

# TOWN OF BECKET

## ANNUAL TOWN MEETING



**SATURDAY, May 13, 2023**

**7:00 P.M.**

**BECKET WASHINGTON SCHOOL  
12 MAPLE STREET  
BECKET, MASSACHUSETTS**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

|            |                                                                                                                                                              |    |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| ARTICLE 1  | COMPENSATION .....                                                                                                                                           | 3  |
| ARTICLE 2  | FY 2024 OPERATING BUDGET .....                                                                                                                               | 3  |
| ARTICLE 3  | DEBT SERVICE .....                                                                                                                                           | 6  |
| ARTICLE 4  | CAPITAL EXPENDITURES .....                                                                                                                                   | 7  |
| ARTICLE 5  | PURCHASE OF HIGHWAY TRUCK.....                                                                                                                               | 7  |
| ARTICLE 6  | TRANSFER TO THE STABILIZATION FUND .....                                                                                                                     | 7  |
| ARTICLE 7  | FY2022 UNPAID BILLS.....                                                                                                                                     | 8  |
| ARTICLE 8  | ACCEPTANCE OF CHAPTER 90 FUNDS .....                                                                                                                         | 8  |
| ARTICLE 9  | ESTABLISHING A HIGHWAY STABILIZATION FUND .....                                                                                                              | 8  |
| ARTICLE 10 | AMBULANCE BUDGET .....                                                                                                                                       | 8  |
| ARTICLE 11 | AMBULANCE STABILIZATION .....                                                                                                                                | 9  |
| ARTICLE 12 | REVOLVING FUNDS .....                                                                                                                                        | 9  |
| ARTICLE 13 | FY 2024 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION AUTHORIZATION .....                                                                                                           | 9  |
| ARTICLE 14 | COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING FOR RECREATIONAL LAND -ESAU WALKING<br>PATH EXTENSION & BRIDGE BUILDING .....                                                 | 10 |
| ARTICLE 15 | COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING FOR HISTORICAL PURPOSES - TOWN HALL<br>CUPOLOA RESTORATION.....                                                               | 10 |
| ARTICLE 16 | COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING -COMMUNITY HOUSING - 50 DAWN DRIVE ...                                                                                        | 10 |
| ARTICLE 17 | COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING - UNDESIGNATED FUNDS FOR BECKET ARTS<br>CENTER .....                                                                          | 11 |
| ARTICLE 18 | COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING - AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING<br>DEVELOPMENT IN LENOX MA.....                                                                   | 11 |
| ARTICLE 19 | SELECTBOARD PETITION TO ESTABLISH A LOCAL EXCISE TAX ON SHORT TERM RENTAL<br>PROPERTIES .....                                                                | 11 |
| ARTICLE 20 | CITIZENS PETITION RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT CHANGING THE STATE FLAG AND SEAL<br>OF MASSACHUSETTS.....                                                            | 11 |
| ARTICLE 21 | CITIZENS PETITION A RESOLUTION PROTECTING ADULT ACCESS TO PLANT MEDICINES<br>& PRIORITIZING PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSES TO CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE POSSESSION ..... | 12 |
| ARTICLE 22 | ANNUAL ELECTION.....                                                                                                                                         | 13 |

**Town of Becket**  
**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

To either of the Constables of the Town of Becket in said County of Berkshire,

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Becket, who are qualified to vote in Town affairs to meet in **BECKET WASHINGTON SCHOOL, 12 Maple Street, Becket, on the 13<sup>th</sup> Day of May 2023, at 7:00 P.M.**, for the following purposes:

|    |                               |           |           |           |         |        |
|----|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|--------|
| 13 | TOWN TREASURER EXPENSES       | 2,655     | 5,000     | 5,150     | 150     | 3%     |
| 14 | TAX TITLE EXPENSE             | 24,815    | 30,000    | 30,000    | 0       | 0%     |
| 15 | OUTSIDE PAYROLL SERVIES       | 10,418    | 8,000     | 7,000     | -1,000  | 12.5%  |
| 16 | ASSESSORS SALARIES            | 40,783    | 65,000    | 58,636    | -6,364  | -9.8%  |
| 17 | ASSESSORS EXPENSES            | 57,227    | 72,000    | 70,500    | -1,500  | -2.1%  |
| 18 | TAX COLLECTOR SALARY          | 60,260    | 61,757    | 66,389    | 4,632   | 7.5%   |
| 19 | ASSIST. TAX COLL. SALARY      | 50,133    | 51,398    | 55,252    | 3,854   | 7.5%   |
| 20 | TAX COLLECTOR EXPENSES        | 9,795     | 8,280     | 8,700     | 420     | 5.1%   |
| 21 | TOWN CLERK SALARY             | 25,901    | 31,279    | 38,948    | 7,669   | 19.7%  |
| 22 | TOWN CLERK EXPENSES           | 2,098     | 2,245     | 1,000     | -1,245  | -55.5% |
| 23 | ELECTION-REGISTRATION         | 4,255     | 16,543    | 16,300    | -243    | -1.5%  |
| 24 | TOWN MEETING EXPENSES         | 1,930     | 6,000     | 3,000     | -3,000  | -50%   |
| 25 | ADVERTISING                   | 1,903     | 4,000     | 3,000     | -1,000  | -25%   |
| 26 | POSTAGE                       | 12,861    | 12,000    | 12,000    | 0       | 0%     |
| 27 | TOWN REPORTS                  | 2,920     | 3,500     | 4,000     | 500     | 14.3%  |
| 28 | FINANCE COMM.                 | 135       | 600       | 250       | -350    | -58.3% |
| 29 | RESERVE FUND                  | 0         | 50,000    | 50,000    | 0       | 0%     |
| 30 | CONSERVATION COMM.            | 16,791    | 20,000    | 21,500    | 1,500   | 7.5%   |
| 31 | PLANNING BOARD                | 2,789     | 2,500     | 3,750     | 1,250   | 50%    |
| 32 | ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS       | 1,056     | 1,500     | 1,500     | 0       | 0.0%   |
| 33 | HISTORICAL COMM.              | 1,078     | 2,000     | 2,000     | 0       | 0.0%   |
| 34 | BUILDINGS & GROUNDS TECH.     | 51,763    | 52,576    | 56,520    | 3,944   | 7.5%   |
| 35 | BUILDINGS JANITORIAL          | 0         | 17,225    | 16,770    | -455    | -2.6%  |
| 36 | MUNICIPAL UTILITIES           | 43,287    | 55,000    | 55,000    | 0       | 0.0%   |
| 37 | STREET LIGHTS                 | 9,687     | 9,000     | 9,000     | 0       | 0.0%   |
| 38 | MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS EXPENSES  | 18,934    | 31,975    | 31,975    | 0       | 0.0%   |
| 39 | BUILDINGS & GROUNDS REPAIRS   | 34,838    | 35,000    | 35,000    | 0       | 0.0%   |
| 40 | BROADBAND-WIRED WEST          | 0         | 2,000     | 0         | -2000   | 0.0%   |
| 41 | BERK. REG.PLAN. COMM.         | 1,418     | 1,900     | 1,645     | -255.00 | -13.4% |
|    | TOTAL - GENERAL GOVERNMENT    | 769,115   | 992,532   | 1,015,250 | 22,718  | 2.2%   |
|    |                               |           |           |           |         |        |
|    | PUBLIC SAFETY                 |           |           |           |         |        |
| 42 | POLICE DEPT. SALARIES         | 400,065   | 457,837   | 528,340   | 70,503  | 15.4%  |
| 43 | POLICE DEPT. EXPENSE          | 20,887    | 24,954    | 29,264    | -6,690  | -26.8% |
| 44 | EMER. MGMT EXP.               | 0         | 1,000     | 1,200     | 200     | 20.0%  |
| 45 | EMER. MGMT. TRAINING          | 0         | 1,000     | 1,000     | 0       | 0.0%   |
| 46 | CONSTABLE STIPEND             | 241       | 300       | 300       | 0       | 0.0%   |
| 47 | FIRE DEPT. SALARIES/ CHIEF    | 7,633     | 7,824     | 8,410     | 586     | 7.5%   |
| 48 | FIREFIGHTER STIPENDS          | 10,500    | 14,000    | 20,000    | 6,000   | 42.9%  |
| 49 | FIRE DEPT. EXPENSES           | 10,462    | 38,000    | 39,000    | 1,000   | 2.6%   |
| 50 | E911 COMMUNICATION            | 13,456    | 13,860    | 14,275    | 415     | 3.0%   |
| 51 | ANIMAL CONTROL SALARY         | 5,610     | 5,895     | 6,337     | 442     | 7.5%   |
| 52 | ANIMAL CONTROL EXPENSES       | 2,483     | 2,500     | 2,500     | 0       | 0.0%   |
| 53 | HARBOR MASTER                 | 977       | 1,511     | 1,624     | 113     | 7.5%   |
| 54 | BUILDING INSP. SALARY         | 56,760    | 55,000    | 39,774    | -15,226 | -27.7% |
| 55 | BUILDING & CODE INSP. EXPENSE | 145       | 2,350     | 500       | -1,850  | 78.7%  |
| 56 | DEMOLITION FUND               | 105       | 25,000    | 25,000    | 0       | 0.0%   |
| 57 | TOTAL - PUBLIC SAFETY         | 529,340   | 651,031   | 706,524   | 55,493  | 8.5%   |
|    |                               |           |           |           |         |        |
|    | EDUCATION                     |           |           |           |         |        |
| 58 | CBRS D OPERATING ASSESSMENT   | 2,392,842 | 2,520,651 | 2,593,803 | 73,152  | 2.9%   |
| 59 | VOCATIONAL TUITION            | 205,469   | 190,000   | 240,000   | 50,000  | 26.3%  |
| 60 | VOCATIONAL TRANSPORT.         | 53,727    | 75,000    | 90,000    | 15,000  | 20.0%  |
| 61 | TOTAL -EDUCATION              | 2,652,038 | 2,785,651 | 2,923,803 | 138,152 | 5.0%   |
|    |                               |           |           |           |         |        |
|    | FORESTRY                      |           |           |           |         |        |

|     |                                 |         |         |         |         |        |
|-----|---------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| 62  | TREE ACCOUNT                    | 11,210  | 15,000  | 20,000  | 5,000   | 33.3%  |
| 63  | FORESTRY                        | 0       | 500     | 500     | 0       | 0.0%   |
| 64  | TOTAL - FORESTRY                | 11,210  | 15,500  | 20,500  | 5,000   | 32.3%  |
|     |                                 |         |         |         |         |        |
|     | HIGHWAY                         |         |         |         |         |        |
| 65  | SALARIES & WAGES                | 206,165 | 251,966 | 277,163 | 25,197  | 10.0%  |
| 66  | GENERAL MAINTENANCE             | 131,966 | 183,150 | 204,439 | 21,289  | 11.6%  |
| 67  | MACHINERY & FLEET MAINT.        | 64,605  | 85,000  | 91,100  | 6,100   | 7.2%   |
| 68  | FUEL                            | 91,798  | 925,250 | 107,450 | 15,200  | 16.5%  |
| 69  | HIGHWAY GARAGE                  | 15,945  | 16,500  | 17,000  | 500     | 3.0%   |
| 70  | WINTER ROADS                    | 288,372 | 259,763 | 302,790 | 43,027  | 16.6%  |
| 71  | TOTAL - HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT      | 798,848 | 888,629 | 999,942 | 111,313 | 12.5%  |
|     |                                 |         |         |         |         |        |
|     | TRANSFER STATION                |         |         |         |         |        |
| 72  | Transfer Station Labor          | 39,473  | 43,845  | 47,600  | 3,755   | 8.6%   |
| 73  | Rental Compactor                |         | 13,200  | 13,200  | 0       | 0.0%   |
| 74  | Rental Open Container (2)       |         | 4,500   | 4,700   | 200     | 4.4%   |
| 75  | Trucking Compactor              |         | 12,250  | 14,875  | 2,625   | 21.4%  |
| 76  | Trucking Open Container         |         | 9,750   | 12,750  | 3,000   | 30.8%  |
| 77  | Trucking Cans & Bottles         |         | 7,350   | 9,000   | 1,650   | 22.4%  |
| 78  | Trucking Scrap Metal            |         | 4,900   | 6,000   | 1,650   | 22.4%  |
| 79  | Trucking Paper Cardboard        |         | 5,250   | 6,500   | 1,250   | 23.8%  |
| 80  | Trucking Rigid Plastics         |         | 3,600   | 4,500   | 900     | 25.0%  |
| 81  | Trucking Fuel Surcharge         |         | 1,400   | 2,500   | 1,100   | 78.6%  |
| 82  | Disposal Solid Waste            |         | 32,400  | 35,400  | 3,000   | 8.5%   |
| 83  | Disposal Bulky Waste            |         | 18,620  | 22,420  | 3,800   | 20.4%  |
| 84  | Recycling Cans, Bottles, Paper  |         | 11,500  | 12,500  | 1,000   | 8.7%   |
| 85  | Disposal Haz Mat                |         | 10,500  | 10,500  | 0       | 0.0%   |
| 86  | Chemicals                       |         | 300     | 300     | 0       | 0.0%   |
| 87  | Permits                         |         | 1,850   | 1,850   | 0       | 0.0%   |
| 88  | MRF education                   |         | 100     | 100     | 0       | 0.0%   |
| 89  | Maintenance                     |         | 1,500   | 1,500   | 0       | 0.0%   |
| 90  | Inspections/Testing             |         | 2,500   | 2,500   | 0       | 0.0%   |
| 91  | S. BERK. SOLID WASTE MEMB.      | 2,052   | 3,260   | 3,260   | 0       | 0.0%   |
| 92  | Total Expenses                  | 120,749 | 141,470 | 161,095 | 19,625  | 13.9%  |
| 93  | TOTAL - TRANSFER STATION        | 162,273 | 185,315 | 208,695 | 23,380  | 12.6%  |
|     |                                 |         |         |         |         |        |
|     | CEMETERIES                      |         |         |         |         |        |
| 94  | BECKET CENTER CEMETERY          | 5,413   | 5,000   | 5,000   | 0       | 0.0%   |
| 95  | NORTH CEMETERY                  | 12,670  | 16,500  | 16,500  | 0       | 0.0%   |
| 96  | WEST CEMETERY                   | 849     | 800     | 800     | 0       | 0.0%   |
| 97  | TOTAL-CEMETERIES                | 18,932  | 22,300  | 22,300  | 0       | 0.0%   |
|     |                                 |         |         |         |         |        |
|     | HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES         |         |         |         |         |        |
| 98  | BOARD of HEALTH SALARIES        | 1,172   | 9,500   | 2,000   | -7,500  | -78.9% |
| 99  | BOARD of HEALTH EXPENSES        | 35,392  | 33,500  | 36,000  | 2,500   | 7.5%   |
| 100 | INSPECTOR of ANIMALS            | 364     | 373     | 401     | 28      | 7.5%   |
| 101 | NURSING SERVICES                | 0       | 5,200   | 3,860   | -1,340  | -25.8% |
| 102 | COUNCIL on AGING                | 3,566   | 3,500   | 3,500   | 0       | 0.0%   |
| 103 | OUTREACH                        | 0       | 500     | 500     | 0       | 0.0%   |
| 104 | VETERANS AGENT SALARY           | 2,194   | 2,249   | 2,306   | 57      | 2.5%   |
| 105 | VETERANS BENEFITS               | 21,380  | 35,000  | 35,000  | 0       | 0.0%   |
| 106 | VETERANS AGENT EXPENSE          | -       | 100     | 100     | -       | 0.0%   |
| 107 | TOTAL - HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES | 64,067  | 89,922  | 83,667  | -6,255  | -7.0%  |
|     |                                 |         |         |         |         |        |
|     | COMMUNITY SERVICES              |         |         |         |         |        |

|     |                                                      |           |           |           |         |       |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|-------|
| 108 | ATHENAEUM                                            | 52,838    | 54,160    | 55,514    | 1,354   | 2.5%  |
| 109 | BECKET ARTS CENTER                                   | 10,000    | 0         | 0         | 0       | 0.0%  |
| 110 | CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY PARTY                             | 0         | 500       | 500       | 0       | 0.0%  |
| 111 | PARKS & RECREATION                                   | 49,403    | 32,768    | 39,918    | 7,150   | 21.8% |
| 112 | WEED CONTROL CENTER POND                             | 3,000     | 4,500     | 4,500     | 0       | 0.0%  |
| 113 | MEMORIAL /VETERANS DAY                               | 157.65    | 1,500     | 1,500     | 0       | 0     |
| 114 | TOTAL COMMUNITY SERVICES                             | 115,398   | 93,428    | 101,932   | 8,504   | 8.3%  |
|     |                                                      |           |           |           |         |       |
|     | BENEFITS                                             |           |           |           |         |       |
| 115 | HEALTH/LIFE INSURANCE                                | 356,058   | 468,643   | 499,715   | 31,072  | 6.6%  |
| 116 | COUNTY RETIREMENT                                    | 253,604   | 288,704   | 296,881   | 8,177   | 2.8%  |
| 117 | PAYROLL TAX ACCOUNT                                  | 27,270    | 28,819    | 29,540    | 721     | 2.5%  |
| 118 | UNEMPLOYMENT EXPENSE                                 | 3,465     | 5,000     | 7,000     | 2,000   | 40.0% |
| 119 | GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE                          | 114,799   | 127,969   | 143,000   | 15,031  | 11.7% |
| 120 | OPEB LIABILITY                                       | 0         | 15,000    | 15,000    | 0       | 0.0%  |
| 121 | TOTAL - BENEFITS                                     | 755,194   | 934,135   | 991,136   | 57,001  | 6.1%  |
|     |                                                      |           |           |           |         |       |
| 122 | TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET                               | 5,876,392 | 6,658,443 | 7,073,749 | 415,306 | 6.2%  |
|     |                                                      |           |           |           |         |       |
|     | FUNDED THROUGH WARRANT ARTICLES                      |           |           |           |         |       |
|     |                                                      |           |           |           |         |       |
|     | AMBULANCE                                            |           |           |           |         |       |
| 124 | From the General Fund                                | 305,000   | 338,000   | 355,724   | 17,724  | 5.2%  |
| 125 | TOTAL GENERAL FUND BUDGET INCLUDING WARRANT ARTICLES | 6,181,392 | 6,996,443 | 7,429,473 | 433,030 | 6.2%  |

**MOTION:** Move that the Town raise and appropriate \$7,429,473.00 for the Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2024 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024).

Select Board:
Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee:
Recommended

**ARTICLE 3            DEBT SERVICE**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$636,292 to fund debt service due in Fiscal Year 2024 for the following previously approved borrowings:

| Debt                                    | FY2024 Amount | Maturity Date |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Becket Washington School                | \$89,874      | FY2025        |
| Wahconah RHS Doors                      | \$8,418       | FY2029        |
| Wahconah RHS New Construction           | \$167,275     | FY2047        |
| High speed Broadband                    | \$262,045     | FY2024        |
| Highway Truck #2<br><i>FY21approved</i> | \$62,520      | FY2025        |
| Highway Truck #5<br><i>FY22approved</i> | \$44,660      | FY2024        |
| Interest on Short Term Debt             | \$1,500       |               |

**MOTION:** Move that the Town raise and appropriate \$636,292.00 to pay principal and interest on School and Town debt for Fiscal 2024.

Select Board:
Recommended

Majority Vote Required

Finance Committee
Recommended

**ARTICLE 4                    CAPITAL EXPENDITURES**

To see if the Town will vote transfer from available funds including Free Cash (FC) \$210,000 and from Stabilization (ST) \$519,613, or any other sum, to be used to fund the Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Plan for the Town of Becket. This plan consists of the following items:

| Project                                              | Amount         |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Ambulance – new radios                               | \$22,000 (FC)  |
| Town Hall – upgrade and rewiring of CAT 6 ports      | \$20,000 (FC)  |
| Athenaeum - repairs                                  | \$10,000 (FC)  |
| Cultural Council – grant match with State allocation | \$3,000 (FC)   |
| Parks & Rec – resurfacing and lining tennis court    | \$35,000 (FC)  |
| Highway – 19’ Boom Mower                             | \$110,000 (FC) |
| Highway – Tree Work – additional 1 year              | \$10,000 (FC)  |
| Fire Dept – First payment of FY23 Fire Truck         | \$381,613 (ST) |
| Fire Dept - SCBA packs                               | \$210,000 (ST) |

**MOTION:** Move that the Town transfer \$210,000 from Free Cash, and transfer \$591,613 from Stabilization, for a total of \$801,613 to be decided to be used in the Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Plan.

*See attached explanation of all requests*

**Select Board:                    Recommended                    Two-Thirds (2/3) Vote Required**  
**Finance Committee:    Recommended**

**ARTICLE 5                    PURCHASE OF HIGHWAY TRUCK**

To see if the Town will appropriate \$350,000 or any other amount, to pay costs of purchasing a Western Star 47X dump truck for the use of the Highway Department and for the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto: to determine whether this amount shall be raised by borrowing or otherwise provided, or take any other action relative thereto.

**MOTION:** That the Town appropriate \$350,000 to pay costs of purchasing a Western Star 47X dump truck the use of the Highway Department, and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriate, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to G.L.c.44 ss7 (1) or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor.

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

**ARTICLE 6                    TRANSFER TO THE STABILIZATION FUND**

To see if the Town transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$739,318 to be deposited into the Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.  
*To put 50% of Free Cash in Stabilization \$399,684(per Town Policy) returning of Storm Money \$165,900(July 21), along with the remainder of Free Cash \$173,734*

**MOTION:** Move that the Town transfer \$739,318 from certified Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund.

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

**ARTICLE 7                    FY2022 UNPAID BILLS**

To see if the Town will transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$15,914.86 for the following unpaid bills from FY2022

|                                                   |             |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| BOH - L. Burgwardt mileage                        | \$76.05     |
| Highway - Morton Salt (3 inv.) not billed in FY22 | \$15,703.00 |
| Memorial Day parade- Dufour Tour                  | \$135.81    |

**MOTION:** Move that the Town transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$15,914.86 for the deficits from FY2022

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

**ARTICLE 8                    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 2024 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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

**ARTICLE 9                    ESTABLISHING A HIGHWAY STABILIZATION FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to create a Highway Stabilization Fund for the purpose of funding the maintenance of public ways within the Town and purchase and repair equipment in accordance within Chapter 90 regulations, and to appropriate from Stabilization the sum of \$235,000 for the Highway Stabilization Fund; or take any action relative thereto

**Motion:** Move that the Town create a Highway Stabilization Fund for the purpose of funding the maintenance of public ways within the Town and purchase and repair equipment in accordance and to appropriate from Stabilization the sum of \$235,000 for the Highway Stabilization Fund.

**Select Board:                    Recommended                                            Two Thirds (2/3) Vote Required**  
**Finance Committee: Recommended**

**ARTICLE 10                    AMBULANCE BUDGET**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$530,174 for the salaries and expenses of the Ambulance Enterprise; and to fund said appropriation, to raise and appropriate \$355,724 from General Fund, to transfer \$10,000 from Ambulance Stabilization, and to transfer \$164,450 from Fiscal Year 2023 Ambulance Receipts; or take any other action relative thereto.

**MOTION:** Move that the Town raise and appropriate \$530,174, for the salaries and expenses of the Ambulance Enterprise, to fund said appropriation, to raise and appropriate \$355,724 from General Fund, to transfer \$10,000 from Ambulance Stabilization, and transfer \$164,450 from Fiscal Year 2023 Ambulance Receipts to fund operations of the Ambulance Enterprise.

**Select Board:                    Recommended                                            Two Thirds (2/3) Vote Required**  
**Finance Committee: Recommended**



Undesignated Reserve \$54,912.00

**Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee**

**MOTION:** Move that the Town appropriate or reserve from Fiscal Year 2024 Community Preservation estimated annual revenues of the following amounts: Committee Administrative Expenses \$500, Historical Resources Reserve \$7,049.00  
Community Housing Reserve \$7,049.00, Open Space Reserve \$7,049.00 and Undesignated Reserve \$54,912.00

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

**ARTICLE 14 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING FOR RECREATIONAL LAND -ESAU WALKING PATH EXTENSION & BRIDGE BUILDING**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$8,700 from Community Preservation Recreational Land Reserves for a trail extension and to build a bridge as part of Esau’s Heel walking path at Jacob’s Well; or take any other action thereto.

**Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee**

**MOTION:** Move that the Town transfer the sum of \$8,700 from the Community Preservation Recreational Land Reserves for a trail extension and to build a bridge as part of Esau’s Heel walking path at Jacob’s Well.

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

**ARTICLE 15 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING FOR HISTORICAL PURPOSES - TOWN HALL CUPOLOA RESTORATION**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$20,000 from the Historical Preservation Funds and \$8,163 from the Undesignated Funds to restore and replace the cupola at Town Hall; or take any other action relative thereto.

**Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee**

**MOTION:** Move that the Town transfer the sum of \$20,000 from the Historic Preservation Funds and \$8,163 from the Undesignated Funds to restore and replace the cupola at Town Hall.

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

**ARTICLE 16 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING -COMMUNITY HOUSING - 50 DAWN DRIVE**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Community Housing Funds the sum of \$25,000 to assist in funding of the Construct affordable housing project located at 50 Dawn Drive; or take any other action relative thereto.

**Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee**

**MOTION:** Move that the Town transfer from Community Housing Funds the sum of \$25,000 to assist in funding of the Construct affordable housing project located at 50 Dawn Drive.

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

**ARTICLE 17            COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING - UNDESIGNATED FUNDS FOR BECKET ARTS CENTER**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$8,000 from Undesignated Funds and \$2,000 from Historical Preservation Funds, to fund an engineering study to assess the water damage situation at the Becket Art Center; or take any other action thereto.

**Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee**

**MOTION:** Move that the Town transfer \$8,000 from Undesignated Fund and \$2,000 from Historical Preservation Fund to fund an engineering study to assess the water damage situation at the Becket Art Center.

**Select Board:        Recommended**

**Majority Vote Required**

**CPA Committee: Recommended**

**ARTICLE 18            COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING - AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN LENOX MA**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$10,000 from Community Housing Funds, to support a regional affordable rental housing development in Lenox MA requested by Pennrose LLC.; or take any action thereto

**Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee**

**MOTION:** Move that the Town transfer \$10,000 from Community Housing Funds, to support a regional affordable rental housing development in Lenox MA requested by Pennrose LLC.

**Select Board: Does not recommend**

**Majority Vote Required**

**CPA Committee: Does recommend**

**Finance Committee: Does not recommend**

**ARTICLE 19            SELECT BOARD PETITION TO ESTABLISH A LOCAL EXCISE TAX ON SHORT TERM RENTAL PROPERTIES**

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of MGL Chapter 64G, Section 3A which will authorize the Town to impose a local excise tax upon the transfer of occupancy of any room or rooms in a bed and bath establishment, hotel, lodging house, short term rental or motel located within the town of Becket by an owner/operator at a rate of six (6) percent of the total amount of rent for each such occupancy, or taken any other action relative thereto.

**Select Board:            Recommended**

**Majority Vote Required**

**Finance Committee: Recommended**

**ARTICLE 20            CITIZENS PETITION RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT CHANGING THE STATE FLAG AND SEAL OF MASSACHUSETTS**

Whereas the history of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is replete with instances of conflict between the European Colonists and the Native Nations of the region, who first extended the hand of friendship to the Colonists on their shores in 1620, and helped them to survive starvation during the settlers first winters on their land;

Whereas members of the Native Nation for whom the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is named were ambushed and killed by Myles Standish the first commander of the Plymouth Colony, at Wessagussett (now Weymouth) in April of 1623, barely two years after the Pilgrims arrived;

Whereas the Colonial broadsword held by a white hand above the head of the indigenous person on the Massachusetts Flag and Seal is modeled after Myles Standish's own broadsword, borrowed for that purpose from the Pilgrim Hall in Plymouth by the illustrator Edmund Garrett in 1884;

Whereas the belt binding the Native's cloak on the Flag and Seal is modeled after a belt worn by Metacomet known to the English as King Philip who was among the Indigenous leaders that

resorted to a mutually destructive war in 1675-1676 in defense of Native lands against Colonial encroachment;

Whereas the proportions of the body of the Indigenous person on the Flag and Seal were taken from the skeleton of an Indigenous person unearthed in Winthrop the bow modeled after a bow taken from an Indigenous man shot and killed by a colonist in Sudbury in 1665, and the facial features taken from a photograph of an Ojibwe chief from Great Falls, Montana, considered by the illustrator to be a “fine specimen of an Indian” though not from Massachusetts;

Whereas the history of relations between Massachusetts since Colonial times and the Native Nations who continue to live within its borders includes the forced internment of thousands of so-called “praying Indians” on Deer Island, in Boston Harbor, where they died by the hundreds of exposure in the winter of 1675, the enslavement of Indigenous people in Boston, Bermuda, and the Caribbean Islands, the offering of 40 pounds sterling as bounty for the scalps of Indigenous men, women, and children in Massachusetts beginning in 1686 increased to 100 pounds sterling for the scalps of Indigenous adult males by 1722, half that amount for Indigenous women and children;

Whereas Indigenous people were legally prohibited from even stepping foot into Boston from 1675 until 2004 when that Colonial law was finally repealed;

Whereas the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landing of the Colonists at Plymouth Plantation, which gave rise to the long chain of genocidal wars and deliberate government policies of cultural destruction against Native Nations of the continent, occurred in the year 2020, affording every citizen of the Commonwealth a chance to reflect upon this history and come to an appreciation of the need for better relations between the descendants of the Colonial immigrants and the Native Nations of the Commonwealth;

Whereas the land area once now known as the Town of Becket, shares a rich Native History with modern tribal nations such as the Mohicans and the Abenakis, who lived there for thousands of years before the first colonial settlers arrived in 1740;

Now, therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Becket hereby adopts this resolution in support of the work of the Special Commission on the Official Seal and Motto of the Commonwealth, established by a Resolve of the General Court in 2021 and appointed by the Governor to recommend changes to the current flag and seal of Massachusetts, and in support of a new flag and seal for the Commonwealth that may better reflect our aspirations for harmonious and respectful relations between all people who now call Massachusetts home. The Town Clerk shall forward a copy of this resolution to Senator Paul Mark and Representative Smitty Pignatelli, with the request that they continue their strong advocacy and support for the work of the aforementioned Special Commission and a new flag and seal for the Commonwealth.

**Majority Vote Required**

## **ARTICLE 21                    CITIZENS PETITION A RESOLUTION PROTECTING ADULT ACCESS TO PLANT MEDICINES & PRIORITIZING PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSES TO CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE POSSESSION**

WHEREAS: “entheogenic plants,” a term originally classified by anthropologists and ethnobotanists in 1979, are herein defined as the full spectrum of psychedelic plants, fungi, and natural materials containing indole amines, tryptamines, phenethylamines, including psilocybin mushrooms, ayahuasca, cacti, and iboga; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Becket hereby maintains that the use and possession of all controlled substances should be understood first and primarily as an issue of public health by town departments, agencies, boards, commissions, and all employees of the town; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Becket hereby believes that it should be policy of the Town of Becket that the arrest of persons for using or possessing controlled substances for personal adult therapeutic, shall be amongst the lowest law enforcement priority for the Town of Becket; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Becket hereby recommends it should be the policy of the Town of Becket that the investigation and arrest of persons for planting, cultivating, purchasing,

transporting, distribution by caregivers, engaging in practices with, and/or possessing entheogenic plants, for the purpose of therapeutic purposes, listed in Classes A-E of Chapter 94C § 31 of Massachusetts law or Schedules I-V of 21 U.S.C. § 812 of the Controlled Substances Act shall be amongst the lowest law enforcement priority for the Town of Becket; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution does not authorize or enable any of the following activities: commercial sale of entheogenic plants and fungi, cultivation for large scale distribution, possessing or distributing these materials on school grounds, use or distribution of these plants to individuals under 21 years of age, driving under the influence of these materials, or public disturbance; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Becket calls upon the town’s officials to work in support of decriminalizing entheogenic plants and approaching all controlled substances first and primarily through the lens of public health and restorative racial justice initiatives when representing the town in conversations with state and federal agencies as well as state and federal lawmakers; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Becket expresses support for HD 3829 An Act. Establishing Task Force to Study Equitable Access to Entheogenic Plants, which will convene 21 experts in science, drug policy, economic and racial justice, and state government to recommend legislation to legalize entheogenic plants as well as expunge records and create equity initiatives for victims of the entire war on drugs. This task force requires the study to be done through the lens of racial justice, sustainability, and consideration for BIPOC, veterans, and people with disabilities; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Town of Becket shall send a copy of this Resolution to Representative William “Smitty” Pignatelli and Senator Paul Mark, Governor Maura Healey, Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell, Berkshire County District Attorney Timothy J. Shugrue, Berkshire County Sheriff Thomas Bowler and Becket Police Chief Kristopher McDonough.

**Majority Vote Required**

**ARTICLE 22            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 20, 2023 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 20, 2023 from 10:00am to 7:00pm:**

|                                                  |                     |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <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>1 CEMETERY COMMISSIONER (2-year term)</b>     | <b>Vote for One</b> |
| <b>1 MEMBER, FINANCE COMMITTEE (3-year term)</b> | <b>Vote for One</b> |
| <b>1 MEMBER, PLANNING BOARD (5-year term)</b>    | <b>Vote for One</b> |
| <b>1 MODERATOR</b>                               | <b>Vote for One</b> |
| <b>1 TOWN CLERK</b>                              | <b>Vote for One</b> |

All of said officers and the ballot question to be voted for on the official ballots furnished at the polls. The polls will be opened at 10:00 AM and closed at 7:00 PM.

And you are further directed to serve this warrant by posting attested copies of the same at the usual places designated by the Town at least seven days before the time of holding said meeting. Hereof fail not, and make due return of this warrant with your doings thereon at the time and place of said meeting.

Given under our hands this 3rd day of May 2023

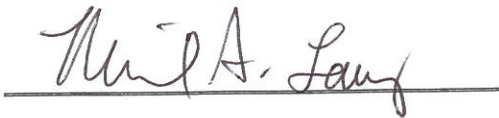
**SELECT BOARD**



William H. Elovirta, Chair



Christopher Swindlehurst, Vice Chair



Michael Lavery, Clerk

I have served this warrant as directed above.

Attest \_\_\_\_\_  
Constable

Becket, Massachusetts \_\_\_\_\_  
Date