

Town of Belmont Deliberative Session

Saturday, February 4, 2023,
10:00 a.m.

Belmont High School Gym

Article #1 - Election of Officers

Article #1.

Selectman 3-Year Term (Vote for 1)

Selectman 2-Year Term (Vote for 1)

Selectman 1- Year Term (Vote for 1)

Budget Committee 3- Year Term (Vote for 4)

Budget Committee 2- Year Term (Vote for 1)

Budget Committee 1- Year Term (Vote for 1)

Trustee of Trust Funds 3- Year Term (Vote for 1)

Library Trustee 3- Year Term (Vote for 2)

Cemetery Trustee 3- Year Term (Vote for 1)

Planning Board 3- Year Term (Vote for 2)

Zoning Board of Adjustment 3- Year Term (Vote for 2)

Articles #2 thru #6 Zoning Amendments

Article #2 Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as summarized below?

Add housekeeping clause to Article 1 to allow the Planning Board to make non-substantive changes such as correcting typos and adding bullets without requiring a vote at Town meeting.

Article #3 Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as summarized below?

Add new definition of solar as any ground or roof mounted solar collection system, add solar as a permitted use in all Zones for agricultural and residential purposes, and add commercial solar as a permitted use in the Commercial and Industrial Zones and permitted by Special Exception in the Rural Zone.

Article #4 Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #5 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as summarized below?

Change definition of Storage Facilities in Article 15 to include shipping containers and add Shipping Containers to the Storage Vehicles and Trailers Use in Article 5 Table 1, Table of Permitted Uses.

Article #5 Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #6 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as summarized below?

Expand the definition of Day Care Facilities in Article 15 to include all establishments offering care for any individual, rather than just facilities offering care for young children.

Article #6 Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #7 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as summarized below?

Change definition of Frontage in Article 15 to clarify that Right-of-Ways do not provide frontage unless they meet the requirements of RSA 674:41.

Articles #7 & 8

Article #7 Shall the Town vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a long-term lease/purchase agreement in an amount up to Five Hundred and Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$575,000) payable over a term of sixty (60) months for a new ambulance for the Fire Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) for the down payment for that purpose and further to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of said amount from the Fire/Ambulance Equipment and Apparatus Special Revenue Fund previously established in accordance with RSA 31:95-c (Created 1994/Amended 1999). (3/5 Majority Vote Required.) **No funds to come from taxation. The current balance in the Ambulance Special Revenue Fund as of 12/31/2022 is \$705,607.50. Funds to support Articles 7, 15, 16,17,18,19 are proposed to be withdrawn from the fund.**

(The Board of Selectmen recommends **\$50,000** and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

Article #8 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the deliberative session, for the purposes set forth herein, totaling Nine Million Seven Hundred Sixteen Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy- Eight Dollars (\$9,716,878)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Nine Million Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Nine Dollars (\$9,350,799) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13 X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

Note: This warrant article (operating budget) does not include appropriations in a n y o t h e r warrant article.

(The Board of Selectmen recommends **\$9,716,878** and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

Articles #9, 10, 11 and 12- Union Contracts

Article #9 To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Town of Belmont and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, Council 93, Local 3657 (Public Safety Employees Union-Fire Unit B) for the term April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2026, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Year Increase (Wages)	Increase/(Decrease) Benefits
2023 \$40,984	\$5,531
Year Estimated Increase (Wages)	Estimated Increase/(Decrease) Benefits
2024 \$22,160	\$(1,248)
2025 \$22,567	\$7,241

And further to raise and appropriate \$46,515 for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. (Majority Vote Required.)

(The Board of Selectmen recommends **\$46,515** and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

Article #10 Shall the Town, if Warrant Article #9 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Warrant Article #9 cost items only? (Majority vote required.)

Article #11 To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Town of Belmont and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, Council 93, Local 3657 (Public Safety Employees Union-Police Unit A) for the term April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2026, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Year Increase (Wages)	Increase/(Decrease) Benefits
2023 \$65,735	\$20,960
Year Estimated Increase (Wages)	Estimated Increase/(Decrease) Benefits
2024 \$31,156	\$2,363
2025 \$31,537	\$9,892

And further to raise and appropriate \$86,695 for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. (Majority Vote Required.)

(The Board of Selectmen recommends **\$86,695** and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

Article #12 Shall the Town, if Warrant Article #11 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Warrant Article #11 cost items only? (Majority Vote Required.)

Articles # 13 and 14- Union Contracts

Article #13 To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Town of Belmont and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, Council 93, Local 534 (Public Works Employees Union) for the term April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2026, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Year Increase (Wages)	Increase/(Decrease) Benefits
2023 \$20,003	\$4,402

Year Estimated Increase (Wages)	Estimated Increase/(Decrease) Benefits
2024 \$16,118	\$2,404
2025 \$16,763	\$3,602

And further to raise and appropriate \$24,405 for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. (Majority Vote Required.)

(The Board of Selectmen recommends **\$24,405** and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

Article #14 Shall the Town, if Warrant Article #13 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Warrant Article #13 cost items only? (Majority Vote Required.)

Articles #15 and 16

Article #15 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy-Six Dollars \$60,776 for the eighth year's payment on the long term lease/purchase agreement entered into in 2016 for the purchase of a new pumper truck for the Fire Department, and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of said amount from the Fire/Ambulance Equipment and Apparatus Special Revenue Fund previously established in accordance with RSA 31:95-c (Created 1994/Amended 1999). The Town is obligated by the terms of the lease/purchase agreement, as well as the super majority ratifying that agreement in Article 4 at the 2016 Town Meeting, to make these yearly payments.

(The Board of Selectmen recommends **\$60,776** and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation)

Article #16 To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken on Article 7 at the 1999 Annual Meeting to restrict all revenues from ambulance billings to be deposited in the Special Revenue fund known as the Fire/Ambulance Equipment and Apparatus Fund to instead restrict all but the first \$124,500 of revenues from ambulance billings received during the 2023 budgetary year to be deposited in the Special Revenue fund known as the Fire/Ambulance Equipment and Apparatus Fund. The first \$124,500 of revenues from ambulance billings will be deposited in the Town's General Fund to defray the cost items identified below. This restriction shall only be effective for the 2023 budgetary year (2/3 Majority Vote Required).

Training Expenses \$3,000
Medical & Supply Expenses \$30,000
Ambulance Billing Fees \$20,000
Overtime \$40,000
Telephone \$2,000
Conferences & Dues \$1,500
Office Expense \$12,000
Vehicle Repair & Parts \$8,000
Fuel \$8,000

(The Board of Selectmen recommends **\$124,500** and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

Articles #17, 18 and 19

Article #17 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) for the cost of hose replacements for the Fire Department and further to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) from the Fire/Ambulance Equipment and Apparatus Special Revenue Fund previously established in accordance with RSA 31:95-c. (Majority Vote Required.)

(The Board of Selectmen recommends **\$25,000** and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

Article #18 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy-Eight Thousand One Hundred Eighty-One Dollars (\$78,181) for the cost of a utility truck for the Fire Department and further to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of Seventy-Eight Thousand One Hundred Eighty-One Dollars (\$78,181) from the Fire/Ambulance Equipment and Apparatus Special Revenue Fund previously established in accordance with RSA 31:95-c. (Majority Vote Required.)

(The Board of Selectmen recommends **\$78,181** and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

Article #19 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$225,000) for the cost of an Engine 1 refurbish for the Fire Department and further to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of Two Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$225,000) from the Fire/Ambulance Equipment and Apparatus Special Revenue Fund previously established in accordance with RSA 31:95- c. (Majority Vote Required.)

(The Board of Selectmen recommends **\$225,000** and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

Articles #20, 21, and 22

Article #20 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Fifty-Five Thousand One Hundred Forty-One Dollars (\$255,141) for the operation and maintenance of the Water Distribution and Treatment System for the ensuing year, said sum to be offset by user fees. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be of Two Hundred Seventy-One Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety-Eight Dollars (\$271,798) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law.

(The Board of Selectmen recommends **\$255,141** and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

Article #21 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Hundred Thirty-Three Thousand Five Hundred Sixty-One Dollars (\$633,561) for the operation and maintenance of the Sewage Collection and Disposal System for the ensuing year, said sum to be offset by user fees. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Six Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$636,350) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law.

(The Board of Selectmen recommends **\$633,561** and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

Article #22 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) to be placed in the Highway Reconstruction and Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2006).

(The Board of Selectmen recommends **\$500,000** and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

The balance in the Capital Reserve account as of 12/31/2022 is \$1,334,280.

Articles # 23 and 24

Article #23 To see if the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) to be placed in the Municipal Facilities Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2006).

(The Board of Selectmen recommends **\$300,000** and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.) **The balance in the Capital Reserve account as of 12/31/2022 is \$468,173.69.**

Article #24 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) to be placed in the Accrued Benefits Liability Expendable Trust Fund previously established (2007), and further to fund said appropriation by authorizing the transfer of \$100,000 from the unexpended fund balance as of December 31, 2022. **No amount to be raised from taxation.**

(The Board of Selectmen recommends **\$100,000** and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.) **The balance in the Expendable Trust as of 12/31/2022 is \$25,170.57**

Articles #25, 26, 27 and 28

Article #25 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) to be placed in the Water System Repair and Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2006) with said sum to be offset by user fees.

(The Board of Selectmen recommends **\$100,000** and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)
The balance in the Capital Reserve Account as of 12/31/2022 is \$227,339.37.

Article #26 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000) to be placed in the Highway Department Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2002).

(The Board of Selectmen recommends **\$60,000** and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)
The balance in the Capital Reserve account as of 12/31/2022 is \$134,972.54.

Article #27 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Ninety-Six Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty-Five Dollars (\$196,965) for the reconstruction of highways, it is anticipated to be offset by Highway Block Grant funds provided by the State of New Hampshire. **No funds to come from taxation.**

(The Board of Selectmen recommends **\$196,965** and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

Article #28 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty-Eight Dollars (\$125,888) to be placed in the Town Bridge Repair and Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2003), with said funds to come from unassigned fund balance (this represents the State of NH for repair, maintenance, and construction of municipal bridges from State Surplus that was received by the Town on December 28, 2022).
No funds to come from taxation.

(The Board of Selectmen recommends **\$125,888** and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)
The balance in the Capital Reserve account as of 12/31/2022 is \$206,009.75.

Articles #29,30,31,and 32

Article #29 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000) to be placed in the Property Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2005).

(The Board of Selectmen recommends **\$75,000** and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)
The balance is \$77,015.16 In 2022 the voters voted to conduct a statistical update for 2022 and 2023, to bring our assessments more in line with current Market Value. In 2024 will be our required 5-year full measure and list townwide assessment.

Article #30 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to be placed in the Library Building Improvements Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2000).

(The Board of Selectmen recommends **\$25,000** and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)
The balance in the Capital Reserve Account as of 12/31/2022 is \$339,162.48.

Article #31 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the Information Technology Non-Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2002).

(The Board of Selectmen recommends **\$10,000** and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)
The balance in the Capital Reserve Account as of 12/31/2022 is \$23,018.03.

Article #32 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to be added to the Durrell Mountain Road Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2021). This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. (Majority Vote Required.) No funds to come from taxation.

(The Board of Selectmen recommends **\$5,000** and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)
The balance in the reserve account as of 12/31/2022 is \$5,591.88;

Articles #33,34,35,36, and 37

Article #33 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to be placed in the already established General Cemetery Maintenance Fund governed under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a for the purpose of cemetery maintenance, said amount to be expendable at the discretion of the Cemetery Trustees (1997).

(The Board of Selectmen recommends **\$5,000** and the Budget Committee supports that recommendation)

The balance in the Cemetery Maintenance Fund as of 12/31/2022 is \$30,172.35.

Article #34 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$4,500) to be placed in the Heritage Fund previously established (2004).

(The Board of Selectmen recommends **\$4,500** and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

The balance in the Heritage Fund as of 12/31/2022 is \$41,828.63.

Article #35 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500) to be placed in the Dry Hydrant and Cistern Repairs and Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2011).

(The Board of Selectmen recommends **\$2,500** and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

The balance in the Capital Reserve account as of 12/31/2022 is \$22,099.22.

Article #36 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) to be placed in the Election Equipment Expendable Trust Fund Non-Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2020).

(The Board of Selectmen recommends **\$1,000** and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

The balance in the Capital Reserve Account as of 12/31/2022 is \$6,101.07.

Article #37 Shall the Town vote to authorize the expenditure of the unused portion of the bond approved in 2020 for the Construction of a New Police Station for Mill Renovations instead, and to raise and appropriate \$48,646 in unused bond proceeds for Mill Renovations per RSA 33:3-a, II. **No amount of money needs to be raised from taxation.** (3/5 Majority Vote Required.)

(The Board of Selectmen recommends **\$48,646** and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

Article #38 & 39

Article # 38 To see if the Town will vote to expend the income from the John M. Sargent Trust Fund for the purposes recommended by the Sargent Fund Committee. **No funds to come from taxation.**

Belknap County 4-H Fair Assn. \$2,000
Belknap House \$2,000
Belmont Cemetery Trustees \$200
Belmont Boy Scouts Troop 65 \$540
Belmont Conservation Commission \$100
Belmont Elementary Support Team \$200
Belmont Girl Scouts Troop 12117 \$540
Belmont Girl Scouts Troop 60200 \$495
Belmont Community Girl Scouts \$250
Belmont Heritage Commission \$250
Belmont High School PTO \$200
Belmont Historical Society \$300
Belmont Middle School Fifth Grade Camp Cody \$3,500
Belmont Middle School PTO \$200
Belmont Old Home Day Committee \$100
Belmont Park and Recreation \$1,500
Belmont Public Library \$1,165
First Baptist Church of Belmont Mission/Food Pantry \$2,492
Saint Joseph Food Pantry \$2,492.74
Save our Gale School \$200
Winni Womenade \$2,000

Article #39 Shall the Town, pursuant to RSA 33:8-f, vote to rescind the unused portion of the bonding authority granted in 2016 for the Hoadley Road Culvert Reconstruction? Of the \$375,000 in bonding authority that was granted, \$68,319 was not spent and is not necessary for this purpose. (3/5 Majority Vote Required.)

(The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this article.)

Articles #40 & 41

Article #40 Shall the Town vote in accordance with RSA 72:27-a(IV) to re-adopt the provisions of the Optional Veterans' Tax Credit (RSA 72:28(II)) in the amount of \$500, to include not only Veterans who have been honorably discharged, but also those who have served at least four (4) years and are continuing in service in the armed forces. [NOTE: If this article does not pass, the Optional Veterans' Tax Credit will no longer be in effect, and the Standard Veterans' Tax Credit of \$50 would apply as of April 1, 2023.]

NOTE: This article is required because legislature expanded the eligibility criteria for this credit to include individuals who have not yet been discharged from service in the armed forces.

For Articles 40 and 41 - The NH legislature passed, and Governor Sununu signed into law HB 1667 (Chapter 121, laws of 2022) which amends eligibility criteria for certain veterans' property tax credits. This became effective on July 26, 2022, and affects both the Standard and Optional Veterans Tax Credit, as well as the All-Veterans Tax Credit. Simply what this means is that if your Town has adopted the Optional Veterans Tax Credit (you give more than the standard \$50 tax credit) and/or the All-Veterans Tax Credit, you MUST readopt the provisions of the Statute (Optional Vets Credit 72:28, II and/or All Veterans Tax Credit 72:28-b) by March 31, 2023, in order for your credits to remain in place for the 2023 Tax Year. It is our understanding that if you have the Optional or All Veterans Tax Credits and you do not readopt the credits, they will revert to the Standard Veterans Credit in the amount of \$50 each.

Article #41 Shall the Town vote in accordance with RSA 72:27-a(IV) to re-adopt the provisions of the All-Veterans' Tax Credit (RSA 72:28-b) in the amount of \$500, to include not only Veterans who have been honorably discharged, but also those who have served at least four (4) years and are continuing in service in the armed forces. [NOTE: If this article does not pass, the All-Veteran's Tax Credit will no longer be in effect, and the Standard Veteran's Tax Credit of \$50 would apply as of April 1, 2023.]

NOTE: This article is required because legislature expanded the eligibility criteria for this credit to include individuals who have not yet been discharged from service in the armed forces.

Articles #42, 43, 44, 45, and 46

Article #42 Are you in favor of amending the Noise Ordinance adopted by the Town in 2010 to exempt from its provision's noises related to farming and agricultural related activities?

(This article recommended by the Board of Selectmen)

Article #43 Are you in favor of discontinuing the combined office of Town Clerk/Tax Collector? At the next annual meeting in which an election for Town Clerk/Tax Collector is to be held (2025), the voters shall choose one individual as Town Clerk and another as Tax Collector, each for a three-year term, unless article 43 passes, in which case the Tax collector will be appointed.

(This article recommended by the Board of Selectmen)

Article #44 Are you in favor of rescinding the provisions of RSA 40:13 (known as SB 2), as adopted by the Town of Belmont on March 11, 2008, so that the official ballot will no longer be used for voting on all questions, but only for the election of officers and certain other questions for which the official ballot is required by State law?? (3/5 Majority Vote Required.)

(This article submitted by Petition)

Article #45 Are you in favor of imposing a term limit of 3 consecutive terms that can be served by a member of the Board of Selectmen?

(This article submitted by Petition)

This article is non-binding. The legislature has created a comprehensive statutory scheme governing elections and has defined the scope of qualifications necessary to obtain elected office. Although the right to elected office is not absolute, see *Paey v. Rodrigue*, 119 N.H. 186, 189, 400 A.2d 51 (1979), this statutory scheme is designed to make elective office as accessible as possible to the citizens of New Hampshire by imposing a minimum number of qualifications, thereby furthering the objectives of our State Constitution. To allow a municipality to impose term limits would be repugnant to the implied intent of the statutory scheme. We hold, therefore, that the State has created a comprehensive statutory scheme governing the field of elections, including qualifications for office, and has neither expressly nor impliedly granted towns the authority to impose term limits. As a result, the town's term limits provision is preempted by statutory law and Part I, Article 11 of the State Constitution.

Article #46 Are you in favor of increasing the number of Cemetery Trustee Board members from 3 to 5?

(This article submitted by Petition)

**TOWN OF BELMONT
SHAKER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
ELECTION AND BALLOT VOTING
BELMONT HIGH SCHOOL GYM
265 Seavey Road**

TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2023

**POLLS OPEN AT 7:00 A.M.
CLOSE AT 7:00 P.M.**