

TOWN OF WASHINGTON

Berkshire, S.S.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Washington in the County of Berkshire:

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town, qualified to vote in elections and in Town affairs, to meet in the Washington Town Hall at 8 Summit Hill Road on May 8, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., then and there to act on the following articles, to wit:

Article 1: To see if the Selectmen shall be an agent for the Town in defense of any suits for, and on behalf of the Town, and to adjust all claims for damage against the Town, and to choose an agent, or pass any vote thereon.

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenue for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, and to issue a note or notes therefore payable within one year, in accordance with Section 17, Chapter 44 of the General Laws, also temporary loans under Provision 6A, Chapter 44 of the General Laws.

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to fix the annual salary and compensation of all elected officers of the Town as provided by Section 108, Chapter 41 of the General Laws, as amended, all salaries to be effective as of July 1, 2024:

a.	Town Clerk-----	\$10,096.06
b.	Selectmen - Chairperson-----	\$ 2,817.05
c.	Select Board – Chairperson Stipend-----	\$ 0.00
d.	Selectmen - Clerk-----	\$ 2,817.05
e.	Selectmen – 3 rd Member-----	\$ 2,817.05
f.	Moderator-----	\$ 87.55

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$18,634.76 for Elected Officers' salaries.

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$211,449.13 for general government accounts to be appropriated as follows:

a.	Reserve Account -----	\$20,000.00
b.	Town Counsel Yearly Retainer -----	\$ 6,000.00
c.	Legal Expenses -----	\$ 3,000.00
d.	Administrative Assistants Salary -----	\$20,554.68
e.	Selectmen's Expenses -----	\$ 1,800.00
f.	Website and Digital Communication-----	\$ 2,706.69
g.	Planning Board Expenses -----	\$ 650.00
h.	Berkshire Regional Planning Commission-----	\$ 450.00
i.	Assessors - Chairperson-----	\$ 4,711.22
j.	Assessors - Clerk-----	\$ 4,240.51
k.	Assessors – Third Member-----	\$ 3,399.00
l.	Assessors Expenses-----	\$ 1,500.00
m.	Appraisal Services (504 Public Utilities)-----	\$ 2,000.00
n.	Consultant Services for Assessors & Revaluation-----	\$15,000.00

o.	Assessors' Computer Services -----	\$ 4,219.00
p.	Tax Map Maintenance-----	\$ 4,000.00
q.	Appointed Treasurer Salary-----	\$16,608.75
r.	Treasurer Performance Recognition-----	\$ 500.00
s.	Treasurer's Expenses -----	\$ 3,200.00
t.	Treasurer's Tax Title Expense -----	\$ 4,000.00
u.	Interest and Issuance on Short-Term Notes-----	\$ 1,500.00
v.	Insurance (Workman's Comp. & General Property)----	\$21,186.00
w.	Medicare Taxes for Town Employees-----	\$ 6,435.00
x.	Unemployment Account-----	\$ 0.00
y.	Auditing Expenses-----	\$ 6,000.00
z.	Accounting Officer Salary -----	\$20,151.95
aa.	Accounting Officer Expenses-----	\$ 400.00
bb.	Accounting Software (Vadar)-----	\$ 3,575.00
cc.	Appointed Tax Collector Salary-----	\$17,660.38
dd.	Assistant Tax Collector's Salary -----	\$ 2,435.95
ee.	Tax Collector Certification Stipend-----	\$ 1,000.00
ff.	Tax Collector's Expenses -----	\$ 5,000.00
gg.	Tax Collector's Tax Title Expenses -----	\$ 2,060.00
hh.	Town Clerk's Expenses -----	\$ 3,500.00
ii.	Clerk of Board of Registrars-----	\$ 100.00
jj.	Computer Support – Accessible Voting-----	\$ 1,200.00
kk.	Town Reports -----	\$ 0.00
ll.	Finance Committee Expenses -----	\$ 155.00
mm.	Conservation Commission-----	\$ 250.00
nn.	Zoning Enforcement Officer's Expense Account-----	\$ 200.00
oo.	Zoning Board of Appeals Expenses-----	\$ 100.00

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of Section 4A of Chapter 40 of the Massachusetts General Laws, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into an inter-municipal agreement with other cities, towns, and political subdivisions for the group purchasing of supplies, commodities, and services that the town is authorized by law to purchase, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$800.00 as the town's share of the expenses for the administration of the Berkshire Regional Group Purchasing Program for Fiscal Year 2025.

Article 7: To see if the Town of Washington will vote to approve the Central Berkshire Regional School District Amended Regional Agreement as presented by the School Committee which will be on file at the Washington Town Clerk's Office, Superintendent of Schools Office and the Becket Atheneum.

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$103,443.00 for Capital Costs of the Central Berkshire Regional School District to be appropriated as follows:

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| a. | Becket-Washington School (Debt Exclusion) FY25---- | \$29,974.00 |
| b. | Wahconah Regional High School – Doors, FY29----- | \$ 3,305.00 |
| c. | WRHS Building Project (Debt Exclusion), FY47----- | \$70,164.00 |

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to approve the Central Berkshire Regional School District budget for the 2025 fiscal year, as adopted on March 14, 2024, by two thirds vote of the Regional School Committee, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$745,077.00 for the operation of the Central Berkshire Regional School District to be appropriated as follows:

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| a. | Required Local Contribution----- | \$540,112.00 |
| b. | Transportation Assessment----- | \$ 19,011.00 |
| c. | Basic Budget Balance----- | \$185,954.00 |

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$199,518.70 for Vocational Education accounts to be appropriated as follows:

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| a. | Vocational Education Tuition----- | \$136,595.00 |
| b. | Vocational Education Transportation----- | \$ 58,950.00 |
| c. | Vocational Education Bus Maintenance----- | \$ 3,000.00 |
| d. | Vocational Education Vehicle Insurance----- | \$ 973.70 |

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 663,242.80 for the Highway Department to be appropriated as follows:

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| a. | Salaries ----- | \$186,388.80 |
| b. | Winter Road Overtime----- | \$ 19,233.00 |
| c. | Non-Winter Overtime----- | \$ 6,074.00 |
| d. | Summer Help----- | \$ 6,000.00 |
| e. | Road & Bridge Maintenance----- | \$ 80,000.00 |
| f. | Winter Snow & Ice Removal----- | \$115,000.00 |
| g. | Engineering Consultation----- | \$ 8,100.00 |
| h. | Tree Work----- | \$ 15,000.00 |
| i. | Fuel----- | \$ 30,000.00 |
| j. | Machinery Repair----- | \$ 27,000.00 |
| k. | General Maintenance, Tools & Supplies----- | \$ 38,000.00 |
| l. | Highway Department Operating Expenses----- | \$ 20,000.00 |
| m. | Highway Equipment Insurance----- | \$ 17,406.76 |
| n. | Health, Dental, Life Insurance (town share)----- | \$ 47,820.24 |
| o. | Berkshire County Retirement----- | \$ 47,220.00 |

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$89,770.17 for health and safety accounts to be appropriated as follows:

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| a. | Becket Fire Department – fire protection ----- | \$ 17,565.33 |
| b. | Becket Firemen's Association ----- | \$ 250.00 |
| c. | Fire Chief's Expenses----- | \$ 150.00 |
| d. | Police Chief Salary----- | \$ 15,450.00 |
| e. | Police Department Expenses ----- | \$ 4,450.00 |
| f. | Police Department Telecommunication----- | \$ 3,500.00 |
| g. | Police and Fire Department Insurance----- | \$ 9,107.84 |
| h. | Enhanced 911 ----- | \$ 11,137.00 |
| i. | EMS Ambulance Services----- | \$ 12,000.00 |
| j. | Animal Control Officer Reimbursements ----- | \$ 800.00 |
| k. | Animal Control Officer Expenses ----- | \$ 150.00 |
| l. | Board of Health Expenses ----- | \$ 1,500.00 |
| m. | Health Agent (Berkshire Public Health Alliance)----- | \$ 4,500.00 |
| n. | Public Health Nurse----- | \$ 2,310.00 |
| o. | Building Inspector Salary ----- | \$ 5,000.00 |
| p. | Permit Eyes Computer Software----- | \$ 1,900.00 |

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$23,349.00 for services to the Washington community to be appropriated as follows:

- a. Sons and Daughters Reunion ----- \$ 600.00
- b. Historical Commission ----- \$ 400.00
- c. Veteran's Aid ----- \$ 1,000.00
- d. Veteran's Services Inter-Municipal Agreement----- \$ 1,250.00
- e. Council on Aging ----- \$ 1,750.00
- f. Donation to the Becket Athenaeum Operating----- \$ 9,964.00
- g. Donation to the Becket Athenaeum Capital----- \$ 2,000.00
- h. Washington TRACKS ----- \$ 4,800.00
- i. Becket Beach----- \$ 1,585.00

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$51,059.56 for operation of the Solid Waste Transfer Station to be appropriated as follows:

- a. Operating Expenses----- \$39,000.00
- b. Attendant Labor----- \$10,559.56
- c. Facility Maintenance----- \$ 1,500.00

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 116,914.21 to pay notes and interest due on the following:

- a. Culverts, FY33----- \$39,314.14
- b. Last-Mile Fiber Network, FY34 (debt exclusion)----- \$77,600.07

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 34,859.89 for the following buildings, grounds, and equipment accounts:

- a. Town Buildings Operating Expenses-----\$15,535.00
- b. Town Hall Repair and Maintenance----- \$ 5,000.00
- c. Custodian Reimbursement----- \$ 3,875.89
- d. Custodian Performance Recognition----- \$ 250.00
- e. Maintenance Coordinator Reimbursement----- \$ 699.00
- f. Town Office Equipment and Support----- \$ 4,500.00
- g. Town Offices Supplies and Services----- \$ 1,500.00
- h. Historical Properties Repairs and Maintenance----- \$ 1,000.00
- i. Town Park----- \$ 2,500.00

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 83,000.00 for the following Shared Town Administrator accounts:

- a. Town Administrator Salary----- \$82,400.00
- b. Town Administrator Benefits----- \$ 0.00
- c. Town Administrator Expenses----- \$ 600.00

Article 18: To see if the Town will appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$66,336.00 to pay notes and interest due for heavy duty plow truck.

Article 19: To see if the Town will transfer the sum of \$100,000.00 from Free Cash into the Stabilization Account.

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to set the limit on the total amount that can be expended from each of the town's established revolving funds, in accordance with General Laws Chapter 44 Section 53E½, as follows:

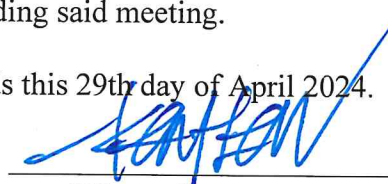
- a. Electrical Inspector: Expenditures not to exceed \$2,500.00
- b. Gas & Plumbing Inspector: Expenditures not to exceed \$2,000.00
- c. Fire Inspector: Expenditures not to exceed \$2,000.00
- d. St. Andrew's Chapel Rentals and Maintenance: Expenditures not to exceed \$4,000.00
- e. Washington Town Park: Expenditures not to exceed \$6,000.00
- f. Washington Council on Aging Donations: Expenditures not to exceed \$2,000.00
- g. Washington Historical Commission: Expenditures not to exceed \$2,000.00
- h. Tax-Title Fees & Charges: Expenditures not to exceed \$12,000.00
- i. Becket Beach Fund: Expenditures not to exceed \$3,500.00
- j. Planning Board & ZBA Legal Notices: Expenditures not to exceed \$3,000.00

Article 21: To see if the Town will choose all other Town Officers not required by law to be chosen by ballot: 2 Field Drivers, 2 Fence Viewers, 1 Surveyor of Lumber, 1 Measurer of Wood and Bark, 1 Sexton, and 1 Assistant Sexton. All nominations for the above-mentioned officers to be made from the floor.

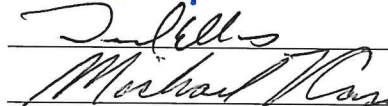
You are hereby directed to serve this warrant by posting attested copies hereof at each of the usual places for posting attested warrants of such nature seven days at least before the time and place of said meeting.

Hereof fail not to make due return of this warrant with doings thereof to the Town Clerk at the time and place of holding said meeting.

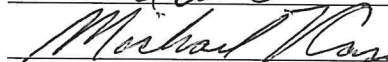
Given under our hands this 29th day of April 2024.



Selectmen



of



Washington

I hereby certify that I have served this warrant by posting attested copies hereof at each of the usual places for posting such warrants.



Constable

4/29/24

A True Copy Attest

Date of Posting/Return of Service

jh 04/29/2024