

**TOWN OF BECKET  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Joint Meeting with  
**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

April 20, 2017

6:00 p.m.

Town Hall

557 Main Street, Becket

**Attendees:**

Board of Selectmen: William Elovirta, *Chairperson*; Jeanne Pryor, *Vice Chairperson*;  
Nicole Ledoux, *Clerk*

Finance Committee: Dan Parnell (remote participation due to geographic  
location), Ronald DeFoe, Ann Spadafora, Maria Wallington  
Absent: Mark Karlberg

Staff: Ed Gibson, *Town Administrator*; Beverly Gilbert, *Recording Secretary*

*Note: The Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen have separate meeting minutes for tonight's meeting. These meeting minutes reflect the Board of Selectmen's actions.*

**Call to Order**

Bill called the Board of Selectmen's meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. He stated that the meeting is being held in accordance with the Open Meeting Law and Guidelines for the Becket Board of Selectmen Meetings.

It was noted that only the Board of Selectmen was recording the meeting.

**Board to meet jointly with Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee had called its meeting to order, voted on a transfer from the reserve fund and then met jointly with the Board of Selectmen.

**Selectmen and Finance Committee to discuss all possible FY2018 ATM articles monetary and non-monetary**

Ed provided, presented, discussed, and fielded questions on the below documents:

- Town of Becket Financial Summary
- Capital Plan Five Year Report
- FY 18 Budget Detail

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**Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee to review and possibly vote to recommend capital and operating budget for FY2018 and all articles for Annual Town Meeting Warrant**

Ed provided a draft Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Bill moved that the BOS recommend **Article 1** to see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$165.00 to fund a previous fiscal year's bill. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill moved that the BOS recommend **Article 2** re: the Board of Selectmen, Board of Health and Cemetery Commission's compensation. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill moved that the BOS recommend **Article 3** re: funding the FY 2018 operating budget. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill moved that the BOS recommend **Article 4** to raise and appropriate \$347,123 to fund the FY 2018 bond payments for previously approve debt. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill moved that the BOS recommend **Article 5** to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$208,671.00 to fund the Stabilization Fund for Fiscal Year 2018. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill moved that the BOS recommend **Article 6** to accept Massachusetts Department of Transportation for Chapter 90 monies to maintain our roads. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill moved that the BOS recommend **Article 7** relating to the Ambulance Enterprise Fund and Ambulance Receipts. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill moved that the BOS recommend **Article 8** re: the FY2017 financial audit

Bill moved that the BOS recommend **Article 9** re: transfer \$48,145 from Free Cash to reduce the amount of the FY 2017 Snow and Ice deficit. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill moved that the BOS recommend **Article 10** to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 for legal, advertising and related costs to process tax delinquent accounts. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill moved that the BOS recommend **Article 11** to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 for capital repairs and improvements at the Becket Athenaeum in order for Library Services to be provided to town residents. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill moved that the BOS recommend **Article 12** to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$5,350.00 for the upgrade and improvement of replacing the front door, foundation repair and refurbish the stairs at the Becket Arts Center. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill moved that the BOS recommend **Article 13** to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$38,000.00 to purchase, replace and install the two furnaces at Fire Station #1. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill moved that the BOS recommend **Article 14** to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$48,000.00 for the purchase of a new truck for Buildings and Grounds. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill moved that the BOS recommend **Article 15** to appropriate and transfer from the Overlay Surplus Fund the sum of \$35,000 for demolition of the house at 21 Maple Street and decommissioning the well and septic system along with filling, grading and seeding the hole from the cellar foundation. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill moved that the BOS recommend **Article 16** to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$39,911 to reduce the FY 2018 tax rate. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill moved that the BOS recommend **Article 17** to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$6,900.00 improve the erosion control and add a drainage swale and sand at the Town Beach. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill moved that the BOS recommend **Article 18** to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$12,200 for the purchase and installation of a replacement telephone system and answering system including telephones at Town Hall. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill moved that the BOS recommend **Article 19** to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$5,000.00 to purchase a new replacement mower and grass catcher for North Becket Cemetery. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill moved that the BOS recommend **Article 20** to appropriate, and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$5,000.00 to index, print, and bind the Town By Laws. Nicole seconded. Motion carried with Jeanne abstaining because she is a member of the Zoning Bylaw Committee which requested this funding.

Bill moved that the BOS recommend **Article 21** to appropriate, and borrow \$250,000 to purchase a new Ambulance, and to authorize the BOS to trade or sell or otherwise dispose of the 2011 Ford F450 Ambulance. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill moved that the BOS recommend **Article 22** re: revolving funds for the Plumbing, Gas and Wiring Inspectors. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee discussed that the Warrant for the next Special Town Meeting, may include an article re: the Municipal Modernization Act, Revolving Fund Bylaw.

Bill moved that the BOS recommend **Article 23** re: appropriations and reserves for the Community Preservation. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill moved that the BOS recommend **Article 24** to Transfer \$5,000.00 from the Historical Preservation Reserve Account and \$30,000.00 from the Undesignated Reserve Account of the Becket Community Preservation Fund for the repairs and restoration and painting of the Becket Arts Center. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill moved that the BOS recommend **Article 25** to Transfer \$3,500.00 from the Historical Resources Reserve Account of the Becket Community Preservation Fund for the purchase of two historic paintings of the Deweys. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill moved that the BOS recommend **Article 26** to Transfer \$29,000.00 from the Community Housing Reserve Account of the Becket Community Preservation Fund for matching funds to be used for a Community Development Block Grant for Housing Rehabilitation. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill moved that the BOS recommend **Article 27** to amend the Town of Becket By-Laws, Article 17 -- Town Betterment By-Law by 2 (Vacant Property). Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill moved that the BOS recommend **Article 28** to amend the Town of Becket By-Laws, Article 20 – Dog Animal Control By Law. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill moved that the BOS recommend **Article 29** to amend the Town of Becket By-Laws, Article 17 – Town Betterment By Law (Open container, cannabis). Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill moved that the BOS not recommend **Article 30** to amend the Zoning By-law regarding Driveway Permits. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Jeanne moved that the BOS recommend petitioned **Article 31** regarding sending a Compassionate Community Resolution to our dignitaries. Nicole seconded. Motion carried with Bill opposed. Bill stated that because he already regards Becket as a welcoming community, he feels in addition to the resolution being unenforceable, he feels it is not necessary. Jeanne explained that the lead petitioner's intent was to seek support from the Town in recognizing that some people may feel vulnerable because of the recent changes in our nation's political climate .

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Jeanne moved that the BOS not recommend petitioned **Article 32** re: Sherwood Forest Road Maintenance District's Special Legislation Amendment. Nicole recused herself from this discussion and vote to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest or a possible conflict of interest since her father owns property in Sherwood Forest. No one seconded the motion. Jeanne stated that she will propose amendments to this petitioned article at the Annual Town Meeting. The Board of Selectmen decided that it will not provide any recommendations on petitioned Article 32.

**Any other business to come before the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen**

There was no other business.

**Motion to adjourn the meeting**

Bill moved to adjourn. Jeanne seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Bill adjourned the Board of Selectmen's meeting at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beverly Gilbert, Secretary

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William Elovirta, *Chairperson*

**Documents discussed:**

- Town of Becket Financial Summary
- Capital Plan Five Year Report
- FY 18 Budget Detail
- Draft Annual Town Meeting Warrant
- Request for Transfer from the Reserve Fund \$1,000 Conservation Commission
- Petition for Warrant Article – Sherwood Forest Road Maintenance District
- Petition for Warrant Article – Compassionate Community
- Proposed Addition to Article 17 – Town Betterment Bylaws (Section 22 – Vacant Property)
- Proposed Zoning By-law regarding Driveway Permits.
- Proposed Dog Animal Control By Law
- Proposed Town of Becket By-Laws, Article 17 – Town Betterment By Law (Open container, cannabis)