

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, the Annual Town Meeting was called on May 8, 2021, 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 7:00 p.m. by the Moderator. There were 84 registered voters present (5% of 1693 registered voters) and a total of 108 people attended the meeting. Town Officials Present: Ethan Klepetar, Moderator, Bill Elovirta, Chris Swindlehurst, and Michael Lavery; Select Board Members; Dan Parnell, Charles Garman, and Ronald Defoe; Finance Committee Members; George E. Roberts, Town Clerk; William Caldwell, Town Administrator; Joel Bard, Esq., Town Counsel.

The Moderator opened the meeting and Municipal Light Plant Manager, Robert Gross gave an update on the progress of the Broad Band build out in Town. A motion was then made and seconded for a resolution honoring the memory of Bruce Garlow, past moderator. The motion was seconded, and a vote was taken, the motion for a resolution passed unanimously. The Moderator then read the autobiographical Obituary of Moderator, Bruce Garlow into the record of the Meeting:

## **Bruce Garlow**

### **1949 - 2021**

My name was Bruce Garlow. Long in Becket but recently of 45 Paul Dr. Lee, I died at 72 due to complications of kidney disease on Friday, April 23, 2021 at BMC. Not quite what I planned when I moved into our new home only 7 months ago, but there you have it.

I started this obit two years ago when my health became a little sketchy and I got to thinking perhaps I should be getting my things in order. Thankfully order was achieved and is now in the trustworthy hands of my son Eric, who shared my life and home for the past dozen years. My brother Tamarack said he would finish this notice when it came time, but beware, I'm no longer around so I didn't get a chance to edit this!

I was born January 23, 1949, in Brooklyn, NY and was the son of the late Lester C. Garlow and Alice V. Garlow. I grew up in Lansing, MI, was a graduate of Lansing Everett High School and Lansing Community College and worked at the U.S. Postal Service prior to moving to Berkshire County in 1976.

My greatest interest and my best gigs concerned local government and community. I retired after 20 years as town administrator in Richmond, where I also worked as conservation administrator. I also put some time in as administrator for the town of West Stockbridge and as interim administrator in Lanesborough, and had consulted for the law firm of Bernstein, Cushner & Kimmell, PC concerning municipal affairs. I also served as a district aide for former Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, managing his district office in Lee in the 1980s.

Due to a loud voice, pretty good diction and a desire for fairness and order, I served as the long time elected town moderator in my home town of Becket and had been secretary of the board of the Massachusetts Moderators Association. For my passion and for doing a tolerably good job in small town government, I was elected chair of the board of the Small Town Administrators of Massachusetts, and became a member of the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions, which generously awarded me its conservation administrator of the year award in 2001.

In earlier years I was a board member of the Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority, co-chairman of the Berkshire Advisory Committee to the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, a member of the MCAD state advisory board, and served on many local and regional governmental committees, commissions and task forces.

I had also been a longtime Democratic party activist, having served on the Monterey, Gt. Barrington and Becket Democratic town committees, respectively, while living in those towns.

I worked on several political campaigns and was a delegate to most of the Democratic state conventions during the 1980s and 1990s.

Never one who failed to have something to say or be shy about his opinions, I had also been a columnist for the Berkshire Courier, the former Gt. Barrington weekly newspaper, the Berkshire Record, a current Gt. Barrington weekly, and the Berkshire Beacon, a former Lenox weekly. I edited Becket, Massachusetts: From Colonial Township to Modern Town, a history published in 2015, the year of the town's 250th anniversary, was a former board member of WAM Theatre, and a longtime member of the Central Berkshire Fund, an advisory committee of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.

In addition to my zeal for politics and my years of community activism, I had a love affair with words. I frequently wrote and performed poetry, often through Pittsfield's Word X Word Festival and at Deb Koffman's In Words - Out Words in Housatonic. I was also drawn to write poems for family and friends and for special occasions like retirements, birthdays and memorial services.

I was predeceased by my wife of 28 years, Leslie Rudolph-Garlow, who died in 2008, and my daughter Lisa L. Garlow who we lost at the age of 48 in September 2020. I'm survived by my beloved son Eric J. Garlow who shared my home in Becket and later Lee, and by my brother and best friend Tamarack Garlow and his partner, Annie



|    |                              |           |           |           |         |        |
|----|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|--------|
| 9  | FINANCE COMMITTEE            | 382       | 600       | 600       | -       | 0.0%   |
| 10 | TOWN ACCOUNTANT SALARIES     | 24,850    | 25,478    | 25,988    | 510     | 2.0%   |
| 11 | OUTSIDE PAYROLL SERVICES     | 6,637     | 5,200     | 7,000     | 1,800   | 25.7%  |
| 12 | TOWN ACCOUNTANT EXPENSES     | -         | 400       | 400       | -       | 0.0%   |
| 13 | ASSESSORS SALARIES           | 67,152    | 68,000    | 65,000    | (3,000) | -4.6%  |
| 14 | ASSESSORS EXPENSE            | 58,793    | 71,000    | 70,000    | (1,000) | -1.4%  |
| 15 | TOWN TREASURER SALARY        | 46,452    | 47,387    | 48,335    | 948     | 2.0%   |
| 16 | TOWN TREASURER EXP.          | 1,839     | 5,000     | 5,000     | -       | 0.0%   |
| 17 | TAX COLLECTOR SALARY         | 57,850    | 59,070    | 60,251    | 1,181   | 2.0%   |
| 18 | ASSIST. TAX COLLECTOR        | 48,145    | 49,161    | 50,144    | 983     | 2.0%   |
| 19 | TAX COLLECTOR EXPENSE        | 5,888     | 8,280     | 8,280     | -       | 0.0%   |
| 20 | TAX TITLE EXPENSES           | 53,454    | 30,000    | 30,000    | -       | 0.0%   |
| 21 | TOWN ADMIN ASST              | 46,510    | 47,502    | 48,452    | 950     | 2.0%   |
| 22 | TOWN COUNSEL                 | 30,025    | 20,000    | 20,000    | -       | 0.0%   |
| 23 | AUDIT EXPENSES               | 13,000    | 23,000    | 23,000    | -       | 0.0%   |
| 24 | POSTAGE                      | 7,336     | 12,000    | 12,000    | -       | 0.0%   |
| 25 | TOWN REPORTS                 | 3,120     | 3,500     | 3,500     | -       | 0.0%   |
| 26 | TOWN CLERK SALARY            | 29,188    | 29,918    | 30,516    | 598     | 2.0%   |
| 27 | TOWN CLERK EXPENSE           | 1,752     | 2,145     | 2,145     | -       | 0.0%   |
| 28 | ELECTION-REGISTRATION        | 5,667     | 19,580    | 15,000    | (4,580) | -30.5% |
| 29 | CONSERVATION COMM.           | 15,337    | 22,410    | 20,000    | (2,410) | -12.1% |
| 30 | PLANNING BOARD EXPENSES      | 3,839     | 2,500     | 2,500     | -       | 0.0%   |
| 31 | ZONING BOARD of APPEALS      | 238       | 1,500     | 1,500     | -       | 0.0%   |
| 32 | BRPC                         | 1,417     | 1,900     | 1,900     | -       | 0.0%   |
| 33 | MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS LABOR    | 49,774    | 50,288    | 51,294    | 1,006   | 2.0%   |
| 34 | MUNICIPAL UTILITIES          | 40,212    | 57,000    | 55,000    | (2,000) | -3.6%  |
| 35 | MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS EXPENSES | 19,079    | 31,975    | 31,975    | -       | 0.0%   |
| 36 | BROADBAND                    | 1,338     | 2,500     | 2,000     | (500)   | -25.0% |
| 37 | BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS        | 31,584    | 35,000    | 35,000    | -       | 0.0%   |
| 38 | TECHNOLOGY                   | 22,641    | 35,000    | 35,000    | -       | 0.0%   |
| 39 | RESERVE FUND                 |           | 50,000    | 50,000    | -       | 0.0%   |
| 40 | General Government Total     | 805,308   | 944,219   | 937,936   | (6,283) | -0.7%  |
|    |                              |           |           |           |         |        |
|    | PUBLIC SAFETY                |           |           |           |         |        |
| 41 | POLICE DEPT. SALARIES        | 338,852   | 347,278   | 405,007   | 57,729  | 14.3%  |
| 42 | POLICE DEPT. EXPENSE         | 16,964    | 20,000    | 21,000    | 1,000   | 4.8%   |
| 43 | EM. MGMT EXP.                | 1,000     | 1,000     | 1,000     | -       | 0.0%   |
| 44 | EM. MGMT. TRAINING           | -         | 1,000     | 1,000     | -       | 0.0%   |
| 45 | CONSTABLE EXPENSE            | -         | 300       | 300       | -       | 0.0%   |
| 46 | FIRE DEPT. SALARIES/ CHIEF   | 7,300     | 7,483     | 7,633     | 150     | 2.0%   |
| 47 | FIREFIGHTER STIPENDS         | 8,400     | 14,000    | 14,000    | -       | 0.0%   |
| 48 | FIRE DEPT. EXPENSES          | 22,665    | 37,000    | 37,000    | -       | 0.0%   |
| 49 | E911 COMMUNICATION           | 12,683    | 13,064    | 13,456    | 392     | 2.9%   |
| 50 | BUILDING INSP. SALARY        | 54,636    | 55,000    | 55,000    | -       | 0.0%   |
| 51 | BUILDING & CODE INSP. EXP    | 5,055     | 2,215     | 2,350     | 135     | 5.7%   |
| 52 | ANIMAL CONTROL SALARIES      | 4,933     | 5,638     | 5,751     | 113     | 2.0%   |
| 53 | ANIMAL CONTROL EXPENSES      | 2,494     | 2,500     | 2,500     | -       | 0.0%   |
| 54 | HARBOR MASTER                | 1,713     | 1,474     | 1,474     | -       | 0.0%   |
| 55 | DEMOLITION FUND              | 21,215    | 25,000    | 25,000    | -       | 0.0%   |
| 56 | Public Safety Total          | 497,910   | 532,952   | 592,470   | 59,518  | 10.0%  |
|    |                              |           |           |           |         |        |
|    | EDUCATION                    |           |           |           |         |        |
| 57 | CBRS D OPERATING ASSESSMENT  | 2,308,156 | 2,318,893 | 2,392,842 | 73,949  | 3.1%   |
| 58 | VOCATIONAL TUITION           | 180,249   | 185,000   | 190,000   | 5,000   | 2.6%   |

|     |                                   |           |           |           |         |       |
|-----|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|-------|
| 59  | VOCATIONAL TRANSPORT.             | 45,918    | 75,000    | 75,000    | -       | 0.0%  |
| 60  | Education Total                   | 2,534,323 | 2,578,893 | 2,657,842 | 78,949  | 3.0%  |
|     |                                   |           |           |           |         |       |
|     | FORESTRY                          |           |           |           |         |       |
| 61  | TREE ACCOUNT                      | 6,670     | 15,300    | 15,000    | (300)   | -2.0% |
| 62  | FORESTRY                          | -         | 500       | 500       | -       | 0.0%  |
| 63  | Forestry Total                    | 6,670     | 15,800    | 15,500    | (300)   | -1.9% |
|     |                                   |           |           |           |         |       |
|     | HIGHWAY                           |           |           |           |         |       |
| 64  | SALARIES & WAGES                  | 234,098   | 241,000   | 245,820   | 4,820   | 2.0%  |
| 65  | SUMMER LABOR                      | -         | 16,800    | 16,800    | -       |       |
| 66  | Salaries and Wages Subtotal       | 234,098   | 257,800   | 262,620   | 4,820   | 1.8%  |
| 67  | General Maintenance Subtotal      | 150,222   | 179,800   | 176,000   | (3,800) | -2.2% |
| 68  | Machinery Subtotal                | 66,563    | 71,950    | 71,950    | -       | 0.0%  |
| 69  | Fuel Subtotal                     | 72,365    | 95,500    | 91,750    | (3,750) | -4.1% |
| 70  | Highway Garage Subtotal           | 13,242    | 16,150    | 16,000    | (150)   | -0.9% |
| 71  | Winter Roads Total                | 250,363   | 241,825   | 246,662   | 4,837   | 2.0%  |
|     |                                   |           |           |           |         |       |
| 72  | HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT<br>TOTAL       | 786,854   | 863,025   | 864,982   | 1,957   | 0.2%  |
|     |                                   |           |           |           |         |       |
| 73  | STREET LIGHTS                     | 9,979     | 9,000     | 9,000     | -       | 0.0%  |
| 74  | Street Lights Total               | 9,979     | 9,000     | 9,000     | -       | 0.0%  |
|     |                                   |           |           |           |         |       |
|     | TRANSFER STATION                  |           |           |           |         |       |
| 75  | Transfer Station Labor            | 30,164    | 37,714    | 38,657    | 943     | 2.4%  |
| 76  | Rental Compactor                  |           | 13,200    | 13,200    | -       | 0.0%  |
| 77  | Rental Open Container (2)         |           | 4,500     | 4,500     | -       | 0.0%  |
| 78  | Trucking Compactor                |           | 10,500    | 11,375    | 875     | 7.7%  |
| 79  | Trucking Open Container           |           | 8,250     | 9,000     | 750     | 8.3%  |
| 80  | Trucking Cans & Bottles           |           | 6,300     | 6,825     | 525     | 7.7%  |
| 81  | Trucking Scrap Metal              |           | 3,600     | 4,550     | 950     | 20.9% |
| 82  | Trucking Paper Cardboard          |           | 4,500     | 4,875     | 375     | 7.7%  |
| 83  | Trucking Rigid Plastics           |           | 3,600     | 3,600     | -       | 0.0%  |
| 84  | Trucking Fuel Surcharge           |           | 1,400     | 1,400     | -       | 0.0%  |
| 85  | Disposal Solid Waste              |           | 28,200    | 30,000    | 1,800   | 6.0%  |
| 86  | Disposal Bulky Waste              |           | 17,860    | 18,000    | 140     | 0.8%  |
| 87  | Recycling Cans, Bottles,<br>Paper |           | 9,500     | 9,500     | -       | 0.0%  |
| 88  | Disposal Haz Mat                  |           | 10,000    | 10,000    | -       | 0.0%  |
| 89  | Chemicals                         |           | 300       | 300       | -       | 0.0%  |
| 90  | Permits                           |           | 1,850     | 1,850     | -       | 0.0%  |
| 91  | MRF education                     |           | 100       | 100       | -       | 0.0%  |
| 92  | Maintenance                       |           | 1,500     | 1,500     | -       | 0.0%  |
| 93  | Inspections/Testing               |           | 2,500     | 2,500     | -       | 0.0%  |
| 94  | Total Expenses                    | 124,806   | 127,660   | 133,075   | 5,415   | 4.1%  |
| 95  | Transfer Station Total            | 154,970   | 165,374   | 171,732   | 6,358   | 3.7%  |
|     |                                   |           |           |           |         |       |
| 96  | S. BERKSHIRE SOLID WASTE          | 5,900     | 3,200     | 3,260     | 60      | 1.8%  |
|     |                                   |           |           |           |         |       |
|     | CEMETERIES                        |           |           |           |         |       |
| 97  | BECKET CENTER CEMETERY            | 4,944     | 5,000     | 5,000     | -       | 0.0%  |
| 98  | NORTH CEMETERY                    | 19,781    | 16,500    | 16,500    | -       | 0.0%  |
| 99  | WEST CEMETERY                     | 1,572     | 800       | 800       | -       | 0.0%  |
| 100 | Cemeteries Total                  | 26,297    | 22,300    | 22,300    | -       | 0.0%  |
|     |                                   |           |           |           |         |       |
|     | HEALTH & COMMUNITY<br>SERVICES    |           |           |           |         |       |
| 101 | BOARD of HEALTH<br>SALARIES       | 2,866     | 9,500     | 9,500     | -       | 0.0%  |

|     |   |                  |                  |                  |                  |               |
|-----|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 102 | <b>BOARD of HEALTH EXPENSES</b>                             | 29,540           | 33,500           | 33,500           | -                | 0.0%          |
| 103 | <b>INSPECTOR of ANIMALS</b>                                 | 345              | 357              | 364              | 7                | 1.9%          |
| 104 | <b>NURSING SERVICES</b>                                     | 3,826            | 5,200            | 5,200            | -                | 0.0%          |
| 105 | <b>COUNCIL on AGING</b>                                     | 4,748            | 3,500            | 3,500            | -                | 0.0%          |
| 106 | <b>OUTREACH</b>   | -                | 500              | 500              | -                | 0.0%          |
| 107 | <b>VETERANS AGENT SALARY</b>                                | 2,140            | 2,194            | 2,194            | -                | 0.0%          |
| 108 | <b>VETERANS BENEFITS</b>                                    | 34,529           | 38,500           | 35,000           | (3,500)          | -10.0%        |
| 109 | <b>VETERANS AGENT EXPENSE</b>                               | -                | 100              | 100              | -                | 0.0%          |
| 110 | <b>BECKET ARTS CENTER</b>                                   |                  | 10,000           | 10,000           | -                | 0.0%          |
| 111 | <b>Health &amp; Community Services Total</b>                | <b>77,994</b>    | <b>103,351</b>   | <b>99,858</b>    | <b>(8,493)</b>   | <b>-9.0%</b>  |
|     |   |                  |                  |                  |                  |               |
|     | <b>LIBRARY</b>  |                  |                  |                  |                  |               |
| 112 | <b>LIBRARY</b>  | 50,292           | 51,550           | 52,581           | 1,031            | 2.0%          |
| 113 | <b>CHILDRENS HOLIDAY PARTY</b>                              | 500              | 500              | 500              | -                | 0.0%          |
| 114 | <b>Library Total</b>  | <b>50,792</b>    | <b>52,050</b>    | <b>53,081</b>    | <b>1,031</b>     | <b>1.9%</b>   |
|     |   |                  |                  |                  |                  |               |
|     | <b>PARKS AND RECREATION</b>                                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |               |
| 115 | <b>WEED CENTER POND</b>                                     | 2,500            | 3,000            | 3,000            | -                | 0.0%          |
| 116 | <b>PARKS &amp; RECREATION</b>                               | 34,505           | 30,610           | 30,610           | -                | 0.0%          |
| 117 | <b>Parks &amp; Recreation Total</b>                         | <b>37,005</b>    | <b>33,610</b>    | <b>33,610</b>    | <b>-</b>         | <b>0.0%</b>   |
|     |   |                  |                  |                  |                  |               |
|     | <b>HISTORICAL COMMISSION</b>                                |                  |                  |                  |                  |               |
| 118 | <b>HISTORICAL COMMISSION</b>                                | 2,580            | 2,000            | 2,000            | -                | 0.0%          |
| 119 | <b>Historical Commission Total</b>                          | <b>2,580</b>     | <b>2,000</b>     | <b>2,000</b>     | <b>-</b>         | <b>0.0%</b>   |
|     |   |                  |                  |                  |                  |               |
|     | <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b>   |                  |                  |                  | -                |               |
| 120 | <b>MEMORIAL/VETERANS DAY</b>                                | 910              | 1,500            | 1,500            | -                | 0.0%          |
| 121 | <b>Memorial/Veterans Day Total</b>                          | <b>910</b>       | <b>1,500</b>     | <b>1,500</b>     | <b>-</b>         | <b>0.0%</b>   |
|     |   |                  |                  |                  |                  |               |
|     | <b>BENEFITS</b>   |                  |                  |                  |                  |               |
| 122 | <b>HEALTH/LIFE INSURANCE</b>                                | 388,388          | 425,000          | 457,213          | 32,213           | 7.0%          |
| 123 | <b>COUNTY RETIREMENT</b>                                    | 219,163          | 237,932          | 253,604          | 15,672           | 6.2%          |
| 124 | <b>PAYROLL TAX ACCOUNT</b>                                  | 25,143           | 27,700           | 28,254           | 554              | 2.0%          |
| 125 | <b>UNEMPLOYMENT EXPENSE</b>                                 | 4,020            | 5,000            | 5,000            | -                | 0.0%          |
| 126 | <b>GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE</b>                          | 121,532          | 123,000          | 125,460          | 2,460            | 2.0%          |
| 127 | <b>OPEB LIABILITY</b>                                       |                  | 15,000           | 15,000           | -                | 0.0%          |
| 128 | <b>Benefits Total</b>                                       | <b>758,245</b>   | <b>833,632</b>   | <b>884,531</b>   | <b>50,899</b>    | <b>5.8%</b>   |
|     |   |                  |                  |                  |                  |               |
|     |   |                  |                  |                  |                  |               |
| 129 | <b>TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET</b>                               | <b>5,755,736</b> | <b>6,160,906</b> | <b>6,349,601</b> | <b>183,695</b>   | <b>2.9%</b>   |
|     |   |                  |                  |                  |                  |               |
|     | <b>FUNDED THROUGH WARRANT ARTICLES</b>                      |                  |                  |                  |                  |               |
|     | <b>DEBT SERVICE</b>   |                  |                  |                  |                  |               |
| 130 | <b>Town &amp; School Debt Service</b>                       | <b>406,613</b>   | <b>504,318</b>   | <b>384,812</b>   | <b>(119,506)</b> | <b>-31.1%</b> |
|     | <b>AMBULANCE</b>  |                  |                  |                  |                  |               |
| 131 | <b>From the General Fund</b>                                | <b>290,000</b>   | <b>305,000</b>   | <b>305,000</b>   | <b>-</b>         | <b>0.0%</b>   |
| 132 | <b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND BUDGET INCLUDING WARRANT ARTICLES</b> | <b>6,452,349</b> | <b>6,970,224</b> | <b>7,039,413</b> | <b>64,189</b>    | <b>0.9%</b>   |

**Article 2** Was moved and seconded from the floor. There were brief discussions regarding Line Item 41, Town Administrator William Caldwell explained that this charge was for disability benefits for a police officer injured in the line of duty, there were no individual votes taken on these line items. A vote was taken on the motion on Article 2, and the motion on

**Article 2 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**ARTICLE 3**
**DEBT SERVICE**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$384,812 to fund debt service due in Fiscal Year 2022 for the following previously approved borrowings:

| Debt                          | FY2022 Amount | Maturity Date |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Becket Washington School      | \$95,863      | FY2025        |
| Wahconah RHS Doors            | \$6,605       | FY2029        |
| Wahconah Sidewalks            | \$760         | FY2022        |
| Kittredge School MSBA Windows | \$125         | FY2022        |
| Craneville Roof               | \$310         | FY2023        |
| Craneville Air Handler        | \$78          | FY2022        |
| Wahconah RHS New Construction | \$126,981     | FY2047        |
| District Security             | \$916         | FY2025        |
| Highway Truck and Plow        | \$65,000      | FY2025        |
| Broadband                     | \$86,674      | -             |
| Interest on Short Term Debt   | \$1,500       | -             |

**MOTION:** Move that the Town raise and appropriate \$384,812 to pay principal and interest on school and Town debt for Fiscal 2022.

Select Board: Recommended Majority Vote Required  
 Finance Committee Recommended

Article 3 Was moved and seconded from the floor. A vote was taken on the motion on Article 3, and the motion on

Article 3 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**ARTICLE 4**
**CAPITAL EXPENDITURES**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds including free cash (FC) and overlay surplus (OS), borrowing premium (BP), Stabilization (ST), or borrow the sum of \$132,000, or any other sum, to be used to fund the Fiscal Year 2022 Capital Plan for the Town of Becket. This plan consists of the following items:

| Project                                 | Amount                              |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Pavilion – Maple Street Park            | \$5,000 (FC)                        |
| Town Hall HVAC/Renovation               | \$15,000 (FC)                       |
| Town Hall Pavilion Extension            | \$20,000 (\$10,406 BP) (\$9,594 FC) |
| Fire Department Hose and SCBA Equipment | \$20,000 (FC)                       |
| Highway Truck #5                        | 132,000 (Borrow)                    |
| Highway Truck #5 Payment                | \$44,858 (FC)                       |
| Town Hall Emergency Generator           | \$35,000 (ST)                       |

**MOTION:** Move that the Town transfer \$94,452 from Free Cash, \$10,406 in Borrowing Premiums, \$35,000 from Stabilization, and authorize the Treasurer to borrow up to \$132,000, for a total of \$227,000 to be used in the Fiscal Year 2022 Capital Plan.

Select Board: Recommended 2/3 Vote Required

**Finance Committee Recommended**

**Article 4** Was moved and seconded from the floor. The Moderator pointed out that there was a typo High Truck should read Highway Truck. A vote was taken on the motion on Article 4, and the motion on

**Article 4 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**ARTICLE 5 TRANSFER TO THE STABILIZATION FUND**

To see if the Town transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$100,000 to be deposited into the Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

**MOTION:** Move that the Town transfer \$100,000 from certified Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund.

**Select Board: Recommended**

**Majority Vote Required**

**Finance Committee: Recommended**

**Article 5** Was moved and seconded from the floor. A vote was taken on the motion on Article 5, and the motion on

**Article 5 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**ARTICLE 6 ACCEPTANCE OF CHAPTER 90 FUNDS**

To see if the Town will 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 to be reimbursed to the Town by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in accordance with Chapter 90 of the Massachusetts General Laws; or take any other action relative thereto.

**MOTION:** Move that the Town accept the grant of Chapter 90 funds for Fiscal Year 2022 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

**Select Board: Recommended**

**Majority Vote Required**

**Finance Committee: Recommended**

**Article 6** Was moved and seconded from the floor. A vote was taken on the motion on Article 6, and the motion on

**Article 6 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**ARTICLE 7 AMBULANCE BUDGET**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$445,000 for the salaries and expenses of the Ambulance Enterprise; and to fund said appropriation, to raise and appropriate \$305,000, use \$10,000 from Ambulance Stabilization, and to transfer \$130,000 from Fiscal Year 2021 Ambulance Receipts; or take any other action relative thereto.

**MOTION:** Move that the Town raise and appropriate \$305,000, transfer \$10,000 from Ambulance Stabilization, and transfer \$130,000 from Ambulance Receipts to fund operations of the Ambulance Enterprise in Fiscal Year 2022.

**Select Board: Recommended**

**Two Thirds Vote**

**Required**

**Finance Committee: Recommended**

**Article 7** Was moved and seconded from the floor. A vote was taken on the motion on Article 7, and the motion on

**Article 7 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**ARTICLE 8 AMBULANCE STABILIZATION**

To see if the Town will transfer the ambulance retained earnings funds sum of \$63,940 to the ambulance stabilization account; or take any other action relative thereto.

**MOTION:** Move that the Town transfer the ambulance retained earnings funds in the sum of \$63,940 to the ambulance stabilization account.

**Article83** Was moved and seconded from the floor. A vote was taken on the motion on Article 8, and the motion on

**Article 8 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ARTICLE 9

REVOLVING FUNDS

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 or take any other action relative thereto.

**MOTION:** Move that the Town 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:

| Program or Purpose | FY 2022 Spending Limit |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Ambulance Training | \$10,000               |
| Ambulance Details  | \$15,000               |
| Plumbing Inspector | \$10,000               |
| Wiring Inspector   | \$15,000               |
| Gas Inspector      | \$10,000               |
| Police Details     | \$20,000               |

**Article 9** Was moved and seconded from the floor. A vote was taken on the motion on Article 9, and the motion on

**Article 9 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ARTICLE 10

LOCAL OPTION SPECIAL INJURY LEAVE INDEMNITY FUND

To see if the Town will accept the provisions of G.L. c. 41, §111F (Paragraph 4) to establish a Special Injury Leave Indemnity Fund for the purpose of paying injury leave compensation and medical bills incurred by police officers and firefighters; or take any other action relative thereto.

**MOTION:** Move that the Town accept the provisions of G.L. c. 41, §111F (Paragraph 4) to establish a Special Injury Leave Indemnity Fund for the purpose of paying injury leave compensation and medical bills incurred by police officers and firefighters.

**Article 10** Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was brief discussion on this Article. A vote was taken on the motion on Article 10, and the motion on

**Article10 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**



## ARTICLE 11

To see if the Town will transfer from Free Cash a sum of \$461.78 to pay a prior year bill (FY20) for the salary of the Animal Control Officer, or take any other action relative thereto.

**MOTION:** Move that the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash a sum of \$461.78 to pay Fiscal Year 2020 Animal Control Officer Salary.

|                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Select Board:      | Recommended |
| Finance Committee: | Recommended |

**Majority Vote Required**

**Article 11** Was moved and seconded from the floor. A vote was taken on the motion on Article 11, and the motion on

**Article 11 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## ARTICLE 12

To see if the Town will vote to rescind the authorization for unissued debt that has been determined is no longer needed for the completion of various projects; or otherwise act thereon.

**MOTION:** Move that the Town rescind the authorization for unissued debt for the ambulance totaling \$32,247.35 that has been determined is no longer needed, as approved at the May 13, 2017 Annual Town Meeting.

**Select Board:** Recommended  
**Finance Committee:** Recommended

**Majority Vote Required**

**Article 12** Was moved and seconded from the floor. A vote was taken on the motion on Article 12, and the motion on

**Article 12 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## ARTICLE 13

To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 17, Section 6 of the Town of Becket Bylaws by striking the fine of ten (10) dollars and replacing it with twenty-five (25) dollars; or otherwise act thereon.

**MOTION:** Move that the Town amend Article 17, Section 6 of the Town of Becket Bylaws by striking the fine of ten (10) dollars and replacing it with twenty-five (25) dollars.

|                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Select Board:      | Recommended |
| Finance Committee: | Recommended |

**Majority Vote Required**

**Article 13** Was moved and seconded from the floor. A vote was taken on the motion on Article 13, and the motion on

## Article 13 PASSED.

## ARTICLE 14

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or reserve from Community Preservation Fiscal Year 2022 estimated annual revenues the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for Committee administrative expenses, community preservation projects and other expenses in Fiscal Year 2022, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation, all as set forth below:

Appropriations:

|                                   |       |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Committee Administrative Expenses | \$500 |
|-----------------------------------|-------|

Reserves:

|                              |         |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Historical Resources Reserve | \$4,259 |
|------------------------------|---------|

|                           |         |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Community Housing Reserve | \$4,259 |
|---------------------------|---------|

|                    |         |
|--------------------|---------|
| Open Space Reserve | \$4,259 |
|--------------------|---------|

|                      |          |
|----------------------|----------|
| Undesignated Reserve | \$29,316 |
|----------------------|----------|

**Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee**

**MOTION:** Move that the Town appropriate or reserve from Fiscal Year 2022 Community Preservation estimated annual revenues the amounts set forth in Article 14 of the Warrant for the May 8, 2021 Annual Town Meeting.

Select Board: Recommended  
CPA Committee: Recommended  
Finance Committee: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

**Article 14** Was moved and seconded from the floor. A vote was taken on the motion on Article 14, and the motion on

**Article 14 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **ARTICLE 15 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING FOR WALKING PATH**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$10,000 from Community Preservation Open Space Reserves for the creation of Esau's Heel walking path at Jacob's Well; or take any other action relative thereto.

**Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee**

**MOTION:** Move that the Town transfer the sum of \$10,000 from the Community Preservation Open Space Reserves for the creation of Esau's Heel walking path at Jacob's Well.

Select Board: Recommended  
CPA Committee: Recommended  
Finance Committee: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

**Article 15** Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was brief discussion on this Article. A vote was taken on the motion on Article 15, and the motion on

**Article 15 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **ARTICLE 16 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING FOR ENERGY UPGRADES**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$21,887 from the Community Preservation Undesignated Funds to install insulation and window inserts at the Becket Arts Center Building; or take any other action relative thereto.

**Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee**

**MOTION:** Move that the Town transfer the sum of \$21,887 from the Community Preservation Undesignated Funds for the installation of insulation and window inserts at the Becket Arts Center Building.

Select Board: Recommended  
CPA Committee: Recommended  
Finance Committee: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

**Article 16** Was moved and seconded from the floor. A vote was taken on the motion on Article 16, and the motion on

**Article 16 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **ARTICLE 17 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Community Preservation funds the sum of \$100,000 (\$10,000 from Historical Preservation and \$90,000 from Undesignated Funds) to complete needed repairs to the belfry of the First Congregational Church; or take any other action relative thereto.

**Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee**

**MOTION:** Move that the Town transfer from Community Preservation funds the sum of \$100,000 (\$10,000 from Historical Preservation and \$90,000 from Undesignated Funds) to complete needed repairs to the belfry.

Select Board: Recommended  
CPA Committee: Recommended  
Finance Committee: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

**Article 17** Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was discussion on this Article. A vote was taken on the motion on Article 17, and the motion on

**Article 17 PASSE.**

## **ARTICLE 18 LOCAL OPTION EXCISE TAX EXEMPTION**

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of G.L. c.60A, s.1, eighth paragraph, adding an excise tax exemption for one vehicle owned and registered by or leased to a resident who is in active and full-time military service, as described in said statute, or otherwise act thereon.

**MOTION:** Move that the Town vote to accept the provisions of G.L. c.60A, s.1, eighth paragraph, adding an automobile excise tax exemption as described in Article 18 of the warrant for the May 8, 2021 Annual Town Meeting.

|                           |                    |                               |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Select Board:</b>      | <b>Recommended</b> | <b>Majority Vote Required</b> |
| <b>Finance Committee:</b> | <b>Recommended</b> |                               |

**Article 18** Was moved and seconded from the floor. A vote was taken on the motion on Article 18, and the motion on

**Article 18 PASSED.**

## **ARTICLE 19 CITIZEN PETITION: ENGINE BRAKE BYLAW**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Becket Bylaws Article 17 – Town Betterment Bylaws – by adding a Section 25, “Engine Braking.”

### **Section 25 – Engine Braking**

1. **Purpose:** The purpose of this bylaw is to prohibit the use of engine retarding and compression braking devices on thickly settled and residential roads of Becket.
2. **Prohibitions:** The use of compression release engine brake is associated with excessive noise that adversely affects the public health, safety, and wellbeing of the residents of Becket and is prohibited on all residential roads with speed limited of 35MPH or lower. The Town of Becket recognizes that compression release engine brakes can be an important accessory safety component of large commercial motor vehicles, but encourages commercial vehicles owners and operators to employ proper lower gear and service braking (as defined in CDL guidelines) and avoid the use of engine braking on all residential roadways except in emergency situations. In approved areas engine braking should be deployed judiciously and respectfully in our community, avoiding unnecessary use in non-emergency situations; in an unloaded or lightly loaded vehicle; to compensate for excessive speed or insufficient braking distances as a result of improper operation.
3. **Enforcement:** The use of engine brakes on prohibited roads shall result in a fine of \$300.00, which shall be recovered by indictment or on complaint before a district court, or by noncriminal disposition in accordance with [M.G.L.A. c 40 §21D]. Audible engine braking in residential areas shall be prima facie evidence of this section.
4. **Signage:** Signs shall be posted at any reasonable location within the Town that indicate the prohibition of engine braking pursuant to this section.
5. **Definitions:**

Engine braking – the use or operation of any mechanical exhaust device designed to aid in the braking or deceleration of any motor vehicle, changing normal engine compression and subsequently releasing that compression explosively from the vehicle exhaust. Common terms for these systems include, but are not limited to “Jake Brake”, “Jacob’s Brake”, “C-Brake”, “Compression release brake”, “Paccar Brake”.

Emergency Situation – use in which there is imminent danger of a collision with property and persons and/or animals and /or what is necessary for the health, safety, or welfare of the community.

Residential roads – any road with a posted speed limit of 35MPH or lower.

**MOTION:** Move that the Town will vote to amend Article 17, by adding Section 25 as listed above.

**Majority Vote Required**

**Article 19** Was moved and seconded from the floor. There was discussion regarding this Article. During discussion, a motion to Call the Question was made and seconded. A vote on the motion to Call the Question was taken and the motion to Call the Question passed by a 2/3 Majority as declared by the Moderator. A vote was taken on the motion on Article 19, and the motion on

**Article 19 FAILED.**

**ARTICLE 20 ANNUAL ELECTION**

You are also required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Becket who are qualified to vote in Town elections, to meet at Precinct 1 in Becket Town Hall at 557 Main Street, Becket on Saturday, May 15, 2021 then and there to bring in their votes for the election of the following Town Officers:

To cast their votes in the ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION for the election of candidates for the following offices on May 15, 2021 from 12:00pm to 4:00pm:

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| <b>1 MEMBER, SELECT BOARD (3-year term)</b>       | <b>Vote for One</b> |
| <b>1 MEMBER, BOARD OF HEALTH (3-year term)</b>    | <b>Vote for One</b> |
| <b>1 CEMETERY COMMISSIONER (3-year term)</b>      | <b>Vote for One</b> |
| <b>2 MEMBERS, FINANCE COMMITTEE (3-year term)</b> | <b>Vote for Two</b> |
| <b>1 MEMBER, PLANNING BOARD (5-year term)</b>     | <b>Vote for One</b> |
| <b>2 CONSTABLES (3-year term)</b>                 | <b>Vote for Two</b> |

The Moderator notified and warned the Meeting of the Annual Town Election for the Offices set forth above.

It was moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn to the Annual Town Election which will be held one week from today on May 15, 2021, starting at Noon. A vote was taken and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m. The Tellers were Election Workers Barbara Craft-Reiss, Steven Reiss, Julia Kay-Grace, Susan Crossley.

Respectfully submitted,

George Roberts

Town Clerk