





#### **TOWN OF WASHINGTON**

Highlights of the Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15) Annual Town Warrant **Annual Meeting - May 10, 2014, 7:00 PM** 

#### **Non-Highway Salaries**

Articles 3 and 4: By joint agreement of the Selectboard and the Finance Committee (without formal votes) salaries for all non-highway town employees have been level funded for FY15.

Article 5 General Government: There are very few increases in this wide ranging article. The total is increased by 1.4% (less than \$2000).

#### **Education**

Article 7 – FY14 Central Berkshire Regional School District Capital Assessment: The total assessment is \$58,207, a 5.5 % decrease vs. last year. The vast majority of this cost is for the Becket-Washington School.

Article 8 – FY14 Central Berkshire Regional School District Operating Budget Assessment: The total assessment for operating expenses is \$586,306, which represents a state-mandated minimum contribution of \$435,744, a transportation assessment of \$25,704, and an additional assessment necessary to maintain services of \$124,858. The total is up 2.1% over FY14.

Approved by the Selectboard (3-0)

**Approved by the Finance Committee (3-0)** 

Article 11- Highway Department: The proposed highway department budget is \$426,796, a 1.7% increase over FY14. In the past the two major highway department line items have been "Winter Roads" and "Road and Bridge", both of which covered a multitude of expenses. This year the Finance Committee decided that more transparency could be achieved if the requested budget were delineated somewhat differently. The former Winter Roads and Road and Bridge accounts are now Salaries (for the entire year), Winter Road Maintenance (sand and salt and specific expenses associated with plowing and sanding), Winter Road Overtime (plowing); and Road and Bridge Maintenance (materials). The FY 14 total for Winter Roads and Road and Bridge was \$215,000. The FY15 total budget for the four new accounts is \$225,000.

Approved by the Selectboard (3-0)

**Approved by the Finance Committee (3-0)** 

Article 13 Community Services: We have been trying, with \$2000 annual appropriations, to build a fund to cover the possibility of veterans' aid requests. This year we have one veteran's aid case. So, instead of \$2000 to build the fund, the exact amount of t a year of aid, \$5386.90, has been budgeted. A large increase in the Veterans' Agent Expense account is also budgeted in ordr to cover mandated training. The Becket Athenaeum has asked for an increase in funding from \$5000 to \$7700. Action on an additional athenaeum request for \$5000 for continued capital maintenance and repair has been delayed because the request came in too late for consideration by the Selectboard or the Finance Committee.

Article 19 – Wired West Fee: The Wired West consortium has requested an appropriation of \$1000 for FY15. There was in fee n FY14; but it was felt to be necessary for FY15 to cover expenses.

Articles 21 and 22 Transfers from Free Cash: The town's free cash has been certified at a little over \$110,000. The Finance Committee and Selectboard have agreed to use \$50,000 to replenish the Stabilization account and to allocate \$50,000 to avoid an increase in the tax rate.

Article 25 Authorize Borrowing for new Highway Truck: A new four wheel drive plow truck is expected to cost a little more than \$200,000. One quote for \$205,000 has been received. This article asks the voters to approve borrowing up to \$100,000 for that purpose. The remainder will be funded by using some of our state funding (Chapter 90).

Approved by the Selectboard (3-0)

**Approved by the Finance Committee (2-1)** 

Article 26 Wind Power Bylaw: The Planning Board has proposed two bylaws amendments in order to provide some protection for the town and to hopefully avoid a situation such as that currently facing Peru.

Overall the town's budget shows an increase of 0.3% from the FY14 budget. If the state budget for local aid is not decreased by the full House or the Senate, the total tax levy will increase slightly and the tax rate should not increase significantly from FY14 ((\$13.43 per \$1000) and may decrease slightly.

Dick Spencer

Chair – Washington Finance Committee

#### 7 April 2014

Town of Washington Board of Selectmen

Attn.: Mr. Chairman

Subject: Veterans Listings

Korea and Vietnam

#### Gentlemen:

I have begun the research pertaining to defining the lists of men and women from Washington that have honorably served our country during the above subject conflicts.

These lists reflect those individuals that served during these times and received their respective bonus allotments from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. There may be additional names that served our country that are not on these lists because the individuals did not apply for the bonus allotments.

I suggest that this list be published within the upcoming edition of the "Tracks" publication such that citizens of the town can review the list and possibly add additional names. I am also forwarding a copy of this letter to the Historical Commission for the same review.

Once a predetermined period of time has elapsed, possibly six months, I would request that the Selectmen create a committee to decide a proper memorial as well as a proper location for this memorial. Once this has been determined, then a decision can be made to erect this memorial and have a proper dedication ceremony. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Regards,

Peter Blake Veterans Service Officer, Washington

## Town of Washington Korea and Vietnam Veterans Listing

Korea		Vietnam	
Joseph H N Bishop; George N. Burnham; Lawrence P. Burnham Richard G. Burnham Mary M. Crompton George A. Ellis David R. Gillett Francis B. Marier Norman W. Nault Theodore Peer Robert Powell Wesley L. Saunders	U.S. Navy U.S. Army U.S. Army U.S. Army U.S. Marines U.S. Marines U.S. Army U.S. Air Force U.S. Army U.S. Army U.S. Army U.S. Army U.S. Navy U.S. Army U.S. Coast Guard	David L. Barker Gerald E. Barker George N. Burnham Richard J. Crossley Richard E. Furlong David F. Furlong Peter A. Gallant James D. Gallant Charles A. Nocher Rodney F. Nocher George E. Sears Ronald Wood	U.S. Navy U.S. Army U.S. Army U.S. Army U.S. Navy U.S. Navy U.S. Marines U.S. Army U.S. Air Force U.S. Air Force U.S. Air Force U.S. Navy

Anyone interested in a 6 week class of bodyweight exercises to be held in town please contact Mary Jarvie @ 413-329-6907. Michael Summers is a certified trainer from Pittsfield willing to come to Washington to make it more convenient for us. His class is energetic, fun and you work at your own pace. He has worked with all levels of ability from beginners to those who want something more challenging. He has also worked with all ages from youngsters to high school athletes to seniors and everyone in between. It's a class I know you'd enjoy no matter what your ability, so give me a call and we'll see if we can get this started.

WASHINGTON CULTURAL COUNCIL
The Washington Cultural Council will be holding an Open Informational
Meeting on May 10, 2014 from 1pm to 2pm at the Town Hall.
All are Welcome

To our fellow Washington residents:

May 2014

Thanks to those of you who have returned the letter in last month's *Tracks* requesting information about business being conducted at your address. The more complete the information we have, the better job we can do in drafting changes to our by-laws that both protect existing businesses and make sure that new growth is acceptable to our voters. If you have not yet done so please fill out and return the letter as soon as possible.

On March 26 at our Town Hall representatives from Wired West gave an update on the progress being made to bring high speed internet to every address in Town. They have engaged professional management and are exploring funding options. The Town may be asked to underwrite part of the funding; the main reason for this is to show our support to federal and state agencies which will supply most of the funding. Construction may begin late this year.

The Planning Board has voted to propose a change to our by-laws to ban commercial wind power. The by-law change will be on the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) Warrant for approval.

#### Other Warrant considerations:

- Purchase of a new large plow truck; the Select Board and Finance Committee recommend using a 50-50 formula of half borrowing and half Chapter funds.
- \$1000 to support the work of Wired West.
- After long consideration the Board and the Finance Committee have decided not to put the adoption of the Community
  Preservation Act (CPA) on the warrant. We do not want to impose any additional tax burden on our homeowners. When and if
  we feel that there are sufficient projects that could be funded through the CPA we will reconsider bringing it to the voters.

#### Update on our roads and bridges:

- DOT is now telling us that the funding for the complete rehabilitation of Washington Mountain Road is no longer available. The Board has protested to Senator Downing and Representative Pignatelli as well as DOT Administration in Boston. We have been able to secure funding to get the road resurfaced this spring. This should make it safe and comfortable for travel for at least a few years. During that time we will work to move the complete rehabilitation forward on the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) which determines what major projects DOT undertakes each year. DOT and some of our sister Towns on the Transportation Advisory Committee have already expressed their support for us. We will continue to fight to get Washington Mountain Road fully reconstructed.
- In better highway news, the contractor who chip-sealed our roads last fall has agreed to reimburse the Town for the sanding that was done to minimize the problem. We expect them to also be resurfacing the faulty roadways this spring.
- DOT has provided us with \$25,000 in supplemental Chapter funds that need to be spent this spring. Our plan is to resurface the roadway leading to the transfer station.

We hope to see you all at the Annual Town Meeting – Saturday May 10 at 7 pm. And we hope everyone goes to the polls the next Saturday (May 17) from 12 to 4 pm for our Town Election. Democracy works best when everyone participates!

Jim Huebner Select Board Chair Shaun Lennon Select Board Clerk

Mike Case Select Board

#### Absentee Ballots for Annual Town Election

If you need an absentee ballot for the Annual Town Election, please contact the Town Clerk to request an absentee ballot application prior to Friday, May 16, 2014 at 12:00 PM. Contact information 413-623-2185; washingtontownclerk@yahoo.com.

#### **Annual Town Election**

The Annual Town Election is Saturday, May 17, 2014 at the Washington Town Hall. The polls will be open from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Offices and candidates on the ballot this year are:

Office and Term	Candidate
Auditor (two year unexpired term)	Blank
Finance (three year term)	Sean Connors, Incumbent
Finance (three year term)	Richard Spencer, Incumbent
Finance (two year unexpired term)	Blank
Planning Board (five year term)	Craig Willis, Incumbent
Select Board (three year term)	Michael Case, Incumbent



www.washington-ma.com

Our 14th annual "Arlo Guthrie's Historic Garbage Trail" Walk to Massacree HD - Huntington's Disease is Sunday, May 18th. www.garbagetrailwalk.org



The Becket General

30 Washington Street Becket, MA 01223 Heather Anello, owner Coffee bar, Deli, Sandwiches & Pizza Beer, Wine, Groceries & Dairy Products Ph: 623.5700 / Fax: 623.5707

#### **Bucksteep Manor**

Casual fun atmosphere 885 Washington Mt. Rd Washington, MA (413)623.5535 The Bucksteep Pub will be open with light fare Friday 11am-4pm Saturday 11am-4pm Sunday 11am-4pm

#### **Horace Mann Insurance Agency**

Po Box 772 Becket Ma. 01223. Phone 413)623-2112.
Fax 413)623-5551.
Provide all Personal Lines of Insurance. Provide Financial and retirement products too.

# Please send your Tracks info by 25th of the month

\_mrsabeski@mac.com put TRACKS in the subject

## **Support Our Local Businesses**

## Independent Stampin' Up! Demonstrator

Sue Paquette 623.5918

"quality stamp sets, card stock, ink pads, etc - I offer creative & fun parties for you and your friends in your home or mine.

#### Justice of the Peace

Dorothy Filanowska (413) 446-6921 / dora@justicedora.com http://www.justicedora.com

#### Mark Newton's

Full Service Pet and Home Care, also light ground maintenance, minor home repair & snow plowing
Pet sitting in your home: Dogs, Cats, Horses, and so much more Passionate, Reliable, and Caring.
413 623-2254 or email: markspetcare@gmail.com

#### **Hilltowns Veterinary Clinic**

Dr. Sharon Lynch, MVB 133 South Washington State Rd Washington, MA 01223 Phone: (413)623-5329 www.hilltownsvetclinic.com

#### **Pampered Chef Consultant**

Allison Mikaniewicz
1214 Lovers Lane, Washington
apadfamily@yahoo.com
Call: 413-623-2185
Book your Cooking Show or Book
Party today
and earn FREE and discounted
kitchen ware

#### **Your Way Computer**

Frank Kennedy
1153 Washington Mt. Road
Washington, MA 01223
Call: 623.5180 / Fax: 623.2018
E-Mail:
carolandfranksr@carolandfrank.
com
By appointment only

#### **Summit Hill Campground**

34 Old Middlefield Rd.
Washington, Ma. 01223
413-623-5761
Great Family Camping
Tents,R.V.s Motor Homes
Full Hook Ups
Pet Friendly
Seasonals Welcomed
Events scheduled May through sept