

TOWN CLERK TOWN OF BECKET 557 Main Street, Becket, MA 01223

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CERTIFIED COPY OF MINUTES OF

MAY 11, 2019 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, the Annual Town Meeting was called on May 11, 2019, 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 78 registered voters present (5.18 % of 1505 registered voters) and a total of 99 people attended the meeting. Town Officials Present: Ethan Klepetar, Moderator, Bill Elovirta, and Michael Lavery, Selectmen; Ann Spadafora, 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 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 reviewed the warrant and declared it to have been duly posted as evidenced by the attestation of the posting

ARTICLE 1 COMPENSATION

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 \$2,121.60 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.

Board of Health at the rate of \$15.45 per hour for the performance of their duties as Board of Health members that is in excess of their meeting time.

Cemetery Commission at the rate of \$15.45 per hour for the performance of their duties as Cemetery Commission members in maintaining the cemeteries that is in excess of their meeting time; or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move that the Town set wage and salary rates for municipal boards and commissions as presented in Article 1 of the Warrant for the May 11, 2019 Annual Town Meeting.

Majority Vote Required

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 1 Was moved and seconded. Jeremy Dunn noted that there was no payment period for the Board of Selectmen. A motion was made and seconded to add the phrase "per year" after "Board of Selectmen at \$2,121.60." There was no discussion. A vote on the proposed amendment was taken by a count of hands, and the motion to amend passed unanimously.

A vote was taken on Article 1, as amended, by a count of hands.

Article 1 as amended PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 2 FY 2020 OPERATING BUDGET

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate such sums of money as may be needed to defray the expense of the Town for the 2020 Fiscal Year; or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move that the Town raise and appropriate \$6,716,894 for the General Fund budget for Fiscal Year 2020 (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020).

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Finance Committee: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

| | General Government | FY2018 Actual Expenditur es | FY2019 ATM Approves | FY2020 TA Recommenda tions | Dollar Increase (Decreas e) | Percent Increase/Decre ase |
|----|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | Advertising | 2,725 | 4,000 | 4,000 | - | 0.0% |
| 2 | Selectmen's Salaries | 6,120 | 6,240 | 6,365 | 125 | 2.0% |
| 3 | Selectmen's Expenses | 10,219 | 1,900 | 1,900 | - | 0.0% |
| 4 | Town Mtg. Expenses | 3,496 | 6,000 | 6,000 | - | 0.0% |
| 5 | Town Admin. Salary | 67,262 | 72,000 | 76,500 | 4,500 | 6.3% |
| 6 | Town Admin. Expense | 1,225 | 1,400 | 2,200 | 800 | 57.1% |
| 7 | Staff Coverage | 1,079 | 2,000 | 3,000 | 1,000 | 50.0% |
| 8 | Clerk of Committees | 32,317 | 33,443 | 34,466 | 1,023 | 2.7% |
| 9 | Finance Committees | 135 | 600 | 600 | - | 0.0% |
| 10 | Town Acct. Salary | 23,793 | 24,363 | 24,850 | 487 | 2.0% |
| 11 | Payroll Service | 4,695 | 5,000 | 5,100 | 100 | 2.0% |
| 12 | Town Accountant Exp. | 390 | 400 | 400 | - | 0.0% |
| 13 | Assessors Salaries | 45,906 | 63,622 | 65,000 | 1,378 | 2.2% |
| 14 | Assessors Expense | 59,589 | 62,427 | 68,522 | 6,095 | 9.8% |
| 15 | Town Treasurer Sal. | 44,229 | 45,114 | 46,456 | 1,342 | 3.0% |
| 16 | Town Treasurer Exp. | 1,948 | 5,000 | 5,000 | - | 0.0% |
| 17 | Tax Collector Salary | 55,182 | 56,498 | 57,852 | 1,354 | 2.4% |
| 18 | Assist. Collector Sal. | 45,926 | 47,031 | 48,146 | 1,115 | 2.4% |
| 19 | Tax Collector Exp. | 6,371 | 8,180 | 8,180 | - | 0.0% |
| 20 | Tax Title Expense | 25,182 | 10,000 | 25,000 | 15,000 | 150.0% |
| 21 | Town Admin. Assist. | 44,346 | 45,223 | 46,503 | 1,280 | 2.8% |
| 22 | Town Counsel | 13,861 | 18,000 | 20,000 | 2,000 | 11.1% |
| 23 | Audit Expenses | 12,500 | 18,500 | 18,500 | - | 0.0% |
| 24 | Postage | 10,553 | 12,000 | 12,000 | - | 0.0% |
| 25 | Town Report | 2,754 | 3,500 | 3,500 | - | 0.0% |
| 26 | Town Clerk Salary | 28,055 | 28,616 | 29,188 | 572 | 2.0% |
| 27 | Town Clerk Expense | 3,991 | 2,145 | 2,145 | - | 0.0% |
| 28 | Election-Registration | 2,833 | 17,727 | 16,678 | (1,049) | -5.9% |
| 29 | Conservation Comm. | 15,832 | 19,894 | 19,894 | - | 0.0% |
| 30 | Planning Board Exp. | 1,976 | 2,225 | 2,225 | - | 0.0% |
| 31 | ZBA | 411 | 1,500 | 1,500 | - | 0.0% |
| 32 | Berkshire RPC | 1,349 | 1,383 | 1,383 | - | 0.0% |
| 33 | Muni. Buildings Sal. | 47,029 | 48,161 | 49,301 | 1,140 | 2.4% |
| 34 | Municipal Utilities | 49,455 | 61,000 | 58,000 | (3,000) | -4.9% |
| 35 | Municipal Building Exp. | 53,968 | 54,975 | 31,975 | (23,000) | -41.8% |
| 36 | Wired West | 1,000 | 1,000 | 3,500 | 2,500 | 250.0% |
| 37 | Muni Building Repairs | 9,451 | 12,000 | 35,000 | 23,000 | 191.7% |
| 38 | Software Maintenance | 24,086 | 25,134 | 25,134 | - | 0.0% |
| 39 | Reserve Fund | - | 35,000 | 50,000 | 15,000 | 42.9% |
| 40 | General Gov't Total | 761,238 | 863,201 | 900,963 | 52,652 | 6.1% |
| 41 | | | | | | |
| 42 | Public Safety | | | | | |
| 43 | PD Salaries | 294,079 | 326,206 | 338,328 | 12,122 | 3.7% |

| 44 | PD Expense | 24,879 | 16,679 | 18,880 | 2,201 | 13.2% |
|-----------|----------------------------------|-----------|----------------|----------------|------------|--------------|
| 45 | Emergency Mgmt Exp. | 318 | 1,000 | 1,000 | - | 0.0% |
| 46 | Em. Mgmt. Training | - | 1,000 | 1,000 | - | 0.0% |
| 47 | Constable Expense | - | 300 | 300 | - | 0.0% |
| 48 | FD Chief Salary | 4,165 | 4,248 | 7300 | 3052 | 71.0% |
| 49 | Firefighter Stipends | 9,100 | 14,000 | 14,000 | - | 0.0% |
| 50 | FD Expenses | 36,423 | 31,200 | 32,000 | 800 | 2.6% |
| 51 | E911 Communication | 11,955 | 32,114 | 12,683 | (19,431) | -60.5% |
| 52 | Building Insp. Sal. | 52,596 | 53,654 | 55,160 | 1,506 | 2.8% |
| 53 | Building & Code Insp.Sal | 1,428 | 2,215 | 2,215 | - | 0.0% |
| 54 | Animal Control Sal. | 8,041 | 8,202 | 5,500 | (2,702) | -32.9% |
| 55 | Animal Control Exp | 676 | 2,500 | 2,500 | - | 0.0% |
| 56 | Harbor Master | 1,166 | 1,455 | 1,474 | 19 | 1.3% |
| 57 | Demolition Fund | 3,276 | 15,000 | 22,000 | 7,000 | 46.7% |
| 58 | Public Safety Total | 448,101 | 509,773 | 511,372 | 4,566 | 0.9% |
| 59 | EL II | | | | | |
| 60 | Education | | | | | |
| 61 | CBRSD Assessment | 2,041,390 | 2,134,973 | 2,308,156 | 173,183 | 8.1% |
| 62 | Vocational Tuition | 176,759 | 167,560 | 175,000 | 7,440 | 4.4% |
| 63 | Vocational Transp. | 40,521 | 65,000 | 70,000 | 5,000 | 7.7% |
| 64 65 | Education Total | 2,258,671 | 2,367,533 | 2,553,156 | 185,623 | 7.8% |
| 66 | Forestry | | | | | |
| 67 | Tree Account | 7,560 | 15,000 | 15,300 | 300 | 2.0% |
| 68 | Forestry | 500 | 500 | 500 | - | 0.0% |
| 69 | Forestry Total | 8,060 | 15,500 | 15,800 | 300 | 1.9% |
| 70 | | -, | | | | |
| 71 | Highway | | | | | |
| 72 | Salaries and Wages | 204,454 | 226,765 | 230,897 | 4,132 | 1.8% |
| 73 | Summer Labor | - | - | 16,800 | 16,800 | - |
| 74 | Sal. & Wage Subtotal | 204,454 | 226,765 | 247,697 | 20,932 | 9.2% |
| 75 | General Maintenance | | | | | |
| 76 | Mowing | | 1,500 | - | (1,500) | |
| 77 | Line Painting | | 10,690 | 10,900 | 210 | 2.0% |
| 78 | Gravel/Stone | | 50,000 | 50,000 | - | 0.0% |
| 79 | Hot Mix Patch | | 15,950 | 16,250 | 300 | 1.9% |
| 80 | Rental Equipment | | 1,650 | 2,000 | 350 | 21.2% |
| 81 | Signs | | 3,300 | 3,300 | - | 0.0% |
| 82 | Culverts | | 3,100 | 3,100 | - | 0.0% |
| 83 | Beaver Maintenance | | 2,850 | 2,850 | - | 0.0% |
| 84 | Guardrail | | 1,700 | 1,750 | 50 | 2.9% |
| 85 86 | Crack Seal | | 15,700 | 16,000 | 3,000 | 1.9% |
| 86 87 | Catch Basin Cleaning Sweeping | | 4,800 7,660 | 4,900 7,800 | 100 140 | 2.1% 1.8% |
| 88 | Hand Tools | | 7,880 | 7,800 | | 0.0% |
| 89 | Misc. | | 1,600 | 1,600 | _ | 0.0% |
| 90 | Road Improvement | | 41,000 | 51,000 | 10,000 | 24.4% |
| | General Maintenance | | ,* | , | | |
| 91 | Subtotal | 204,454 | 162,230 | 172,180 | 9,950 | 6.1% |
| 92 | Machinery | | | | | |
| 93 | Inspections | | 1,000 | 1,000 | - | 0.0% |
| 94 | Tires | | 9,100 | 9,250 | 150 | 1.6% |
| 95 | Oil/Lubricants | | 3,500 | 3,550 | 50 | 1.4% |
| 96 | Repairs/Equipment | | 19,450 | 19,750 | 300 | 1.5% |
| 97 | Parts/Supplies | | 28,100 | 28,600 | 500 | 1.8% |
| 98 99 | Welding Supplies Radios | | 2,000 1,000 | 2,000 | - | 0.0% |
| 99 100 | Scanner Updates | | 850 | 1,000 850 | - | 0.0% |
| 100 | Scanner Opuales | | 000 | 020 | - | 0.0% |

| | Fleet Software | | | | | |
|-----|------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| 101 | Maintenance/Updates | | 2,200 | 2,200 | - | 0.0% |
| 102 | Tools/Safety | | 3,075 | 3,075 | - | 0.0% |
| 103 | Machinery Subtotal | 65,750 | 70,275 | 71,275 | 1,000 | 1.4% |
| 104 | Fuel | | | | | |
| 105 | Fuel | | 87,750 | 87,750 | - | 0.0% |
| 106 | Operator Contract | | 1,850 | 1,850 | - | 0.0% |
| 107 | Maintenance/Repair | | 2,900 | 1,500 | (1,400) | -48.4% |
| 108 | DEF Fluid | | 2,000 | 2,000 | _ | 0.0% |
| 109 | Reg. Compliance | | - | 2,000 | 2,000 | - |
| 110 | Fuel System | | - | 400 | 400 | - |
| 111 | Fuel Subtotal | 70,972 | 94,500 | 95,500 | 1,000 | 1.1% |
| 112 | Highway Garage | - / - | - , | | , | |
| 113 | Legal Ads | | 900 | 500 | (400) | -44.4% |
| 114 | Drug Testing | | 400 | 425 | 25 | 6.3% |
| 115 | License Reimbursement | | 600 | 600 | - | 0.0% |
| 116 | Repairs/Supplies | | 3,100 | 2,800 | (300) | -9.7% |
| 110 | Berkshire County | | 5,100 | 2,000 | (300) | 5.770 |
| 117 | Purchasing | | 600 | 600 | - | 0.0% |
| 118 | Office Supplies | | 640 | 650 | 10 | 1.6% |
| 119 | Education & Training | | 1,600 | 1,600 | - | 0.0% |
| 120 | Meeting/Dues Expenses | | 600 | 600 | - | 0.0% |
| 121 | Compliance/First Aid | | - | 2,000 | 2,000 | - |
| 122 | Safety Gear | | 2,550 | 5,800 | 3,250 | 127.5% |
| | Highway Garage | | · · · | | | |
| 123 | Subtotal | 8,397 | 10,990 | 15,575 | 4,585 | 41.7% |
| 124 | Winter Roads | | | | | |
| 125 | Wages - B/G | | 3,921 | - | (3,921) | |
| 126 | Wages - Highway | | 148,613 | 152,534 | 3,921 | 2.6% |
| 127 | Sand | | 8,400 | 8,550 | 150 | 1.8% |
| 128 | Stone Chips | | 13,650 | 13,900 | 250 | 1.8% |
| 129 | Salt | | 47,900 | 48,850 | 950 | 2.0% |
| 130 | Plow Blades | | 4,300 | 4,375 | 75 | 1.7% |
| 131 | Cold Patch | | 1,200 | 1,200 | - | 0.0% |
| 132 | Parts | | 3,200 | 3,200 | - | 0.0% |
| 133 | Sander Chains | | 4,300 | 4,375 | 75 | 1.7% |
| 134 | Winter Roads Total | 111,171 | 235,484 | 236,984 | 1,500 | 0.6% |
| 135 | | | | | | |
| | Highway Department | | | | | |
| 136 | Total | 665,198 | 800,244 | 839,211 | 38,967 | 4.9% |
| 137 | | | | | | |
| 138 | Streetlights | 7,146 | 8,000 | 8,000 | - | 0.0% |
| 139 | Street Lights Total | 7,146 | 8,000 | 8,000 | - | 0.0% |
| 140 | Tree 6 Ct 11 | | | | | |
| 141 | Transfer Station | | | | | |
| 142 | Transfer Station Labor | 28,784 | 31,230 | 31,885 | 655 | 2.1% |
| 143 | | | | | | |
| 144 | Rental Compactor | | 3,600 | 7,200 | 3,600 | 100.0% |
| 145 | Rental Open Container (2) | | 2,700 | 2,700 | _ | 0.0% |
| 146 | Trucking Compactor | | 8,750 | 8,750 | - | 0.0% |
| 147 | Trucking Open Container | | 7,500 | 7,500 | - | 0.0% |
| 148 | Trucking Cans & Bottles | | 5,775 | 5,775 | - | 0.0% |
| 149 | Trucking Scrap Metal | | 3,500 | 3,500 | - | 0.0% |
| | Trucking Paper | | , | , | | |
| 150 | Cardboard | | 4,125 | 4,125 | - | 0.0% |
| 151 | Trucking Rigid Plastics | | 3,300 | 3,300 | - | 0.0% |
| 152 | Trucking Fuel Surcharge | | 1,400 | 1,400 | - | 0.0% |
| 153 | Disposal Solid Waste | | 26,400 | 27,600 | 1,200 | 4.5% |
| | ł | | | | | |

| 154 | Disposal Bulky Waste | | 16,720 | 17,480 | 760 | 4.5% |
|-----|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------|---------|----------|--------|
| 154 | Disposal Haz Mat | | 9,250 | 9,500 | 250 | 2.7% |
| 155 | Chemicals | | 300 | 300 | - | 0.0% |
| 150 | Permits | | 1,850 | 1,850 | _ | 0.0% |
| | MRF education | | 1,850 | 1,850 | | 0.0% |
| 158 | Maintenance | | 1,500 | 1,500 | - | 0.0% |
| 159 | Inspections/Testing | | 2,500 | | - | 0.0% |
| 160 | | - | | 2,500 | - | |
| 161 | Total Expenses | 91,778 | 99,270 | 105,080 | 5,810 | 5.9% |
| 162 | Transfer Station Total | 120,562 | 130,500 | 136,965 | 6,465 | 5.0% |
| 163 | | | | | | |
| 164 | Solid Waste | 0.467 | | | (5.420) | 60.00/ |
| 165 | Solid Waste | 8,167 | 8,328 | 3,200 | (5,128) | -60.8% |
| 166 | | | | | | |
| 167 | | | | | | |
| 168 | Cemeteries | | | | - | |
| 169 | Becket Ctr Cemetary | 4,707 | 4,802 | 4,898 | 96 | 2.0% |
| 170 | North Cemetery | 15,597 | 15,909 | 16,227 | 318 | 2.0% |
| 171 | West Cemetery | 720 | 735 | 750 | 15 | 2.0% |
| 172 | Cemeteries Total | 21,024 | 21,446 | 21,875 | 429 | 2.0% |
| 173 | | | | | | |
| 174 | Health and Comm.Serv. | | | | | |
| 175 | BOH Salaries | 1,351 | 9,364 | 9,500 | 136 | 1.5% |
| 176 | BOH Exp. | 27,093 | 25,820 | 30,000 | 4,180 | 16.2% |
| 177 | Inspector of Animals | 331 | 338 | 345 | 7 | 2.0% |
| 178 | Nursing Services | 4,961 | 5,061 | 5,061 | - | 0.0% |
| 179 | Council on Aging | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 | - | 0.0% |
| 180 | Outreach | 500 | 500 | 500 | - | 0.0% |
| 181 | Veterans Agent Sal. | 2,098 | 2,140 | 2,140 | - | 0.0% |
| 182 | Veterans Benefits | 47,248 | 37,200 | 37,200 | - | 0.0% |
| 183 | Veterans Agent Exp | - | 100 | 100 | - | 0.0% |
| | Health & Community | | | | | |
| 184 | Services Total | 88,582 | 85,523 | 89,849 | 4,326 | 5.1% |
| 185 | | | | | | |
| 186 | Library | | | | | |
| 187 | Library | 47,868 | 49,065 | 50,292 | 1,227 | 2.5% |
| 188 | Children Holiday Party | 500 | 500 | 500 | - | 0.0% |
| 189 | Library Total | 48,368 | 49,565 | 50,792 | 1,227 | 2.5% |
| 190 | | | | | | |
| 191 | Parks and Rec. | | | | | |
| 192 | Weed Ctrl Ctr Pond | 1,500 | 2,500 | 2,500 | - | 0.0% |
| 193 | Parks and Rec. | 27,139 | 30,610 | 30,610 | - | 0.0% |
| 194 | Parks & Recreation Total | 28,639 | 33,110 | 33,110 | - | 0.0% |
| 195 | | | | | | |
| 196 | Historical Comm. | | | | | |
| 197 | Historical Commission | 921 | 2,017 | 2,017 | - | 0.0% |
| 100 | Historical Commission | 0.2.1 | 2 017 | 2 017 | | 0.0% |
| 198 | Total | 921 | 2,017 | 2,017 | - | 0.0% |
| 199 | Momorial Day | | | | | |
| 200 | Memorial Day | | | | | |
| 201 | Memorial/Veterans Memorial/Veterans Day | 1,301 | 1,500 | 1,500 | - | 0.0% |
| 202 | Total | 1,301 | 1,500 | 1,500 | _ | 0.0% |
| 202 | | _, | _,000 | _, | | 0.070 |
| 203 | Benefits | | | | | |
| 204 | Health/Life Insurance | 336,531 | 425,360 | 412,600 | (12,760) | -3.0% |
| 205 | County Retirement | 201,455 | 425,360 217,821 | 219,163 | 1,342 | 0.6% |
| | • | 201,455 | | | 532 | 2.0% |
| 207 | Payroll Tax Acct. | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | 26,604 | 27,136 | | |
| 208 | Unemployment Exp | - | 5,000 | 5,000 | - | 0.0% |

| 209 | General Liability Ins. | 107,593 | 118,814 | 118,814 | - | 0.0% |
|-----|------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------|
| 210 | Benefits Total | 668,160 | 793,599 | 782,713 | (10,886) | -1.4% |
| 211 | | | | | | |
| 212 | | | | | | |
| 213 | Total Operating Budget | 5,134,140 | 5,689,839 | 5,950,523 | 278,542 | 4.6% |
| 214 | Debt Service | \$347,123 | \$294,487 | \$458,513 | \$164,026 | 35.8% |
| 215 | Ambulance | \$270,574 | 300,574 | 290,000 | (10,000) | -3.4% |
| 216 | Overall Budget | \$5,751,837 | \$6,440,649 | \$6,716,894 | \$278,542 | 4.9% |

The Moderator stated that he would not read each line item but rather, if there were to be any questions or discussion of any line item, a "Hold" should be placed on that line item. There will be a vote on all the line items that weren't placed on "Hold." After the initial vote there would be an opportunity for discussion on each line item placed on "Hold," and the Meeting would vote upon each. The Moderator stated that in the non-held line items, the figure voted upon would be the Finance Committee/ Selectmen recommended amount. The following line items had "Holds" placed upon them:

Line 36 (Wired West)

Line 51 (E911 Communication)

Article 2 Was moved and seconded from the floor.

A vote on the motion exclusive of line items 36 (Wired West) and line item (E911 Communication) was taken by a show of hands and the motion on

Article 2 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Line Item 36. Wired West:

Line Item36 was moved and seconded. Robert Gross of the Broad Band Committee gave a brief presentation and update regarding the Broad Band Initiative. There was no further discussion. A vote was taken and **Line Item 36 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Line Item 51. E911 COMMUNICATION:

Line Item 51 was moved and seconded. Selectmen William Elovirta explained that this line item was for leasing space on cell towers to facilitate radio communication in Becket for emergency services. A vote was taken and **Line Item 51 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ARTICLE 3 DEBT SERVICE

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$458,513 to fund debt service due in Fiscal Year 2020 for the following previously approved borrowings:

| | \$100 C10 | 51/2025 |
|---------------------------------|-------------|---------|
| Becket Washington School | \$109,613 | FY2025 |
| Wahconah RHS Doors | \$5,548 | FY2029 |
| Wahconah Sidewalks | \$595 | FY2022 |
| Kittredge School MSBA Windows | \$306 | FY2022 |
| Craneville Roof | \$0 | FY2023 |
| Craneville Air Handler | \$0 | FY2022 |
| Wahconah RHS Feasibility Study | \$754 | FY2022 |
| District Security | \$990 | FY2025 |
| Dump Truck (Highway Department) | \$50,400.00 | FY2021 |
| Loader (Highway Department) | \$57,400.00 | FY2020 |
| Town Hall Roof | \$24,707.07 | FY2020 |
| Ambulance | \$88,349.50 | FY2021 |

| Rescue Pumper (Fire Department) | \$118,350.00 | FY2021 |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------|
| Interest on Short Term Debt | \$1,500.00 | - |

MOTION: Move that the Town raise and appropriate \$458,513 to pay principal and interest on school and Town debt for Fiscal 2020.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee Recommended

Article 3 Was moved and seconded. Jan Elovirta questioned whether the debt service payments on the Wahconah Regional High School Windows and Sidewalks could be rolled into the upcoming debt for the new high school, and whether the School District could offset some of the debt for the towns from their reserves. Daniel Parnell stated that the existing debt had to be serviced. Mellissa Falkowski Assistant Superintendent of the Central Berkshire Regional School District stated that the School District had already used reserves to offset a 1.2 million of 1.3 million for the towns. There was also brief discussion regarding the debt for the ambulance and loader. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 3 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 4 TRANSFER TO THE STABILIZATION FUND

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate or transfer the sum of \$205,271.34 to be deposited into the Stabilization Fund for Fiscal Year 2020; or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move that the Town transfer \$205,271.34 from certified Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund. **Board of Selectmen: Recommended Majority Vote Required** Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 4 Was moved and seconded. James Levy asked how much is in the stabilization fund. Daniel Parnell stated that there was a little over \$900,000.00 in the fund. There was no discussion. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 4 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 5 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 2020 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Finance Committee: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Article 5 Was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 5 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 6 AMBULANCE BUDGET

To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$410,000 for the salaries and expenses of the Ambulance Enterprise; and to fund said appropriation, to raise and appropriate \$290,000 and to transfer \$120,000 from Fiscal Year 2019 Ambulance Receipts; or take any other action relative thereto. MOTION: Move that the Town raise and appropriate \$290,000 and to transfer \$120,000 from Ambulance Receipts to fund operations of the Ambulance Enterprise in Fiscal 2019.

Article 6 Was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 6 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 7 AMBULANCE CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$23,109.23 from Ambulance Retained Earnings for capital expenditures with the remaining retained earnings moving to the ambulance stabilization account, or act in relation thereto.

MOTION: Move that the Town appropriate the sum of \$23,109.23 from Ambulance Retained Earnings for capital expenditures with the remaining retained earnings of \$21,095.77 moving to the ambulance stabilization account, or act in relation thereto.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 7 Was moved and seconded. There was brief discussion regarding the Article. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 7 PASSED.

ARTICLE 8 CAPITAL REPAIRS TO THE BECKET ARTS CENTER

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$7,120 for capital repairs and improvements at the Becket Arts Center, including all incidental and related costs; or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move that the Town transfer \$7,120 from Free Cash to the Becket Arts Center to fund capital repairs and improvements during Fiscal Year 2020.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 8 Was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 8 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 9 PURCHASE OF A NEW POLICE CRUISER

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$55,493.37 for the purchase and equipping of a new police cruiser and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to trade or sell the old police cruiser; or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move that the Town transfer \$55,493.37 from Free Cash to the Police Department to fund the purchase and equipping of a new police cruiser and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to trade or sell the old police cruiser.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 9 Was moved and seconded. Laurel Burgwardt questioned the need for another cruiser when there are currently 3 cruisers and only one or two officers on duty at any time. The Police Chief explained the need for three cruisers and explained how the one K9 cruiser fit into the duty rotation. Daniel Parnell explained that having three vehicles made the most sense. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 9 PASSED.

ARTICLE 10

FIRE DEPARTMENT FEES

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$4,553.00 to pay an outstanding fund balance.

Majority Vote Required

Majority Vote Required

Majority Vote Required

MOTION: Move that the Town transfer \$4,553.00 from Free Cash to the General fund to pay the outstanding fund balance of Fire Department Fees.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Finance Committee: Recommended

PARKS AND RECREATION MAPLE STREET PARKING

Article 10 Was moved and seconded. There was a brief discussion with an explanation regarding the need for a 4/5 supermajority. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 10 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 11

AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT DRAINAGE

TOWN HALL PARKING LOT

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$60,000.00 for the Town to install necessary drainage at the Ambulance department; or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move that the Town transfer \$60,000 from Free Cash to complete the drainage project at Fire Station #2/Ambulance Bay.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 11 Was moved and seconded. Christopher Swindlehurst stated that he felt that the cost was excessive. The Town Administrator gave an explanation that any excess would be returned to the General Fund. Laurel Burgwardt questioned why the original engineering plan didn't provide for drainage. There was further discussion. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 11 PASSED.

ARTICLE 12

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$15,000.00 for the Town to patch and expand the Town Hall parking lot; or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move that the Town transfer \$15,000.00 from Free Cash for the Town to complete Town Hall parking lot repairs.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 12 Was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 12 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 13 TOWN HALL KITCHEN REPAIR

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$10,000.00 for the Town to make necessary repairs and improvements to the Town Hall kitchen; or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move that the Town transfer \$10,000.00 from Free Cash to Buildings and Grounds to make Town Hall Kitchen renovations.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 13 Was moved and seconded.

Laurel Burgwardt questioned where the figure to improve the Town Hall kitchen came from. Michael Lavery explained that the Board of Health told the Town that the kitchen had problems and that they needed to be fixed. David Shorey stated that the cost was derived from getting quotes from LP Adams for mid-grade cabinets. He noted that the base cabinets were rotting and moldy and couldn't be fixed. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 13 PASSED.

ARTICLE 14

Majority Vote Required

4/5 Vote Required

Majority Vote Required

Majority Vote Required

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$4,381.82 for the Parks and Recreation to repair the Maple Street parking area; or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move that the Town transfer \$4,381.82 from Free Cash to Parks and Recreation to repair the Maple Street parking area.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 14 Was moved and seconded.

Cynthia DelPapa noted that the parking area was in a watershed area. William Elovirta explained that Parks and Recreation has already been in contact with the Conservation Agent who told Parks and Recreation what needed to be done with respect to moving forward with this project. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 14 PASSED.

ARTICLE 15 LOCAL OPTION MEAL EXCISE TAX

To see if the Town will vote to accept Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 64L, Section2 (a) to impose a .75% meals tax on the sales of restaurant meals; or take any other action thereon.

MOTION: Move that the Town will accept Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 64L, Section 2(a) to impose a .75% meals tax on the sales of restaurant meals.

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

Majority Vote Required

Article 15 Was moved and seconded.

Daniel Osman, Heather Anello, Town Clerk, George Roberts William Cavanaugh Rick Bowers, Michael Lavery, Gary Danko, Randy Johnson, Ann Spadafora and others spoke against this proposed tax. Daniel Parnell, and others spoke in favore of this proposed tax. William Elovirta stated that a resident asked why Becket wasn't taking advantage of this, and given the forecast of increased expenses the Selectmen and the Finance Committee decided to go foreward with this Article. Jeremy Dunn stated that the Town Meeting couldn't bind a future Town Meeting by earmarking funds, and noted that 75 cents on a \$100 dollar meal bill is not significant. A motion was made to call the question. The motion to call the question was seconded, there was no discussion. A vote was taken and the motion to call the qestion passed unanimously. A vote was taken on Article 15 by a count of hands.

Article 15 FAILED.

and

ARTICLE 16 PAYMENT AGREEMENTS FOR PROPERTIES IN TAX TITLE

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's General Bylaws by adding a new Section 9 to Article 9, titled "Tax Title Payment Plans", to read as follows, and further to amend the Table of Contents to reflect said amendment, or take any other action thereon:

SECTION 7. Tax Title Payment Plans

A. Pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. c. 60, sec. 62A, the Treasurer shall have the authority to enter into a written payment agreement with any person(s) entitled to redeem ownership of parcels in tax title which have been taken by the Town for nonpayment of real estate taxes (the "Redeemer"). The payment agreement shall be executed on such terms and conditions for payment of the delinquent taxes, interest and any other costs, fees or charges associated with same, in accordance with G.L. c. 60, §62A and this bylaw. The Treasurer shall not refuse to enter into agreements with eligible taxpayers.

B. This bylaw shall apply to all taxpayers with parcels in all categories of real property subject to all other terms and conditions in this bylaw.

C. The following conditions must be met prior to the Town entering into all payment agreements:

1. The Town has not filed a petition in Land Court to foreclose the rights of redemption;

2. All real estate taxes due for the current fiscal year assessed against the parcel, as well as any other fees and charges owed to the Town, are paid to date.

D. All payment agreements shall comply with the following minimum requirements:

1. The payment agreement must state the amount of the payment due from the Redeemer at the time of execution of the agreement, which must be a minimum of twenty-five (25%) or the total amount required to redeem the parcel at the inception of the agreement, including all principal, interest, fees, costs, and other charges, in the form of certified funds or cash.

2. The agreement shall have a maximum term of sixty (60) months (i.e., five (5) years). At the request of the Redeemer, the Treasurer is authorized to agree to a shorter term.

3. The agreement must state that all payments shall be made quarterly based on the Town's fiscal year and in the amounts and at the time provided in a payment schedule prepared by the Treasurer which shall be a part of said payment agreement.

E. During the term of the agreement the Treasurer may not bring an action to foreclose the tax title unless payments are not made in accordance with the schedule set out in the agreement or timely payments are not made on other amounts due to the Town that are a lien on the same parcel. The Treasurer is under no obligation to accept late payments. In the event that the Redeemer breaches a payment Agreement and the Treasurer has not foreclosed on the tax title, a subsequent payment Agreement shall not be made available for the same parcel(s).

F. The agreement may include a waiver of not more than fifty (50%) percent of the accrued interest on the amount of the tax title account. Interest shall continue to accrue, pursuant to the rate established by state law for tax title accounts, during the term of the payment Agreement.

G. The agreement shall not be assignable by the Redeemer. In the event of any sale or other transfer of any kind of the parcel(s) subject to an Agreement or any interest therein, in whole or part, all amounts owed to the Town, including the full amount of interest, fees and costs, shall become immediately due and payable.

H. The Treasurer may to agree to accelerated payments. In the event of any discrepancy between the Agreement and the bylaw, the bylaw shall control.

Motion:Move that the Town amend the Town of Becket General Bylaws, adding Article 9,
Section 9, titled "Tax Title Payment Plans," and the Table of Contents as presented in
Article 17 of the warrant for the May 11, 2019 Annual Town Meeting.

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

Majority Vote Required

Article 16 Was moved and seconded. There was a brief discussion of this Article. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 16 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 17 SALE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the amount to be received by the Town upon the sale of the Town's Rescue #4 firetruck to be reimbursed to the Becket Volunteer Firefighters' Association which had paid to purchase the truck, or to take any other action related thereto.

MOTION: Move that Town will appropriate the amount to be received by the Town upon the sale of the Town's Rescue #4 firetruck to be reimbursed to the Becket Volunteer Firefighters' Association which had paid to purchase the truck, or to take any other action related thereto.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 17 Was moved and seconded. There was no discussion of this Article. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 17 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 18 TOWN CLERK

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to seek special legislation to amend the Town of Becket special act Town Charter, Chapter 662 of the Acts of 1989, as most recently amended, to change the position of Town Clerk from elected to appointed by the Board of Selectmen, or to take any other action related thereto.

MOTION: Move that Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to seek special legislation to amend the Town of Becket special act Town Charter, Chapter 662 of the Acts of 1989, as most recently amended, to change the position of Town Clerk from elected to appointed by the Board of Selectmen.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Finance Committee: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Article 18 Was moved and seconded. The Moderator explained to the Meeting that there was an error on the Warrant as the Finance Committee had not recommended Article 18. Ms. O'Malley-Levy asked why the Town wanted to change the Town Clerk from and elected office to an appointed position. Selectman William Elovirta explained that in the past the Tax Collector and Treasurer's position was changed from elected to appointed mainly so that you had certified people if there was an opening. Mr. Elovirta stated that this got him thinking about the Town Clerk position, and while he claimed not to have anything against the present Town Clerk, he claimed that the Town Clerk has made it known that he is looking for another job, and if he takes another job and quits, the Selectmen would have to find another Town Clerk. He stated that in filling the position we would need someone that is professional and knows what they are doing. Mr. Elovirta stated that he would always want to hire someone from within the Town if they are qualified, but if there are not qualified candidates from within the Town candidates from without the town would be recruited. Mr. Elovirta stated that if this Article passes, the Town Clerk could complete his elected term and then apply to be an appointed Town Clerk. He stated that this is not a case of trying to push the current Town Clerk out, but to protect the Town by having the option of hiring someone from out of Town that is better qualified. Mr. Elovirta stated that this is not a position that would be appointed by the Board of Selectmen, but rather if there was an opening, it would be advertised and the Town Administrator would make the appointment, subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen. Town Clerk George Roberts stated that he was against this Article. He pointed out that there had been 7 Town Administrators in the last 9 years. He also pointed out that the argument that we like to hire from within the Town is belied by the composition of the bulk of the full time benefited town employees. Mr. Roberts noted that the Town Administrator, Town Secretary, Building Inspector, Conservation Commission Consultant, Assessor's Consultant, Board of Health Consultant, Building and Grounds Technician, Police Chief, Highway Superintendent, and Ambulance Director positions were all held by non-residents, as were many of the police, highway and ambulance rank and file positions. Mr. Roberts acknowledged that there are pressures to fill positions with people with that have the best possible skill sets for the job and that this is understandable. Mr. Roberts noted that the Town of Becket is now being largely serviced by paid employees who are not from the town and are really dependent on the continued good will of the Board of Selectmen and whatever Town Administrator happens to be in Office at any given time for their positions. Mr. Roberts noted that if the Town Clerk needed to be replaced the person would not need to be a lawyer, and that Town Clerk's Association provides training. Mr. Roberts also noted that a person appointed by the Board of Selectmen might not be the best person for the job, referencing how the then Town Administrator and the Board of Selectmen mishandled a contract dispute arising from the clean-up efforts after the bad ice storm of December 2008 which resulted in \$500,000.00 legal settlement on the part of the Town of Becket and significant legal expenses. Mr. Roberts noted that it is the Board of Selectmen's job to supervise the Town Administrator. Mr. Roberts also observed it was not unreasonable for the Town Clerk to be accountable to each and every voter in the Town for his or her performance the same way that the Board of Selectmen are directly responsible to the voters of the Town. Mr. Roberts noted that in his opinion it is a slippery slope when people start giving up their rights as a citizen to vote, and encouraged the meeting not to do so. Katherine Hoak asked why, during these times when our democracy is under serious threats, would we agree to surrender our right to elect this important position to have it become a positon appointed by the Board of Selectmen. She noted that the townspeople have the right and responsibility to vote for the Town Clerk, as well as for each of the Selectmen. Ms. Hoak stated that she didn't see how switching from and elected to appointed Town Clerk would serve the best interests of the Town. Ms. Hoak noted that as an elected official the Town Clerk could perform his duties without interference from, or fear of being dismissed by, the Board of Selectmen. She noted that the Town Clerk kept an eye on the various Town Boards to ensure that they complied with the Open Meeting Law. She argued that the Town Clerk remain an elected position. William F. Cavanaugh stated he had been a Selectman for 14 years and always got good candidates from within the Town of Becket for the position of Town Clerk, and didn't think that we should give up our right to vote for the Town Clerk positon. Daniel Osman stated that this is not the time to have less voices in government or more appointed officials and asked that the Article be voted down. Jeremy Dunn observed that the recommendation to change some offices from elected to appointed was made during an audit that was conducted by the State at the Town's request in 2004 or 2005. The recommendation came from the Division of Local Services because it was easier to find qualified candidates from out of town. He noted that elected officials must live in town, and an appointed official can live anywhere. Mr. Dunn stated that in our small town there are sometimes there are few or no qualified candidates. He observed that the duties performed by the Town Clerk would not change if the position was made appointed. Mr. Dunn observed that when the Town converted the position of Treasure and Tax Collector from elected to appointed it made no

difference, and there was no change in personnel. Mr. Roberts noted that in 2010 this issue came before the Town Meeting under Article 25. Mr. Roberts noted that it was voted down. Mr. Roberts noted that the Tax Collector, Tax Assessor and Treasurer's customers were the Town, and don't have responsibilities similar to the Town Clerk. Mr. Roberts noted that on occasions there is a conflict between the Selectmen and the Town Clerk with respect to the duties of the Town Clerk. Mr. Roberts, as an example, alluded to the situation that arose when it came to his attention as Town Clerk that the Town was not complying with the enabling legislation for the Sherwood Forest Road Maintenance District (SFRMD). He observed since the SFRMD came into existence the Town had not been collecting SFRMD taxes from the residents of SFRMD that lived along Wells Road in the belief that because they lived along a road maintained by the Town, they weren't part of the SFRMD. Mr. Roberts further explained that while he, as Town Clerk, doesn't deal with taxes, he does have responsibilities with respect to voting in the Town of Becket, and issuing voter lists for the SFRMD that included the registered voters in Sherwood Forest that lived along Wells Road. He noted that because the Town of Becket was not collecting taxes from Sherwood Forest residents living along Wells Road, the Board of Selectmen had taken the position that those people were not members of the SFRMD, and that as a result, they couldn't vote in the SFRMD annual meeting to elect officers of the District and set District policy. Mr. Roberts related that when the Town Clerk disagreed with the past practice of the Town with respect to issuing SFRMD voter lists, the Board of Selectmen adopted a written policy forbidding the Town Clerk from including residents who lived along Wells Road from being included in the SFRMD voter list. Mr. Roberts explained that upon receiving the Selectmen's written policy, he corresponded with Town Counsel. Town Counsel issued a written legal opinion stating in relevant part, that the Sherwood Forest residents who lived along Wells Road were, in fact, members of the SFRMD and should be included in the SFRMD voter list, and further opined that the Town Clerk need not follow the Board of Selectmen's written policy with regard to omitting Wells Road residents from the SFRMD voter's list. Mr. Roberts noted that the Selectmen's actions disenfranchised approximately 17 percent of the SFRMD eligible voters for over twenty years and also deprived the SFRMD of those voter's road maintenance taxes for the same period of time. Mr. Roberts concluded with the observation that if he had been an appointed employee the Selectmen may have fired him for insubordination when he didn't follow their written policy regarding the Wells Road voters. Mr. Roberts stated that he feels that it is important for the Town Clerk to have the autonomy to take at least limited corrective actions when the Town Clerk discovers something wrong; to say "no, this isn't right," to seek legal counsel, or some other appropriate response without fear of retaliation from the Board of Selectmen. Steven Rosenthal spoke against this Article. James Levy spoke against this Article, noting that we are here at this meeting operating under the assumption that we may rule ourselves. Mr. Levy noted that for a couple centuries residents have been voting for officers for officers to govern this community and be responsible to this community. He feels that participation and residents passing through these position leaning about our community, and serving our community has extraordinary value above and beyond voting. He encouraged the meeting to vote this Article down. David Leveque asked about the language "seek" of this Article. Town Counsel, Joel Bard explained that the Selectmen don't have the authority to enact legislation, but can file an application to the Legislature for them to enact legislation to change the Town's By-Laws. He acknowledged that it was routine for the Legislature to approve such applications.

A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 18 FAILED.

ARTICLE 19 EXTENDED CONTRACT - RECYCLING

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select board to enter into a ten (10) year contract, commencing on July 1, 2020 with the qualified vendor selected by MassDEP through a competitive bid process for recycling processing services for the Town, subject to the Select board's determination that the contract is in the best interests of the Town and subject to Town Meeting approval in the Spring of 2020 for funding for these services and/or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

MOTION: Move that Town authorize the Select board to enter into a ten (10) year contract, commencing on July 1, 2020 with the qualified vendor selected by MassDEP through a competitive bid process for recycling processing services for the Town, subject to the Select board's determination that the contract is in the best interests of the Town and subject to Town Meeting approval in the Spring of 2020 for funding for these services.

Board of Selectmen:RecommendedFinance Committee:Recommended

Article 19 Was moved and seconded. Several people expressed concern that a services contract for a 10 year term was too long. Highway Superintendent Christopher Bouchard explained the rational for entering into a contract of this type and duration. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Majority Vote Required

Article 19 PASSED.

ARTICLE 20

LOCAL OPTION (ROOM OCCUPANCY EXCISE)

To see if the Town of Becket will vote to accept the provisions of G.L. c. 64G, § 3A to impose a local option room occupancy excise at the rate of six percent (6%), or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move that the Town accept the provisions of G.L. c. 64G, § 3A to impose a local option room occupancy excise at the rate of six percent (6%), or take any other action relative thereto.

| Board of Selectmen: | Recommended |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Finance Committee: | Recommended |
| Planning Board: | Recommended |

Majority Vote Required

Article 20 Was moved and seconded. Linda Bacon of Canterbury Farm Bed and Breakfast spoke in opposition to Article 20, noting that they already pay 5.7% in room occupancy taxes to the State. She also notes that the Article doesn't mention short term rentals such as Airbnb. Town Counsel, Joel Bard noted that this tax would also apply to short term rentals because that law dealing with room occupancy excise taxes was amended earlier this year to include short term rentals, noting that if the Town adopted this Article the tax would therefor apply to short term rentals such as Airbnb. Robert Healey spoke in favor of this Article noting that he and his wife operated the Chambery Inn in Lee. He observed that this tax was unpopular in Lee when it was first proposed, but that the revenue it generated monies of which 10% is set aside to promote the Town. He stated that the funds were used to put up flower baskets on Main Street, and create and staff visitor centers in Lee. He noted that all rentals in town, including Airbnb's will have to pay taxes to the state, and if we don't opt for our portion we will get nothing back. Mr. Healey noted that as of the time of the Town Meeting there were 98 listings for Airbnb in Becket. Robert Grace spoke against this Article. He noted that he and his wife rented short term through Airbnb and it helped pay the mortgage, and relied heavily on the vacation rentals. He fears that this tax might impact the limited volume of his rentals. Mr. Grace noted that this tax would also make Becket look less friendly. Meredyth Babcock spoke in favor of promoting the town and questioned whether the 6% tax was a hard figure or if there was some flexibility in the amount of the tax. Linda Bacon suggested that before imposing taxes on lodgings, the Town should level the playing field with all lodgings, and require licensing, and inspections before imposing taxes. Dave Krawet spoke in opposition to this Article. Ann Spadafora addressed the issue of cost of inspections. She noted that at the Cape the combined state and local occupancy tax was approximately 12.5% and that would be renters were balking at the increased cost, and the sellers were asking that real estate agents accept lower commissions for their work. She thinks that if this Article passes, some accommodation needs to be made to differentiate between those that buy up properties to rent them out through Airbnb, and those who just rent out a few bedrooms in their home. Mr. Roberts notes that the hoteliers in Becket are burdened enough with state taxes, property taxes and the other costs of operation. Mr. Roberts speculated that many of the Airbnb's in town are likely second home owners. He noted that second home owners use local real estate agents, tradesmen and the like contributing to the local economy. He noted that second home owners also pay property taxes at the same rate as full time residents but don't use services, and don't have kids in local schools. He agreed that there was no reason that lodgings shouldn't be inspected for safety and health, but suggested that inspection fees would be more palatable than a tax. Mr. Roberts urged the meeting to vote against this Article. Selectman Michael Lavery proposed amending this Article to lower the proposed tax from 6% to 3.3%. The motion to amend was seconded. Linda Bacon spoke against the Article even at the lower rate, and observed that those providing lodgings used local contractors and contributed to the local economy in other ways. Mr. Grace and Mr. Krawet spoke against the Article even at the lower rate. A vote was taken by a show of hands and the amendment passed by 41 in favor of the amendment and 11 against. Mr. Swindlehurst received clarification that all Airbnb and traditional lodgings would be paying the same state lodging excise tax rate, and that even if this Article is voted down this year, the town would not be prohibited from considering it again in the future. Ann Krawet spoke in opposition to this Article.

A vote was taken on Article 20 as amended by a count of hands.

Article 20 FAILED.

ARTICLE 21 FY 2020 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION AUTHORIZATION

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or reserve from Community Preservation Fiscal Year 2020 estimated annual revenues the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for Committee administrative expenses, community preservation projects and other expenses in Fiscal Year 2020, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation, all as set forth below:

<u>Appropriations:</u> 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: Moved that the Town appropriate or reserve from Fiscal 2020 Community Preservation estimated annual revenues the amounts set forth in Article 22 of the Warrant for the May 11, 2019 Annual Town Meeting.

Board of Selectmen:RecommendedCPA Committee:RecommendedFinance Committee:Recommended

Article 21 Was moved and seconded. There was no discussion of this Article. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 21 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 22 USE OF STABILIZATION TO OFFSET DEBT PAYMENTS

To see if the Town will transfer from stabilization a sum of money, \$185,000, to reduce the tax rate for the Fiscal Year 2020, or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move that the Town will vote to transfer from stabilization a sum of money, \$185,000, to reduce the tax rate for the Fiscal Year 2020, or take any other action relative thereto.

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

Majority Vote Required

Article 22 Was moved and seconded. There was no discussion of this Article. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 22 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 23 CITIZEN PETITION: PLASTIC BAG BAN

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Becket Bylaws by adding the following language to Article 17, Section 24 of the Town of Becket Town Betterment Bylaws:

MOTION: Move that the Town amend the Town of Becket Bylaws by adding the following language to Article 17, Section 24 of the Town of Becket Town Betterment Bylaws:

Section 24. Thin-Film Plastic Bags

Reduction of Retail Use

A. Purpose and Intent.

The purpose of this bylaw is to reduce the use of thin-film plastic checkout bags by all retail and grocery stores in the Town of Becket. The production and use of thin-film plastic checkout bags have significant impacts on the environment, including, but not limited to: contributing to the potential death of aquatic animals and other wildlife through ingestion and entanglement; contributing to pollution of the land environment; creating a burden to solid waste collection and recycling facilities; clogging storm drainage systems; and requiring the use of millions of barrels of crude oil nationally for their production.

- B. Definitions
 - i. Checkout bag: A carryout bag provided by a store to a customer at the point of sale. Check out bags shall not include bags, whether plastic or not, in which loose produce or products are placed by the consumer to deliver such items to the point of sale or checkout area of the store.

- ii. Thin-film plastic bags: Typically with plastic handles, these are bags with a thickness of 4 Mil or less and are intended for transport of purchased products.
- iii. Grocery store: A retail establishment where more than fifty percent of the gross floor area is devoted to the sale of food products for home preparation or consumption, which typically also offers home care and personal care products.
- iv. Retail store: An establishment that offers the sale and display of merchandise within a building.
- v. Reusable checkout bag: A bag, with stitched-on handles, capable of at least 175 uses; which can carry 25 *pounds* over a *distance* of 300 feet, and is made of plastic (greater than 4 Mil thick), cloth, fabric or other machine-washable materials.

C. Use Regulations

- i. Thin-film plastic bags shall not be distributed, used, or sold for checkout at any retail or grocery store within the town of Becket. Retail establishment shall mean any business facility that sells goods directly to the consumer including but not limited to grocery stores, pharmacies, liquor stores, "mini-marts," and retail vendors selling clothing, food, and household or personal items.
- ii. Customers are encouraged to bring their own reusable or biodegradable shopping bags to stores. Retail or grocery stores are strongly encouraged to provide reusable checkout bags with or without charge to customers.
- iii. Thin film plastic bags that are used to contain dry cleaning, newspapers, produce, meat, bulk foods, wet items, and other similar merchandise, typically without handles, are still permissible.
- D. Enforcement and Penalties

Violations of this section shall be enforced by non-criminal disposition in the manner provided in MGL Chapter 40, Section 21D by the Board of Selectmen. The fine schedule shall be, First offense: Warning; second offense: \$25.00; third and each successive offense: \$50.00.

Majority Vote Required

Article 23 Was moved and seconded. Michael Lavery moved to amend by adding to section 24 C subsection:

"iv "Said by-law to become effective January 1st, 2020."

Several voters spoke in favor of the Article. A vote was taken by a count of hands, and the amendment passed unanimously. A vote was taken on Article 23 as amended by a show of hands

Article 23 as amended PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 24 INDIAN LAKES ASSOCIATION DUES

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$1,350 for the Indian Lakes Association dues owed for property owned by the Town.

<u>Motion</u>: Move that the Town vote to appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$1,350 for the Indian Lakes Association dues owed for the property owned by the Town.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 24 Was moved and seconded. The Moderator noted that there was an error in the Warrant on this Article as a 4/5th majority is needed because this is a debt from a prior year. A vote was taken by a count of hands and there were 42 votes in favor and 1 vote against the Article.

Article 24 PASSED by a 4/5th Majority.

ARTICLE 25

EASEMENTS RELATED TO THE ATHENAEUM

To see if the Town will vote to accept easements from Becket Athenaeum, or the current owner of 3367 Main Street, Becket (Map 206, Lot 105) for the following purposes (a) a sewer line, and related appurtenances, for the benefit of the Becket Athenaeum; and (b) a water line, and related appurtenances, for the benefit of Town property, being the Becket Arts Center (Map 206, Lot 106) and the Mullen House (Map 206, Lot 14); and authorize the Board of Selectmen to execute any and all documents related thereto, or take any other action related thereto.

MOTION: Moved that the Town accept easements from Becket Athenaeum, or the current owner of 3367 Main Street, Becket (Map 206, Lot 105) for the following purposes: (a) a sewer line, and related appurtenances, for the benefit of the Becket Athenaeum; and (b) a water line, and related appurtenances, for the benefit of Town property, being the Becket Arts Center (Map 206, Lot 106) and the Mullen House (Map 206, Lot 14); and authorize the Board of Selectmen to execute any and all documents related thereto.

Board of Selectmen:RecommendedFinance Committee:Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Article 25 Was moved and seconded. Cathy Defoe, spoke in support of this Article. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 25 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 26 BECKET ATHENAEUM WELL AND SEPTIC

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$35,000.00 for the Town to complete the necessary work to combine the well and septic at the Becket Athenaeum, Becket Arts Center and Mullen House; or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move that the Town vote to transfer \$35,000.00 from Free Cash to the Becket Athenaeum to complete a shared well and septic for the Becket Athenaeum, Becket Arts Center and Mullen House.

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

Article 26 Was moved and seconded. There was no discussion of this Article. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 26 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 27

REVOLVING FUNDS

To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws, Article 22, Section 1 by adding the following new revolving funds, specifying the departmental receipts to be credited to each fund, the departmental purposes or programs for which each fund may be expended, and the entity authorized to expend each fund, such bylaw to provide as follows:

| Program or Purpose | Representative or Board Authorized to Spend Fund | Department Receipts |
|--------------------|---|--|
| Ambulance Details | Ambulance Director | Fees & charges for Ambulance Department Details |
| Ambulance Training | Ambulance Director | Fees & charges for Training Programs offered by Ambulance Department |

And, further, to set FY 2020 spending limits for such revolving funds as follows:

| Program or Purpose | FY 2020 Spending Limit |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Ambulance Training | \$10,000 |
| Ambulance Details | \$15,000 |

Or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: Moved that the Town amend the Town of Becket General By-laws, Article 22, Article 1, establishing two (2) new revolving funds and set the FY 2020 spending limits for such revolving funds as presented in Article 27 of the warrant for the May 11, 2019 Annual Town Meeting.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended

Finance Committee: Recommended

Article 27 Was moved and seconded. There was no discussion of this Article. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 27 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 28 FREE CASH FOR DEBT PAYMENT

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$24,568.37 for the Town to make a required debt payment in FY2019 for the new ambulance; or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$24,568.37 for the Town to make a required debt payment in FY2019 for the new ambulance; or take any action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Finance Committee: Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Article 28 Was moved and seconded. There was no discussion of this Article. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 28 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 29 SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATIONS

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Becket Zoning Bylaw SECTION 3.0, USE REGULATIONS, by adding in Section 3.1.3, Table of Use Regulations, new lines in the Residential, Institutional and Exempt Uses, Commercial, Industrial, & Accessory Uses sections as follows:

Table A: Table of Use Regulations

| Institutional and Exempt Uses | |
|---|----------|
| Solar Photovoltaic Installation >250 kW on town owned property | Y |
| Residential Uses | |
| Roof or Building Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installation | Y |
| Commercial Uses: | |
| Medium-Scale Solar Photovoltaic Installation >25 kW or < 250 kW | SPR |
| Large-Scale Photovoltaic Installation >250 kW | PB |
| Industrial Uses: | |
| Large-Scale Solar Photovoltaic Installation >250 kW | PB |
| Accessory Uses: | |
| Small-Scale Solar Photovoltaic Installation <25 kW | <u>Y</u> |
| Medium-Scale solar Photovoltaic Installation >25 kW or <250 kW | SPR |
| | |

Planning Board: Recommend

2/3 Vote Required

MOTION: Move that the Town amend the Town of Becket Zoning Bylaw, Section 3.1.3, Table of Use Regulations, as presented in Article 29 of the warrant for the May 11, 2019 Annual Town Meeting.

Article 29 Was moved and seconded. The Ann Krawet of the Planning Board gave the Planning Board's recommendation of this Article. There was no discussion of this Article. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 29 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 30 SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATIONS

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Becket Zoning Bylaw **Table of Contents SECTION 6.6**, replacing the title **LARGE-SCALE GROUND-MOUNTED SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATIONS** with a new title, **SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATIONS**.

Planning Board: Recommend

2/3 Vote Required

MOTION: Move that the Town amend the Table of Contents of the Town of Becket Zoning Bylaw as presented in Article 30 of the warrant for the May 11, 2019 Annual Town Meeting.

Article 30 Was moved and seconded. Ann Krawet as a member of the Planning Board gave the Planning Board's recommendation for this Article. There was no discussion of this Article. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 30 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 31 <u>MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENTS (ME) & MEDICAL MARIJUANA</u> <u>TREATMENT CENTERS (MMTC)</u>

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Becket Zoning Bylaw SECTION 3.0, USE REGULATIONS, by adding to SECTION 3.1.3, TABLE OF USE REGULATIONS, new lines in the Commercial and Industrial Uses sections as follows:

Table A: Table of Use Regulations

Commercial Use

| Marijuana Craft Cooperative | PB |
|---|----|
| Marijuana Cultivation (Indoor) | PB |
| Marijuana Cultivation (Outdoor) | PB |
| Marijuana Independent Testing Laboratory | PB |
| Marijuana Micro Business (Cultivator under 5,000 sq. ft.) | PB |
| Marijuana Research Facility | PB |
| Marijuana Retailer | PB |
| Marijuana Transporter | PB |
| Medical Marijuana Treatment Center | PB |
| Industrial Uses | |

| Marijuana Product Manufacturer | РВ |
|--------------------------------|----|
|--------------------------------|----|

Planning Board: Recommend

MOTION: Move that the Town amend the Town of Becket Zoning Bylaw, Section 3.1.3, Table of Use

Article 31 Was moved and seconded. There was no discussion of this Article. James Levy of the Planning Board gave the Planning Board's recommendation for this Article. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Regulations, as presented in Article 31 of the warrant for the May 11, 2019 Annual Town Meeting.

Article 31 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 32 MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENTS (ME) & MEDICAL MARIJUANA TREATMENT CENTERS (MMTC)

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Becket Zoning Bylaw **Table of Contents** by adding **Section 6.8**, **MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENTS (ME) & MEDICAL MARIJUANA TREATMENT CENTERS (MMTC)** and all of its subsections.

Planning Board: Recommend

2/3 Vote Required

2/3 Vote Required

MOTION: Move that the Town amend the Table of Contents of the Town of Becket Zoning Bylaw as

presented in Article 32 of the warrant for the May 11, 2019 Annual Town Meeting.

Article 32 Was moved and seconded. There was no discussion of this Article. James Levy of the Planning Board gave the Planning Board's recommendation for this Article. A vote was taken by a count of hands.

Article 32 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 18, 2015, starting at 10:00 a.m. A vote was taken and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m. The checkers were Election Workers Charles Francis, Alvin Blake, Ruth Rosenthal and Ann Krawet.

Respectfully submitted,

George E. Roberts

Town Clerk

A true copy, Attest:

Seal:

George E. Roberts, Town Clerk