

TOWN OF WASHINGTON  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING RESULTS  
MAY 6, 2015

**Article 1:** To see if the Town will vote to adopt the proposed zoning amendments to the Town of Washington's Zoning Bylaws with respect to home occupations (aka home based businesses) proposed by the Planning Board, as more particularly described below, or to take any other action relating thereto:

**Amend Section 2 by deleting the entire existing definition of "Home Occupation" and replacing with a new definition as follows:**

Home Based Business: any business, profession, occupation or trade conducted for gain or support within a dwelling or accessory building thereto where such use is incidental and secondary to the use of the property for residential purposes and which does not change the essential residential character of the building and property.

- A. **Home Based Business – General:** a home based business carried on solely by one or more residents of the dwelling and up to one non-resident employee.
  
- B. **Home Based Business – Special:** a home based business carried on by one or more residents of the dwelling and at least one of the following:
  - 1. Two (2) or more non-resident employees are employed at the home based business.
  - 2. Two (2) or more non-resident employees drive to the home based business and work off-site.
  - 3. On-site retail sales are part of the home based business.
  - 4. Client or customer visits are expected to exceed five (5) per day.
  - 5. The use, storage or manufacture of any highly toxic, explosive, flammable, combustible, corrosive, radioactive or similar hazardous materials on the premises in amounts exceeding those which are typically found in residential uses.

**Amend Section 4.1.5 by deleting the existing clause (A) along with its sub-clauses 1, 2, and 3, and replacing with a new clause (A) as follows to allow by-right:**

(A) Home Based Business - General

**Amend Section 4.2.6 as follows to allow by special permit: (and to renumber the remaining sections accordingly)**

4.2.6 Home Based Business – Special

**Amend to add a new section 6.6 as follows:**

Section 6.6 (new) HOME BASED BUSINESS

**A. Standards for All Home Based Businesses**

1. No external evidence of the home based business other than a permitted sign for the identification of the business as allowed by Section 6.4.
2. Any outside storage of inventory, equipment or commercial vehicles registered to the home based business with a gross vehicle weight rating of 10,001 lbs. or greater related to the home based business shall be screened with mature native vegetation, earthen berms, fencing or similar measures so as to not be visible from adjacent properties and the public right-of-way.
3. Sufficient off-street parking shall be provided for the residents of the dwelling, the non-resident employees and clients/customers.
4. Excluding parcel delivery services, commercial freight deliveries related to the home based business shall be limited to two per day.
5. Any outdoor lighting for the home based business shall be shielded or directed away from adjacent properties.

#### **B. Reasonable Conditions for Home Based Business - Special**

The Planning Board may impose reasonable conditions on the special permit for a home based business - special including, but not limited to a restriction on the hours of operation, number of non-resident employees, number of commercial vehicles, maximum floor area, off-street parking and the maximum number of customers/clients visiting the home based business - special.

**Amended Article 1 passed by 2/3 majority vote: 101 for; 5 against**

**Article 2:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$770,000.00 for the Town's share of the costs of construction, installation and start-up of a regional broadband network, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, such project to be carried out by the Town's Municipal Light Plant acting as a member of a cooperative of such Plants formed under Chapter 164, Section 47C of the General Laws; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow \$770,000.00 under Chapter 44, Section 8(8) of the General Laws or any other enabling authority; that the Board of Selectmen and any other Town official is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this project.

**Article 2 passed by 2/3 majority vote: 102 for; 7 against**

**Article 3:** To see if the town will approve the completion of the existing memorial by including the names of Washington citizens who participated in the Revolution, the War of 1812, the Civil War, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

**Article 3 passed unanimously**

**Article 4:** To see if the Town will fund the restoration of the Eden Glen Pond and Recreational area.

**Vote to table Article 4 passed by 2/3 majority**

**Article 5:** 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 5 passed unanimously**

**Article 6:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenue for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016, 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 6 passed by 2/3 majority vote**

**Article 7:** 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, 2015:

a) Town Clerk -----	\$7,650.00
b) Tax Collector-----	\$3,963.00
c) Chairman, Assessors-----	\$3,570.00
d) Clerk, Assessors-----	\$3,213.00
e) 3 <sup>rd</sup> Member, Assessors-----	\$ 0.00
f) Chairman, Selectmen-----	\$2,426.00
g) Clerk, Selectmen-----	\$2,426.00
h) 3 <sup>rd</sup> Member, Selectmen-----	\$2,426.00
i) Moderator-----	\$ 69.00

**Article 7 passed unanimously**

**Article 8:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,743.00 for Elected Officers' salaries.

**Article 8 passed unanimously**

**Article 9:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$148,075.34 for general government accounts to be appropriated as follows:

a. Reserve Account -----	\$20,000.00
b. Town Counsel Yearly Retainer -----	\$ 3,000.00
c. Town Counsel's Expenses -----	\$ 150.00
d. Administrative Assistant Salary -----	\$19,800.00
e. Selectmen's Expenses -----	\$ 3,000.00
f. Planning Board Expenses -----	\$ 275.00
g. Public notices for bylaws-----	\$ 0.00
h. Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission -----	\$ 388.34
i. Town Treasurer's Expenses -----	\$ 4,000.00
j. Treasurer's Tax Title Expense -----	\$ 1,000.00
k. Appointed Treasurer Reimbursement-----	\$13,000.00
l. Treasurer and Accounting Officer Software -----	\$ 3,000.00
m. Tax Collector's Expenses -----	\$ 3,500.00
n. Assistant Tax Collector's Salary -----	\$ 4,425.00

o. Tax Collector's Tax Title Expenses -----	\$ 3,500.00
p. Town Clerk's Expenses -----	\$ 2,500.00
q. Records Preservation Account -----	\$ 0.00
r. Assessors' Expenses -----	\$ 2,000.00
s. Assessors Computer Services-----	\$ 1,925.00
t. Assessor's Consulting Services -----	\$12,000.00
u. Zoning Board of Appeals Expenses-----	\$ 240.00
v. Finance Committee's Expenses -----	\$ 200.00
w. Moderator's Expenses -----	\$ 20.00
x. Insurance -----	\$25,000.00
y. Town Reports and Postage -----	\$ 1,000.00
z. Interest on Short Term Notes -----	\$ 3,500.00
aa. Accounting Officer Salary -----	\$12,852.00
bb. Accounting Officer Expenses-----	\$ 800.00
cc. Clerk of Board of Registrars -----	\$ 100.00
dd. Medicare taxes for Town employees -----	\$ 4,000.00
ee. Tax map Maintenance -----	\$ 900.00
ff. Computer Support – Accessible Voting-----	\$ 1,000.00
gg. Zoning Enforcement Officer's Expense Account -----	\$ 1,000.00

**Article 9 passed unanimously**

**Article 10:** 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 \$600.00 as the town's share of the expenses for the administration of the Berkshire Region Group Purchasing program for Fiscal Year 2016.

**Article 10 passed unanimously**

**Article 11:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$59,332.00 for Capital Costs of the Central Berkshire Regional School District to be appropriated as follows:

a) Becket-Washington School-----	\$51,206.00
b) Nessacus Middle School-----	\$ 3,515.00
c) Wahconah Regional High School-----	\$ 2,497.00
d) Craneville Roof-----	\$ 344.00
e) Kittridge -----	\$ 340.00
f) Kittridge Windows-----	\$ 365.00
g) Craneville HVACC-----	\$ 88.00
h) Security Updates-----	\$ 977.00

**Article 11 passed unanimously**

**Article 12:** To see if the Town will vote to approve the Central Berkshire Regional School District budget for the 2015 fiscal year, as adopted on March 12, 2015, by two thirds vote of the Regional School Committee, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$618,255.00 for the operation of the Central Berkshire Regional School District to be appropriated as follows:

a) Minimum Contribution-----	\$460,235.00
b) Transportation Assessment-----	\$ 31,415.00

c) Basic Budget Balance----- \$126,605.00

**Article 12 passed unanimously**

**Article 13:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$17,556.00 for Vocational Education Tuition.

**Article 13 passed unanimously**

**Article 14:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,400.00 for Vocational Education Transportation.

**Article 14 passed unanimously**

**Article 15:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 448,317.00 for the Highway Department to be appropriated as follows:

- a) Salaries ----- \$110,708.00
- b) Vacation & Holidays ----- \$ 10,360.00
- c) Sick Days ----- \$ 1,652.00
- d) Winter Road Maintenance----- \$ 77,000.00
- e) Winter Road Overtime----- \$ 14,000.00
- f) Road & Bridge Maintenance----- \$ 40,800.00
- g) Machinery Maintenance ----- \$ 36,000.00
- h) Fuel ----- \$ 30,000.00
- i) Health, Dental and Life Insurance ----- \$ 23,000.00
- j) Berkshire County Retirement System ----- \$ 24,297.00
- k) Gravel Road Account ----- \$ 28,000.00
- l) Tree Work ----- \$ 4,000.00
- m) Road Sealing ----- \$ 20,000.00
- n) Office and Shop Supplies ----- \$ 3,500.00
- o) Maintenance of Buildings ----- \$ 20,000.00
- p) Unemployment Account----- \$ 5,000.00

**Article 15 passed unanimously**

**Article 16:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$43,657.22 for health and safety accounts to be appropriated as follows:

- a) Becket Fire Department – fire protection ----- \$ 10,000.00
- b) Becket Firemen’s Association ----- \$ 250.00
- c) Police Salaries ----- \$ 10,400.00
- d) Police Department Expenses ----- \$ 2,500.00
- e) Police Coverage for Pumpkin Walk ----- \$ 282.00
- f) Police Department Fuel ----- \$ 0.00
- g) Enhanced 911 ----- \$ 8,536.13
- h) Dog Officer Reimbursements ----- \$ 400.00
- i) Dog Officer Expenses ----- \$ 200.00
- j) Animal Inspector ----- \$ 400.00
- k) Board of Health Expenses ----- \$ 200.00
- l) Health Agent (Berkshire Public Health Alliance) \$ 2,000.00
- m) Public Health Nurse----- \$ 1,124.09

- n) Donation to the Brien Center ----- \$ 165.00  
(Mental Health Services)
- o) Building Inspector Salary ----- \$ 6,200.00
- p) Building Inspector Expenses ----- \$ 1,000.00

**Article 16 passed unanimously**

**Article 17:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$22,286.90 for services to the Washington community to be appropriated as follows:

- a) Sons and Daughters Reunion ----- \$ 500.00
- b) Veteran’s Aid  
(accumulation fund, goal = \$15,000.00)-----\$ 5,386.90
- c) Veteran’s Agent Expense Account -----\$ 2,050.00
- d) Veteran’s Agent Reimbursement -----\$ 1,000.00
- e) Council on Aging ----- \$ 1,500.00
- f) Donation to the Becket Athenaeum -----\$ 7,900.00
- g) Becket Athenaeum Capital----- \$ 1,000.00
- h) Elizabeth Freeman (Women’s Services) Center--\$ 100.00
- i) Washington TRACKS ----- \$ 1,850.00
- j) Becket Beach----- \$ 1,000.00

**Article 17 passed unanimously**

**Article 18:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$36,736.80 for operation of the Solid Waste Transfer Station to be appropriated as follows:

- a) Operating Expenses ----- \$25,000.00
- b) Attendant Labor ----- \$ 8,000.00
- c) Southern Berkshire Solid Waste Municipal District \$ 1,936.80
- d) Facility Maintenance ----- \$ 1,800.00

**Article 18 passed unanimously**

**Article 19:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 46,672.22 to pay notes and interest due on the following:

- a) Town Garage ----- \$ 9,200.00
- b) Police Cruiser----- \$ 6,400.00
- c) School Bus ----- \$ 8,700.00
- d) Plow Truck ----- \$22,372.22

**Article 19 passed unanimously**

**Article 20:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 39,320.00 for the following buildings, grounds, and equipment accounts:

- a) Town Building Maintenance ----- \$22,000.00
- b) Custodian Reimbursement ----- \$ 3,320.00
- c) Maintenance Coordinator Reimbursement ----- \$ 500.00
- d) Town Building Repairs ----- \$ 7,500.00
- e) Town Office Equipment ----- \$ 1,000.00
- f) Town Office Equipment Maintenance and Supplies \$ 2,000.00
- g) Stained Glass Restoration– St. Andrew’s Chapel --- \$ 1,500.00

h) Cemetery Headstone Repairs -----	\$ 500.00
i) War Memorial-----	\$ 1,000.00

**Article 20 passed unanimously**

**Article 21:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,400.00 for the Town Park Account.

**Article 21 passed unanimously**

**Article 22:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$300.00 for the Conservation Commission account.

**Article 22 passed unanimously**

**Article 23:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$50,000.00 from Free Cash to the Stabilization account.

**Article 23 passed unanimously**

**Article 24:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$50,000.00 from Free Cash in order to reduce the Fiscal Year 2016 tax rate.

**Article 24 passed unanimously**

**Article 25:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200.00 for the Historical Commission account.

**Article 25 passed unanimously**

**Article 26:** To see if the Town will vote to set up a Revolving Account and to further establish a revolving fund pursuant to Chapter 44 Section 53E½ of the General Laws to account for the receipts of each of the following departments:

- a) Fire Inspector: Amount of receipts not to exceed \$1,000.00
- b) Electrical Inspector: Amount of receipts not to exceed \$1,000.00
- c) Gas Inspector: Amount of receipts not to exceed \$1,000.00
- d) Plumbing Inspector: Amount of receipts not to exceed \$1,000.00
- f) Compost Bins: Amount of receipts not to exceed \$1,000.00
- g) Recycling Bins: Amount of receipts not to exceed \$1,000.00
- h) Town of Washington Tee Shirts: Amount of receipts not to exceed \$1,000.00
- i) Board of Health Inspector: Amount of receipts not to exceed \$2,500.00
- j) St. Andrew’s Chapel Rentals and Maintenance: Amount of receipts not to exceed \$2,500.00
- k) Washington Tracks Newsletter: Amount of receipts not to exceed \$1,850.00
- l) Washington Council on Aging Donations: Amount of receipts not to exceed \$1000.00
- m) Washington Historical Commission: Amount of receipts not to exceed \$1000.00
- n) Washington Town Park: Amount of receipts not to exceed \$5,800.00

**Article 26 passed unanimously**

**Article 27:** 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 and Mark Newton**), 1 Pound Keeper (**Victor Breen**), 2 Fence Viewers (**Patricia Drugmand and Mark Newton**), 1 Surveyor of Lumber (**Sean Connors**), 1 Measurer of Wood and Bark (**Sean Connors**), 1 Sexton (**Richard Grillon**), and 1

Assistant Sexton (**Shaun Lennon**). All nominations for the above mentioned officers to be made from the floor.

**Article 27 passed unanimously**

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Allison Mikanewicz

Town Clerk

May 11, 2015

A true copy attest