

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON
FISCAL YEAR 2023
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING RESULTS
MAY 11, 2022**

Article 1: To see if the Town will to accept the provisions of General Laws Chapter 258, Section 13, which provides that the town shall indemnify and save harmless municipal officers, elected or appointed, from personal financial loss and expense including reasonable legal fees and costs, if any, in an amount not to exceed one million dollars, arising out of any claim, demand, suit or judgment by reason of any act or omission except an intentional violation of civil rights of any person under any law, if the official at the time of such act of omission was acting within the scope of his official duties or employment.

Article 1 passed unanimously by voice vote

Article 2: To see if the Town will accept the provisions of General Laws Chapter 39, Section 23D, which provides that a member of any municipal board, committee or commission when holding an adjudicatory hearing shall not be disqualified from voting in the matter solely due to that member's absence from no more than a single session of the hearing at which testimony or other evidence is received, provided that before any such vote, the member shall certify in writing that he/she has examined all evidence received at the missed session, which evidence shall include an audio or video recording of the missed session or a transcript thereof, with such certification to be part of the record of the hearing.

Article 2 passed unanimously by voice vote

Article 3: 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 3 passed unanimously by voice vote

Article 4: 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, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023, 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 4 passed unanimously by voice vote

Article 5: 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, 2022:

a. Town Clerk	-----	\$9,118.00
b. Selectmen - Chairperson	-----	\$2,699.00
c. Selectmen - Clerk	-----	\$2,699.00
d. Selectmen – 3 rd Member	-----	\$2,699.00
e. Moderator	-----	\$ 79.00

Article 5 passed unanimously by voice vote

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$17,294.00 for Elected Officers' salaries.

Article 6 passed unanimously by voice vote

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$198,757.90 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 Assistant Salary -----	\$18,564.00
e. Selectmen's Expenses -----	\$ 2,000.00
f. Website and Digital Communication-----	\$ 2,060.00
g. Planning Board Expenses -----	\$ 500.00
h. Berkshire Regional Planning Commission-----	\$ 410.30
i. Assessors - Chairperson-----	\$ 4,255.00
j. Assessors - Clerk-----	\$ 3,830.00
k. Assessors' Consulting Services-----	\$14,304.00
l. Assessors' Expenses-----	\$ 2,000.00
m. Consultant Services for Revaluation-----	\$ 1,500.00
n. Assessors' Computer Services -----	\$ 3,863.60
o. Tax Map Maintenance-----	\$ 3,300.00
p. Appointed Treasurer Salary-----	\$16,800.00
q. Treasurer's Expenses -----	\$ 3,200.00
r. Treasurer's Tax Title Expense -----	\$ 5,000.00
s. Interest and Issuance on Short-Term Notes-----	\$ 3,000.00
t. Insurance (Workman's Comp. & general property)--	\$18,000.00
u. Medicare Taxes for Town Employees-----	\$ 4,796.00
v. Auditing Expenses-----	\$ 6,000.00
w. Accounting Officer Salary -----	\$18,200.00
x. Accounting Officer Expenses-----	\$ 250.00
y. Accounting Software (Vadar)-----	\$ 3,575.00
z. Appointed Tax Collector Salary-----	\$15,950.00
aa. Assistant Tax Collector's Salary -----	\$ 2,200.00
bb. Tax Collector Certification Stipend-----	\$ 1,000.00
cc. Tax Collector's Expenses -----	\$ 4,500.00
dd. Tax Collector's Tax Title Expenses -----	\$ 2,000.00
ee. Town Clerk's Expenses -----	\$ 3,000.00
ff. Clerk of Board of Registrars-----	\$ 100.00
gg. Computer Support – Accessible Voting-----	\$ 1,200.00
hh. Records Preservation Account -----	\$ 2,500.00
ii. Town Reports -----	\$ 1,000.00
jj. Finance Committee Expenses -----	\$ 200.00
kk. Conservation Commission-----	\$ 250.00
ll. Zoning Enforcement Officer's Expense Account-----	\$ 250.00
mm. Zoning Board of Appeals Expenses-----	\$ 200.00

Article 7 passed unanimously by voice vote

Article 8: 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 2023.

Article 8 passed unanimously by voice vote

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$124,597.00 for Capital Costs of the Central Berkshire Regional School District to be appropriated as follows:

- a. Becket-Washington School (Debt Exclusion) FY25----\$27,863.00
- b. Wahconah Regional High School – Doors, FY29-----\$ 4,635.00
- c. Craneville Roof, FY23----- \$ 0.00
- d. WRHS Building Project (Debt Exclusion), FY47----- \$92,099.00

Article 9 passed unanimously by voice vote

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to approve the Central Berkshire Regional School District budget for the 2023 fiscal year, as adopted on March 10, 2022, by two thirds vote of the Regional School Committee, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$761,459.00 for the operation of the Central Berkshire Regional School District to be appropriated as follows:

- a. Required Local Contribution-----\$544,805.00
- b. Transportation Assessment----- \$ 23,429.00
- c. Basic Budget Balance----- \$193,225.00

Article 10 passed unanimously by voice vote

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$107,376.00 for Vocational Education Tuition to be appropriated as follows:

- a. Vocational Education Tuition----- \$ 76,000.00
- b. Vocational Education Transportation McCann----- \$ 13,500.00
- c. Vocational Education Transportation Smith & Taconic---\$ 14,000.00
- d. Vocational Education Transportation Maintenance----- \$ 3,000.00
- e. Vocational Education Vehicle Insurance----- \$ 876.00

Article 11 passed unanimously by voice vote

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 623,255.00 for the Highway Department to be appropriated as follows:

- a. Salaries ----- \$161,680.00
- b. Winter Road Overtime----- \$ 16,000.00
- c. Non-Winter Overtime----- \$ 6,400.00
- d. Road & Bridge Maintenance----- \$ 80,000.00
- e. Winter Snow & Ice Removal----- \$105,000.00
- f. Engineering Consultation----- \$ 8,100.00
- g. Tree Work----- \$ 14,160.00
- h. Fuel----- \$ 25,000.00
- i. Machinery Repair----- \$ 27,000.00

- j. General Maintenance, Tools & Supplies-----\$ 35,000.00
- k. Highway Department Operating Expenses-----\$ 18,000.00
- l. Highway Equipment Insurance-----\$ 15,672.00
- m. Health, Dental, Life Insurance (town share)-----\$ 70,000.00
- n. Berkshire County Retirement-----\$ 41,243.00

Article 12 passed unanimously by voice vote

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$69,614.36 for health and safety accounts to be appropriated as follows:

- a. Becket Fire Department – fire protection ----- \$ 16,154.00
- b. Becket Firemen’s Association ----- \$ 250.00
- c. Police Salary----- \$ 12,785.00
- d. Police Department Expenses ----- \$ 3,600.00
- e. Police Department Telecommunication----- \$ 3,500.00
- f. Police Coverage for Pumpkin Walk ----- \$ 0.00
- g. Police and Fire Department Insurance----- \$ 8,200.00
- h. Enhanced 911 ----- \$ 10,498.36
- i. Animal Control Officer Reimbursements ----- \$ 800.00
- j. Animal Control Officer Expenses ----- \$ 250.00
- k. Board of Health Expenses ----- \$ 1,500.00
- l. Health Agent (Berkshire Public Health Alliance)----- \$ 4,207.00
- m. Public Health Nurse----- \$ 2,310.00
- n. Building Inspector Salary ----- \$ 5,460.00
- o. Building Inspector Expenses ----- \$ 100.00

Article 13 passed unanimously by voice vote

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$28,505.00 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 ----- \$ 7,323.00
- d. Veteran’s Services Inter-Municipal Agreement----- \$ 2,250.00
- e. Council on Aging ----- \$ 1,500.00
- f. Donation to the Becket Athenaeum Operating----- \$ 9,484.00
- g. Donation to the Becket Athenaeum Capital----- \$ 2,000.00
- h. Washington TRACKS ----- \$ 2,448.00
- i. Becket Beach----- \$ 2,500.00
- j. Wired West Dues ----- \$ 0.00

Article 14 passed unanimously by voice vote

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$46,237.00 for operation of the Solid Waste Transfer Station to be appropriated as follows:

- a. Operating Expenses----- \$35,000.00
- b. Attendant Labor----- \$ 9,537.00
- c. Facility Maintenance----- \$ 1,700.00

Article 15 passed unanimously by voice vote

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 70,350.00 to pay notes and interest due on the following:

- a. Culverts, FY33----- \$30,842.00
- b. 5500 Plow & Sander, FY23----- \$ 6,508.00
- c. Last-Mile Fiber Network, FY34 (debt exclusion)----- \$33,000.00

Article 16 passed unanimously by voice vote

Article 17: To see if the Town will appropriate from the Stabilization Fund the sum of \$23,845.00 to cover a partial required principal payment on the Town's Broadband Fiber Network debt. (Two-thirds vote required.)

Article 17 passed by hand-counted vote (38 Yes; 0 No)

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 32,150.00 for the following buildings, grounds, and equipment accounts:

- a. Town Buildings Operating Expenses----- \$13,000.00
- b. Town Hall Repair and Maintenance----- \$ 5,500.00
- c. Custodian Reimbursement----- \$ 3,500.00
- d. Maintenance Coordinator Reimbursement----- \$ 650.00
- e. Town Office Equipment and Support----- \$ 3,000.00
- f. Town Offices Supplies and Services----- \$ 1,000.00
- g. Historical Properties Repairs and Maintenance----- \$ 1,500.00
- h. Stained Glass Restoration – St. Andrew's Chapel----- \$ 1,500.00
- i. Town Park----- \$ 2,500.00

Article 18 passed unanimously by voice vote

Article 19: To see if the Town will appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$19,500.00 for Saint Andrews Chapel masonry repairs.

Article 19 passed unanimously by voice vote

Article 20: To see if the Town will appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$8,000.00 to purchase tires for the Highway Department grader.

Article 20 passed unanimously by voice vote

Article 21: To see if the Town will appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$14,160.00 to remove dying ash trees that present a liability along Town roads and public ways.

Article 21 passed unanimously by voice vote

Article 22: To see if the Town will appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$40,000.00 to replace the remaining third section of the Town Hall roof.

Article 22 passed unanimously by voice vote

Article 23: To see if the Town will transfer the sum of \$20,000.00 from Free Cash into the Stabilization Account.

Article 23 passed unanimously by voice vote

Article 24: To see if the Town will accept the provisions of General Laws Chapter 60, Section 15B, which allows the Town to establish by vote or bylaw/ordinance one or more tax title collection revolving funds for the tax collector or treasurer or treasurer-collector.

Article 24 passed unanimously by voice vote

Article 25: To see if the Town will amend its Departmental Revolving Funds bylaw to add the following authorized revolving fund to Table 11.1 for the collection and payment of certain tax title fees:

- a. Revolving Fund: Tax-Title Fees & Charges
- b. Officer Authorized to Spend from Fund: Tax Collector or Treasurer
- c. Fees, Charges or Receipts Credited to Fund: Fees, charges and costs collected for tax-title proceedings under M.G.L. Ch 60 §§15, 55, 62, 65, 68, or 79
- d. Expenses Payable from Fund: Fees, charges and costs incurred for tax-title proceedings under M.G.L. Ch 60 §§15, 55, 62, 65, 68, or 79
- e. Restrictions or Conditions on Expenses Payable from Fund: None
- f. Other Requirements/Reports: An annual report shall be provided to the Select Board detailing total receipts and expenditures for the prior fiscal year
- g. Fiscal Years: Fiscal Year 2023 and all subsequent years

Article 25 passed unanimously by voice vote

Article 26: To see if the Town will amend its Departmental Revolving Funds bylaw to add the following authorized revolving fund to Table 11.1 for the collection of fees and payment of charges related to the use of the Becket Beach:

- a. Revolving Fund: Becket Beach Fund
- b. Officer Authorized to Spend from Fund: Parks Commission chair
- c. Fees, Charges or Receipts Credited to Fund: Fees charged and received by the Town for sale of Becket Beach passes, as well as any fund-raising activities and donations therefor
- d. Expenses Payable from Fund: Fees and assessments directly related to Becket Beach access for Washington residents
- e. Restrictions or Conditions on Expenses Payable from Fund: None
- f. Other Requirements/Reports: An annual report shall be provided to the Select Board detailing total receipts and expenditures for the prior fiscal year
- g. Fiscal Years: Fiscal Year 2022 and all subsequent years

Article 26 passed unanimously by voice vote

Article 27: 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 \$7,000

- i. Becket Beach Fund: Expenditures not to exceed \$3,500

Article 27 passed unanimously by voice vote

Article 28: To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to appoint a Town Administrator per General Laws Chapter 41, Section 23A.

Article 28 passed unanimously by voice vote

Article 29: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000.00 for the initial year compensation for a part-time Town Administrator.

Article 29 passed unanimously by voice vote

Article 30: To see if the Town will choose all other Town Officers not required by law to be chosen by ballot: 2 Field Drivers (Edwin Neumuth, Dominic Sinopoli), 2 Fence Viewers (Patricia Drugmand, Kermit Pruyne), 1 Surveyor of Lumber (Sean Connors), 1 Measurer of Wood and Bark (Sean Connors), 1 Sexton (Christopher Primi), and 1 Assistant Sexton (Virginia Pillozzi). All nominations for the above-mentioned officers to be made from the floor.

Slate of officers nominated are show above in ().

Article 30 passed unanimously by voice vote

Respectfully submitted,



Allison Mikaniewicz

Town Clerk

Washington

May 11, 2022