

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – FY 2017
WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2016

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 1 passed unanimously

Article 2: 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, 2016 and ending June 30, 2017, 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 2 passed unanimously

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, 2016:

a) Town Clerk -----	\$7,841.00
b) Tax Collector-----	\$4,062.00
c) Chairman, Assessors-----	\$3,659.00
d) Clerk, Assessors-----	\$3,293.00
e) 3 rd Member, Assessors-----	\$ 0.00
f) Chairman, Selectmen-----	\$2,487.00
g) Clerk, Selectmen-----	\$2,487.00
h) 3 rd Member, Selectmen-----	\$2,487.00
i) Moderator-----	\$ 71.00

Article 3 passed unanimously

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$26,387.00 for Elected Officers' salaries.

Article 4 passed unanimously

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$134,454.55 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 -----	\$20,295.00
e. Selectmen’s Expenses -----	\$ 3,000.00
f. Planning Board Expenses -----	\$ 300.00
g. Public notices for bylaws-----	\$ 0.00
h. Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission -----	\$ 398.05
i. Town Treasurer’s Expenses -----	\$ 3,500.00
j. Treasurer’s Tax Title Expense -----	\$ 200.00
k. Appointed Treasurer Reimbursement-----	\$13,325.00
l. Treasurer and Accounting Officer Software -----	\$ 2,500.00
m. Tax Collector’s Expenses -----	\$ 3,500.00
n. Assistant Tax Collector's Salary -----	\$ 4,436.00
o. Tax Collector’s Tax Title Expenses -----	\$ 3,500.00
p. Town Clerk’s Expenses -----	\$ 3,000.00
q. Records Preservation Account -----	\$ 2,500.00
r. Assessors’ Expenses -----	\$ 2,000.00
s. Assessors Computer Services-----	\$ 2,662.50
t. Assessor’s Consulting Services -----	\$12,300.00
u. Zoning Board of Appeals Expenses-----	\$ 240.00
v. Finance Committee’s Expenses -----	\$ 200.00
w. Moderator’s Expenses -----	\$ 20.00
x. Insurance -----	\$ 7,955.00
y. Town Reports and Postage -----	\$ 1,000.00
z. Interest on Short Term Notes -----	\$ 4,000.00
aa. Accounting Officer Salary -----	\$13,173.00
bb. Accounting Officer Expenses-----	\$ 200.00
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 5 amended as follows:

Amended Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$134,454.55 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 -----	\$20,295.00
e. Selectmen’s Expenses -----	\$ 3,000.00
f. Planning Board Expenses -----	\$ 300.00
g. Public notices for bylaws-----	\$ 0.00

h. Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission -----	\$ 398.05
i. Town Treasurer's Expenses -----	\$ 3,500.00
j. Treasurer's Tax Title Expense -----	\$ 200.00
k. Appointed Treasurer Reimbursement-----	\$13,325.00
l. Treasurer and Accounting Officer Software -----	\$ 2,500.00
m. Tax Collector's Expenses -----	\$ 3,500.00
n. Assistant Tax Collector's Salary -----	\$ 4,536.00
o. Tax Collector's Tax Title Expenses -----	\$ 3,500.00
p. Town Clerk's Expenses -----	\$ 3,000.00
q. Records Preservation Account -----	\$ 2,500.00
r. Assessors' Expenses -----	\$ 2,000.00
s. Assessors Computer Services-----	\$ 2,662.50
t. Assessor's Consulting Services -----	\$12,300.00
u. Zoning Board of Appeals Expenses-----	\$ 240.00
v. Finance Committee's Expenses -----	\$ 200.00
w. Moderator's Expenses -----	\$ 20.00
x. Insurance -----	\$ 7,955.00
y. Town Reports and Postage -----	\$ 1,000.00
z. Interest on Short Term Notes -----	\$ 4,000.00
aa. Accounting Officer Salary -----	\$13,173.00
bb. Accounting Officer Expenses-----	\$ 200.00
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

Amended Article 5 passed unanimously

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 \$600.00 as the town's share of the expenses for the administration of the Berkshire Region Group Purchasing program for Fiscal Year 2017.

Article 6 passed unanimously

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$51,464.00 for Capital Costs of the Central Berkshire Regional School District to be appropriated as follows:

a) Becket-Washington School-----	\$45,449.00
b) Nessacus Middle School-----	\$ 2,669.00
c) Wahconah Regional High School -Sidewalk-----	\$ 253.00
d) Wahconah Regional High School – Renovation-----	\$ 2,239.00
e) Craneville Roof-----	\$ 167.00
f) Kittridge -----	\$ 115.00
g) Kittridge Windows-----	\$ 359.00
h) Craneville HVACC-----	\$ 42.00
i) Security Updates-----	\$ 414.00

j) Fiscal Year 2016 Adjustment----- \$ (243.00)

Article 7 passed unanimously

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to approve the Central Berkshire Regional School District budget for the 2017 fiscal year, as adopted on March 10, 2016, by two thirds vote of the Regional School Committee, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$634,387.00 for the operation of the Central Berkshire Regional School District to be appropriated as follows:

- a) Minimum Contribution----- \$473,030.00
- b) Transportation Assessment----- \$ 29,088.00
- c) Basic Budget Balance----- \$132,269.00

Article 8 passed unanimously

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$36,000.00 for Vocational Education Tuition.

Article 9 passed unanimously

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,400.00 for Vocational Education Transportation.

Article 10 passed unanimously

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$664.00 for Vocational Education Vehicle Insurance.

Article 11 passed unanimously

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 509,161.00 for the Highway Department to be appropriated as follows:

- a) Salaries ----- \$126,880.00
- b) Health, Dental, Life Insurance (town share)----- \$ 53,130.00
- c) Berkshire County Retirement----- \$ 26,336.00
- d) Unemployment Account----- \$ 5,000.00
- e) Winter Road Overtime----- \$ 12,000.00
- f) Other Overtime----- \$ 5,000.00
- g) Road & Bridge Maintenance----- \$ 70,000.00
- h) Winter Road Maintenance----- \$ 93,000.00
- i) Machinery Maintenance ----- \$ 30,000.00
- j) Fuel (excluding school bus and cruiser)----- \$ 24,000.00
- k) Health, Dental and Life Insurance ----- \$ 23,000.00
- l) Tree Work ----- \$ 6,000.00
- m) General Maintenance----- \$ 19,000.00
- n) Operating Expenses----- \$ 19,000.00
- o) Highway Department Insurance----- \$ 15,815.00

Article 12 amended as follows:

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 505,161.00 for the Highway Department to be appropriated as follows:

a) Salaries -----	\$126,880.00
b) Health, Dental, Life Insurance (town share)-----	\$ 53,130.00
c) Berkshire County Retirement-----	\$ 26,336.00
d) Unemployment Account-----	\$ 5,000.00
e) Winter Road Overtime-----	\$ 12,000.00
f) Other Overtime-----	\$ 5,000.00
g) Road & Bridge Maintenance-----	\$ 70,000.00
h) Winter Road Maintenance-----	\$ 93,000.00
i) Machinery Maintenance -----	\$ 30,000.00
j) Fuel (excluding school bus and cruiser-----	\$ 24,000.00
k) Health, Dental and Life Insurance -----	\$ 23,000.00
l) Tree Work -----	\$ 6,000.00
m) General Maintenance-----	\$ 19,000.00
n) Operating Expenses-----	\$ 19,000.00
o) Highway Department Insurance-----	\$ 15,815.00

Amended Article 12 passed unanimously

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$54,666.21 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 -----	\$ 10,660.00
d) Police Department Expenses -----	\$ 2,500.00
e) Police Coverage for Pumpkin Walk -----	\$ 320.00
f) Police Department Fuel -----	\$ 0.00
g) Enhanced 911 -----	\$ 8,792.21
h) Dog Officer Reimbursements -----	\$ 400.00
i) Dog Officer Expenses -----	\$ 200.00
j) Animal Inspector -----	\$ 400.00
k) Board of Health Expenses -----	\$ 500.00
l) Health Agent (Berkshire Public Health Alliance)-----	\$ 2,000.00
m) Public Health Nurse-----	\$ 1,152.00
n) Building Inspector Salary -----	\$ 5,382.00
o) Building Inspector Expenses -----	\$ 1,000.00
p) Police and Fire Insurance-----	\$ 6,498.00

Article 13 amended as follows:

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$54,666.21 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 -----	\$ 10,660.00
d) Police Department Expenses -----	\$ 2,500.00
e) Police Coverage for Pumpkin Walk -----	\$ 320.00
f) Police Department Fuel -----	\$ 0.00
f) Police Department Telephone Expense -----	\$ 4,512.00

g) Enhanced 911 -----	\$ 8,792.21
h) Dog Officer Reimbursements -----	\$ 400.00
i) Dog Officer Expenses -----	\$ 200.00
j) Animal Inspector -----	\$ 400.00
k) Board of Health Expenses -----	\$ 500.00
l) Health Agent (Berkshire Public Health Alliance)-----	\$ 2,100.00
m) Public Health Nurse-----	\$ 1,152.00
n) Building Inspector Salary -----	\$ 5,382.00
o) Building Inspector Expenses -----	\$ 1,000.00
p) Police and Fire Insurance-----	\$ 6,498.00

Amended Article 13 passes unanimously

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$21,698.00 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)-----	\$ 5,500.00
c) Council on Aging -----	\$ 1,500.00
d) Donation to the Becket Athenaeum -----	\$ 8,098.00
e) Becket Athenaeum Capital-----	\$ 1,000.00
f) Elizabeth Freeman (Women’s Services) Center-----	\$ 0.00
g) Washington TRACKS -----	\$ 1,850.00
h) Becket Beach-----	\$ 1,000.00
i) Wired West Voluntary Donation-----	\$ 500.00

Article 14 amended as follows:

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$22,198.00** 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)-----	\$ 5,500.00
c) Council on Aging -----	\$ 1,500.00
d) Donation to the Becket Athenaeum -----	\$ 8,098.00
e) Becket Athenaeum Capital-----	\$ 1,000.00
f) Elizabeth Freeman (Women’s Services) Center-----	\$ 0.00
g) Washington TRACKS -----	\$ 1,850.00
h) Becket Beach-----	\$ 1,000.00
i) Wired West Voluntary Donation-----	\$ 500.00
j) Veteran’s Services Inter-Municipal-----	\$ 2,250.00

Article 14 passed unanimously

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$42,936.80 for operation of the Solid Waste Transfer Station to be appropriated as follows:

a) Operating Expenses-----	\$25,000.00
b) Attendant Labor-----	\$ 8,200.00
c) Southern Berkshire Solid Waste Municipal District----	\$ 1,936.80

d) Facility Maintenance----- \$ 7,800.00

Article 15 passed unanimously

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 30,102.00 to pay notes and interest due on the following:

- a) School Bus ----- \$ 8,502.00
- b) Plow Truck ----- \$21,600.00

Article 16 passed unanimously

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 28,956.00 for the following buildings, grounds, and equipment accounts:

- a) Town Operating Expenses----- \$13,000.00
- b) Town Hall Repair and Maintenance----- \$ 4,400.00
- c) Custodian Reimbursement----- \$ 3,403.00
- d) Maintenance Coordinator Reimbursement----- \$ 513.00
- e) Town Office Equipment and Support----- \$ 2,400.00
- f) Town Offices Supplies and Services----- \$ 1,240.00
- g) Stained Glass Restoration – St. Andrew’s Chapel----- \$ 1,500.00
- h) Historical Properties Repairs and Maintenance----- \$ 2,000.00
- i) Cemetery Headstone Repairs----- \$ 500.00
- j) War Memorial----- \$ 0.00

Article 17 passed unanimously

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500.00 for the Town Park Account.

Article 18 passed unanimously

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$300.00 for the Conservation Commission account.

Article 19 passed unanimously

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$20,000.00 from Free Cash to the Stabilization account.

Article 20 passed unanimously

Article 21: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$55,000.00 from Free Cash in order to reduce the Fiscal Year 2016 tax rate.

Article 21 passed unanimously

Article 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$400.00 for the Historical Commission account.

Article 22 passed unanimously

Article 23: 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 23 passed unanimously

Article 24: To see if the Town will choose all other Town Officers not required by law to be chosen by ballot: 2 Field Drivers, 1 Pound Keeper, 2 Fence Viewers, 1 Surveyor of Lumber, 1 Measurer of Wood and Bark, 1 Sexton, and 2 Assistant Sextons. All nominations for the above mentioned officers to be made from the floor.

- **Field Drivers: Edwin Neumuth and Victor Breen**
- **Pound Keeper: Victor Breen**
- **Fence Viewers: Patraicia Drugmand and Mark Newton**
- **Surveyor of Lumber: Sean Connors**
- **Sexton: Richard Grillon**
- **Assistant Sextons: Shaun Lennon and David Drugmand**

Article 24 passed unanimously

Article 25: To see if the town will appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$3,945.60 to cover a prior year expense for Transfer Station Operating Expenses (multiple outstanding FY 2015 invoices from Covanta).

Article 25 passed unanimously

Article 26: To see if the Town will appropriate \$111,000 to pay costs of engineering and construction necessary to reclaim the Eden Glen Pond area and restore the dam to structural integrity, and authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, to borrow said amount, as deemed necessary to meet this appropriation.

For 13

Against 21

Article 26 failed

Article 27: Warrant Article for broadband:

Whereas bringing broadband internet service to small towns in western Massachusetts is essential to our economic viability, future opportunity, education, health care and quality of life;

Whereas in the summer of 2014 the Massachusetts legislature enacted and Governor Patrick signed a bond bill authorizing \$50 million for bringing broadband internet service to towns in western Massachusetts, including the Town of Washington;

Whereas in February 2015 the new Baker-Polito Administration affirmed its support for the bond bill and said that: "Providing high-speed broadband access to all cities and towns is not only a matter of basic fairness, but it is an essential part of building stronger communities and a stronger economy";

Whereas in the fall of 2014 the Massachusetts Broadband Institute presented a plan, jointly developed with WiredWest, for MBI to build and WiredWest to own and operate a regional "last mile" fiber broadband network in towns unserved by high-speed internet, including the Town of Washington;

Whereas that plan called for MBI to use \$40 million of those authorized funds and for the towns to contribute approximately twice that amount as their share of the cost of the project;

Whereas in May 2015 at our Annual Town Meeting, by a vote of 102-7, we authorized the Town of Washington to borrow \$770,000 designated by MBI as our town's share of the cost of construction, installation and startup of the network;

Whereas at a subsequent town election, by a vote of 76-25, we approved excluding that borrowing from the tax levy limits of Proposition 21/2;

Whereas by May 2015 over 40% of all the households in the Town of Washington had signed up for service from WiredWest and made a \$49 deposit;

Whereas MBI has failed to implement the broadband plan and has thwarted the decision of our town and other towns to work together through WiredWest on a regional fiber network;

Therefore we the people of the Town of Washington hereby affirm that we are committed to the WiredWest project, that we recognize it has risks but are deeply concerned about the risks of not solving the problem of our lack of high-speed internet access, and so we urgently request the Baker-Polito Administration:

To lift the so-called "pause" presently in effect for the last-mile program;

To instruct the Massachusetts Broadband Institute to accept input and policy direction from the towns and WiredWest, so as by June 30th, 2016 to jointly produce an actionable plan that is acceptable to the towns and that can be implemented expeditiously and without further delay;

Failing that, to engage a private sector party in lieu of MBI to build the network for WiredWest to own and operate for the benefit of our town and other towns participating in the cooperative;

To commit to the people of the Town of Washington that nearly two years after the passage of the bond bill, and one year after we authorized our town's share of funding for the WiredWest regional fiber broadband network, the project will now move forward.

Article 27 amended as follows:

Article 27: Warrant Article for broadband:

Whereas bringing broadband internet service to small towns in western Massachusetts is essential to our economic viability, future opportunity, education, health care and quality of life;

Whereas in the summer of 2014 the Massachusetts legislature enacted and Governor Patrick signed a bond bill authorizing \$50 million for bringing broadband internet service to towns in western Massachusetts, including the Town of Washington;

Whereas in February 2015 the new Baker-Polito Administration affirmed its support for the bond bill and said that: "Providing high-speed broadband access to all cities and towns is not only a matter of basic fairness, but it is an essential part of building stronger communities and a stronger economy";

Whereas in the fall of 2014 the Massachusetts Broadband Institute presented a plan, jointly developed with WiredWest, for MBI to build and WiredWest to own and operate a regional "last mile" fiber broadband network in towns unserved by high-speed internet, including the Town of Washington;

Whereas that plan called for MBI to use \$40 million of those authorized funds and for the towns to contribute approximately twice that amount as their share of the cost of the project;

Whereas in May 2015 at our Annual Town Meeting, by a vote of 102-7, we authorized the Town of Washington to borrow \$770,000 designated by MBI as our town's share of the cost of construction, installation and startup of the network;

Whereas at a subsequent town election, by a vote of 76-25, we approved excluding that borrowing from the tax levy limits of Proposition 21/2;

Whereas by May 2015 over 40% of all the households in the Town of Washington had signed up for service from WiredWest and made a \$49 deposit;

Whereas MBI has failed to implement the broadband plan and has thwarted the decision of our town and other towns to work together through WiredWest on a regional fiber network;

Therefore we the people of the Town of Washington hereby affirm that we are committed to the WiredWest project, that we recognize it has risks but are deeply concerned about the risks of not solving the problem of our lack of high-speed internet access, and so we urgently request the Baker-Polito Administration:

To lift the so-called "pause" presently in effect for the last-mile program;

To instruct the Massachusetts Broadband Institute to accept input and policy direction from the towns and WiredWest, so as by June 30th, 2016 to jointly produce an actionable plan that is acceptable to the towns and that can be implemented expeditiously and without further delay;

Failing that, to engage a private sector party in lieu of MBI to build the network for WiredWest to own and operate for the benefit of our town and other towns participating in the cooperative;

To commit to the people of the Town of Washington that nearly two years after the passage of the bond bill, and one year after we authorized our town's share of funding for the WiredWest regional fiber broadband network, the project will now move forward.

Therefore be it resolved that we commend the Baker-Polito Administration for actions it has recently taken to reboot the last-mile program, including the appointment of former Pittsfield Representative Peter Larkin as chair of the MBI Board of Directors.

Amended Article 27 passed by 2/3 majority vote



Allison Mikaniewicz
Town Clerk
Washington, Massachusetts
May 15, 2016