item 96 was moved and seconded. There was a question from the floor as to why the increase was 24% over the previous year’s budget amount. The Town Administrator explained that this increase resulted from calculating the actual hours needed at each cemetery at the \$14.56 Town of Becket employee hourly rate, which was not the way prior cemetery budgets were calculated. A vote was taken and

Line Item 96 PASSED.

Line Item 97. NORTH CEMETERY:

Line Item 97 was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and

Line Item 97 PASSED.

Line Item 104. POLICE DEPT. SALARIES

Line Item 104 was moved and seconded. Mr. Massini questioned how many police officers there were currently, and if additional police expenses also appeared elsewhere in the budget. It was explained that the Town currently employs 4 full time and 5 part time police officers, and that as employees, there would be additional expenses for them appearing in other budget items, such as HEALTH INSURANCE. A vote was taken and

Line Item 104 PASSED.

Line Item 128. VETTRAN’S AGENT SALARY

Line Item 128 was moved and seconded. Mr. William Vsetecka asked who the Veterans Agent was. The Town Administrator related that Lloyd Mann was the Town’s Veterans Agent. A vote was taken and

Line Item 128 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Line Item 139. SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT

Line Item 139 was moved and seconded. Mr. William Vsetecka asked what software was involved. The Town Administrator explained that various Town offices such as the Tax Collector and Treasurer used software that had an annual fee for support and upgrades. A vote was taken and

Line Item 139 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Line Item 146. PARKS AND RECREATION

Line Item 146 was moved and seconded. There was a question from the floor as to whether this budget item would include funding for a person to check for Town of Becket Beach Permits for those availing themselves of the Town Beach. It was explained that this issue would be considered at the Board of Selectmen’s meeting to be scheduled for Wednesday, May 18. A vote was taken and

Line Item 146 PASSED.

Line Item 151. HEALTH INSURANCE

Line Item 151 was moved and seconded. There was a question from the floor as to how many people were covered under the Town’s Health Insurance Policies. The Town Administrator noted that there were 3 active employees enrolled in HMO Single plans; 10 enrolled in HMO Family Plans; and 3 enrolled in PPO Family Plans. He also noted that there was 1 retired employee enrolled in a HMO Single Plan; 2 enrolled in a PPO single plan; and 7 enrolled in Medex. A vote was taken and

Line Item 151 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Line Item 154. MEMORIAL DAY

Line Item 154 was moved and seconded. There was a question from the floor as to what these monies would be used for. The Town Administrator noted that the monies specified would be used for flags, markers and wreaths for graves and monuments together with transportation costs for the Middle School Band. A vote was taken and

Line Item 154 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Line Item 155. ARTS CENTER

Line Item 155 was moved and seconded. There was a question from the floor as to whether the Town would provide financial assistance for the Arts Center to obtain a lift to enable the elderly or disabled to access the second floor of the building. The Town Administrator noted that in last years Town Meeting the Town allocated funding requested for a lift, and further noted that no further funding has been requested. Sally Solurie announced that the Arts Center had received a grant from the State for \$24,000.00 for a lift. A vote was taken.

Line Item 155 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$378,585.00 to fund the bond payments due in Fiscal Year 2017 for the following previously approved debt items:

Becket Washington School	\$110,896.00	<i>EFP 2025</i>
Nessacus Regional Middle School	\$ 4,194.00	<i>EFP 2018</i>
Wahconah Regional High School	\$ 6,967.00	<i>EFP 2029</i>
Wahconah Regional High School Sidewalks	\$ 280.00	<i>EFP 2022</i>
Kittredge School	\$ 115.00	<i>EFP 2017</i>
Kittredge School MSBA Windows	\$ 359.00	<i>EFP 2022</i>
District Security	\$ 917.00	<i>EFP 2025</i>
Dump Truck (Highway Department)	\$ 55,200.00	<i>EFP 2021</i>
Dump Truck & Tractor	\$ 79,162.00	<i>EFP 2017</i>

Grader (Highway Department)
Board of Selectmen: Recommends
Finance Committee: Recommends

\$ 120,495.00 *EFP 2018*
Majority Vote Required

Article 5 Was moved and seconded. A vote was taken and

Article 5 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Article 6: (Removed)

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$108,638.00 to fund the Stabilization Fund for Fiscal Year 2017.

Board of Selectmen: Recommends
Finance Committee: Recommends

2/3 Vote Required

Article 7 Was moved and seconded. A vote was taken and

Article PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Article 8: 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 appropriation by transferring said amounts from available funds with any unspent funds to carry over from year to year until spent by the Town. These sums will be reimbursed to the Town by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in accordance with Chapter 90 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Board of Selectmen: Recommends
Finance Committee: Recommends

Majority Vote Required

Article 8 Was moved and seconded. Virginia Lavery initiated a brief discussion on this Article. A vote was taken and

Article 8 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$348,696.00, for the salaries (\$302,396.00) and expenses (\$46,300.00) of the Ambulance Enterprise Fund and to fund said appropriation:

To raise and appropriate \$238,696.00 and to appropriate from Fiscal Year 2017 Ambulance Receipts \$110,000.00.

Board of Selectmen: Recommends
Finance Committee: Recommends

Majority Vote Required

Article 9 Was moved and seconded. There was discussion on this Article with Jan Elovirta observing that the Ambulance Department was becoming expensive and suggesting that the Town explore other arrangements, including using more volunteers along the lines of how Otis has their ambulance service structured. Bill Elovirta noted that the Selectmen were exploring alternatives including a regionalized service approach. Jeremy Dunn noted that 1/3 of the cost of the Ambulance Service was funded through receipts from insurance companies. A vote was taken and

Article 9 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$18,500.00 for an audit of the FY2016 financial records.

Board of Selectmen: Recommends
Finance Committee: Recommends

Majority Vote Required

Article 10 Was moved and seconded. A vote was taken and

Article 10 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000.00 for legal, advertising and related costs to process tax delinquent accounts.

Board of Selectmen: Recommends

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommends

Article 11 Was moved and seconded. There was discussion regarding the amount of outstanding over due taxes. The Tax Collector indicated that after the current tax bills came in there might be approximately \$250,000.00 in outstanding property taxes. Mr. Toomey expressed concern that elderly low income folks might be evicted from their home. It was noted that there was a tax work off program for seniors. Laurel Burgwardt expressed concern for those being taxed on small unbuildable lots. A vote was taken and

Article 11 PASSED.

Article 12: 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

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommends

Article 12 Was moved and seconded. Ms. O'Connor spoke against additional monies being appropriated for the Athenaeum, noting that it was a private building. Kathy Defoe explained what the monies past and current were being used for. A vote was taken and

Article 12 PASSED.

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$3,700.00 for the upgrade and improvement of the electrical system at the Becket Arts Center.

Board of Selectmen: Recommends

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommends

Article 13 Was moved and seconded. There was discussion on this item. A vote was taken and

Article 13 PASSED.

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$8,900.00 to purchase and install a storage shed for maintenance equipment to be located at the Town Hall.

Board of Selectmen: Recommends

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommends

Article 14 Was moved and seconded. Mr. Kovich inquired if the shed would be secure. The Town Administrator indicated that the shed would be 12 by 22 or 24 feet, have an entry door and a garage door, both of which would be lockable. A vote was taken and

Article 14 PASSED.

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$10,000.00 for the repair of the foundation, block and rear chimney at Fire Station #1.

Board of Selectmen: Recommends

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommends

Article 15 Was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and

Article 15 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$38,600.00 for the purchase of a replacement sedan cruiser for the 2011 Crown Victoria Cruiser for the Police Department, and authorize the Board of Selectmen to trade or sell or otherwise dispose of the 2011 Crown Victoria.

Board of Selectmen: Recommends

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommends

Article 16 Was moved and seconded. There was discussion on this item. The Town Administrator emphasized that the sedan purchased would be an all-wheel drive sedan. A vote was taken and

Article 16 PASSED.

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$37,000.00 for the purpose of replacing one of the front ramps at Town Hall so it is ADA compliant and adding the necessary handrails and to replace the rear entrance pad.

Board of Selectmen: Recommends

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommends

Article 17 Was moved and seconded. Mr. Wilkinson opined that the cost of the work was high, and wondered if it could be done cheaper by a Town employee. The Town Administrator explained that renovations to the Town Hall had previously been out to bid and the bids were much higher than anticipated so the project was reduced in scope. A vote was taken and

Article 17 PASSED.

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from Overlay Surplus the sum of \$18,000.00 to purchase a used vehicle for the purpose of being a pooled use vehicle for the use of the Assessors, Building Inspector, Town Administrator or any town employee inspecting property or attending a training meeting or conference and authorize the Board of Selectmen to trade or sell or otherwise dispose of the 2003 Tahoe. This municipal vehicle shall replace the 2003 Tahoe which has been used for that purpose.

Board of Selectmen: Recommends

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommends

Article 18 Was moved and seconded. There was some discussion concerning trade in and disposal. It was questioned whether the cruiser being retired could serve in this capacity. A vote was taken and

Article 18 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$7,000 for the purchase of a server and computers and software at Town Hall along with related network work.

Board of Selectmen: Recommends

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommends

Article 19 Was moved and seconded. There was brief discussion on this Article. A vote was taken and

Article 19 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$186,251.00 to purchase a new Loader for the Highway Department, and to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow the sum of \$186,251.00 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 New Holland Loader.

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

Article 20 Was moved and seconded. Mr. Toomey questioned what the expected life span of a loader was. Mr. Bouchard indicated that generally a loader would be expected to work for 15 years. It was noted that the current loader was a 2003/2004 model. Ms. Lavery asked how much the Town could expect to recoup by trading or selling the loader. Mr. Bouchard expressed the opinion that the Town might receive \$15,000 to \$20,000 for the current loader. A vote was taken and

Article 20 PASSED BY A 2/3 MAJORITY.

Article 21: To see if the town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$225,000.00 to purchase a new Rescue Pumper for the Fire Department, and to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow the sum of \$225,000.00 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 Rescue Truck.

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

Article 21 Was moved and seconded. Mark Hanford gave a brief presentation noting that this vehicle would replace a 1991 Ford F-350 that had been rebuilt twice. He noted that unlike the current rescue truck, the new truck would have a 1000 gallon tank, and pumping capability. This would provide the Fire Department with the ability to reach residences on back roads that that the larger truck could not physically traverse. A vote was taken and

Article 21 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

Article 22 Was moved and seconded. Mr. Burgwardt inquired as to what gas systems were inspected in Town. It was explained that Propane service was included as "gas" and Propane systems were inspected, A vote was taken and

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 2017, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation.

Appropriations:

From FY 2017 estimated revenues to Committee Administrative Expenses	\$500.00
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Reserves:

From FY 2017 estimated revenues to Historical Resources Reserve	\$ 4,956.00
From FY 2017 estimated revenues to Community Housing Reserve	\$ 4,956.00
From FY 2017 estimated revenues to Open Space Reserve	\$ 4,956.00
From FY 2017 estimated revenues to Undesignated Reserve	\$34,191.00

Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee

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

Article 23 Was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and

Article 23 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Article 24: To see if the Town will vote to Transfer \$11,000.00 from the Open Space Reserve and \$64,000.00 from the Undesignated Reserve Account of the Becket Community Preservation Fund for the purchase and installation of a play scape and swing set along with needed site work at the Becket Center Park: Said funds to be expended under the direction of the Becket Community Preservation Committee and the Becket Parks and Recreation Committee.

Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee

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

Article 24 Was moved and seconded. Mr. Greenspan queried as to what was wrong with the play scape currently at the Park. The Town Administrator explained that current one was not certified, was worn and splintered. Mr. Gordon asked what percentage of CPC funds are currently reimbursed by the State. Mr. Toomey, Chair of the CPC noted that it changed every year, opined that this year it would be 34%. Mr. Wilkinson inquired as to what monies were being spent by the Community Preservation Committee to preserve open spaces. Mr. Toomey explained that recreational space was considered open space for purposes of the Community Preservation Act. A vote was taken and

Article 24 PASSED.

Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to Transfer \$3,000.00 from the Historical Resources Reserve and \$3,000.00 from the Undesignated Reserve Account of the Becket Community Preservation Fund for the refinishing and restoration of the wood floors in the historic Becket Athenaeum: Said funds to be expended under the direction of the Becket Community Preservation Committee and the Board of Directors of the Becket Athenaeum.

Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee

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

Article 25 Was moved and seconded. Ms. O'Connor spoke against authorizing more money for the Athenaeum. A vote was taken and

Article 25 PASSED.

Article 26: To see if the Town will vote to Transfer \$2,000.00 from the Historical Resources Reserve and \$30,000.00 from the Undesignated Reserve Account of the Becket Community Preservation Fund for the repair of and restoration of historic headstones in the West, Center and North Becket cemeteries: Said funds to be expended under the direction of the Becket Community Preservation Committee and the Becket Cemetery Commission.

Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee

Board of Selectmen: Recommends

Majority Vote Required

CPA Committee: Recommends

Finance Committee: Recommends

Article 26 Was moved and seconded. There was general discussion about vandalism at the cemetery. Ms. Karlberg spoke in favor of this Article. A vote was taken and

Article 26 PASSED.

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 an additional Section 22 as follows:

Section 22. Per MGL 40:21 (20), owners of land whereon is located an abandoned well or a well in use shall either provide a securely fastened covering for such well capable of sustaining a weight of three hundred (300) pounds or fill the same to the level of the ground. Violation of this bylaw shall be punishable by a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100.) for each violation.

Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen & the By-Law Review Committee

Board of Selectmen: Recommends

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommends

Article 27 Was moved and seconded. A vote was taken and

Article 27 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Article 28: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Becket By-Laws, Article 15 – Conservation Commission By-Law by adding an additional Section 4 as follows:

Section 4. A quorum of the Conservation Commission is defined as a majority of the members then in office.

Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen

Board of Selectmen: Recommends

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommends

Article 28 Was moved and seconded. A vote was taken and

Article 28 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Article 29: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to General Laws Chapter 164, Section 134, to grant the Board of Selectmen authority to research, develop and participate in a contract, or contracts, to aggregate the electricity load of the residents and businesses in the Town and for other related services, independently, or in joint action with other municipalities, retaining the right of individual residents and businesses to opt-out of the aggregation, or take any other action relative thereto.

**Sponsored by the Energy Committee
& Board of Selectmen**

Majority Vote Required

Board of Selectmen: Recommends
Finance Committee: Recommends

The Deputy Moderator explained that there was a typographical error that appeared in some warrants: specifically he noted that this Article was seeking a vote pursuant to General Laws Chapter 164, Section 134, not Chapter 64 as appeared on some warrants.

Article 29 Was moved and seconded. Mr. Gordon questioned the language as being vague. Town Counsel, Joel Bard, stated that he was satisfied with the language of the Article, noting that the language is standard for this type of Article. Ms. O'Malley-Levy expressed the opinion that the Board of Selectmen shouldn't be allowed to enter into a contract of this type without specific approval of the voters. The Town Administrator noted that this is the first step in the process and that if the Article passes the Board of Selectmen will then move forward with the DOE to see if this type of plan makes sense. He noted that there would be further public comment opportunities on the proposal, and that individuals would have the right to opt out of any plan that was ultimately promulgated or entered into by the Town. Mr. Hanford observed that the way the Article was drafted, it gives the Board of Selectmen the right to enter into a contract and he doesn't think that they should be able to do so, especially for power. The Town Administrator repeated that there were 4 steps to the process, and that it would go to a public hearing where residents would be able to voice their opinions. Selectman Elovirta also pointed out that the Article was pursuant to General Laws Chapter 164, Section 134 which specified specific procedures. A vote was taken and

Article 29 PASSED.

Article 30: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift, purchase or eminent domain, for general municipal purposes, the fee simple interest in a parcel of land, with improvements thereon, located at 21 Maple Street, described in deed recorded with the Berkshire Middle Registry of Deeds in Book 3155, Page 194, and further to appropriate and transfer from the Overlay Surplus Fund the sum of \$154,300 for said acquisition, and that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments as may be necessary on behalf of the Town to effect said acquisition; or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen: Recommends
Finance Committee: Recommends

2/3 Vote Required

Article 30 Was moved and seconded. There was discussion in opposition to eminent domain for anything other than emergency. Town Counsel Joel Bard noted that this language was standard language in this type of Article for title-clearing purposes; primarily to clear up any title defects that might crop up at closing. There was further general discussion about how the property was valued. The Town Administrator noted that the appropriation was set at the Town's tax assessment value. Mr. Cavanaugh spoke and related that the building was offered to the town many years ago for a lesser price, and the Board of Selectmen rejected the offer at that time. He believes, in retrospect, that this was a mistake, a mistake that the Town shouldn't repeat now. The Town Administrator provided a presentation showing the layout of the property in relation to the School, noting that the Town currently had a prescriptive easement for the pipe that runs through and under the subject property from the School to the School's leech field. The Town Administrator also explained that it will likely be necessary to renovate or replace the one lane bridge crossing the brook to the school. He noted that the cost to obtain easements to repair or replace the bridge or the septic line could be very expensive, perhaps 50% of the cost of the parcel. He noted that once this parcel was open it would make the Park much more useable. Mr. Dunn questioned if the age of the building would require approval by the Historical Commission, and what the balance of the Overlay Surplus Account would be factoring in all monies appropriated from the Overlay Surplus Account at this Town Meeting. The Town Administrator observed that the Articles at this meeting would reduce the Overlay Account by a little more than half. The Town Administrator noted that the house is not listed in the Historical Registry, nor is it in a historical district. Ms. Spadafora gave an opinion of value that came out very close to the assessed value. Mr. Gordon stated that house, while a nice house, had no intrinsic historical value. Mr. Massini suggested to amend the Article to show the intent to show that the intent to demolish the building. Ms. Jarvis suggested that the building might be removed

from the lot. The Town Administrator stated that he didn't think the bridge would hold the building. A motion was made to amend the Article by adding the words "*future removal or demolition and*" immediately following "*eminent domain, for*" with the amended Article to read:

Article 30: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift, purchase or eminent domain, for future removal or demolition and general municipal purposes, the fee simple interest in a parcel of land, with improvements thereon, located at 21 Maple Street, described in deed recorded with the Berkshire Middle Registry of Deeds in Book 3155, Page 194, and further to appropriate and transfer from the Overlay Surplus Fund the sum of \$154,300 for said acquisition, and that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments as may be necessary on behalf of the Town to effect said acquisition; or take any other action relative thereto.

The motion to amend was seconded. A vote was taken and the motion to amend passed. The Article as amended was moved and seconded. A question was raised about the value of the house. The Town Administrator stated that the appropriated amount would not necessarily be the amount actually paid to purchase the property. A vote was taken and

Article 30 as amended PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

It was moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn to the Annual Town Election which will be held one week from today on May 21, 2016, starting at 10:00 a.m., with the Meeting to dissolve at the close of polls. A vote was taken and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m. The checkers were Election Workers Eva Bonney, Ann Krawet, Patricia Clemons and Al Blake.

Respectfully submitted,

George E. Roberts
Town Clerk