

# Deliberative Session Minutes - 2020

TO THE INHABITANTS OF THE TOWN OF BELMONT IN THE COUNTY OF BELKNAP, IN THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, QUALIFIED TO VOTE IN TOWN AFFAIRS:

## FIRST SESSION

You are hereby notified to meet for the First (Deliberative) Session of the Annual Town Meeting, to be held at the Belmont High School, 255 Seavey Road, Belmont, New Hampshire on the 1st day of February 2020, being a Saturday at 10 o'clock in the forenoon. The First (Deliberative) Session will consist of explanation, discussion, and debate of each of the following warrant articles, and will afford those voters who are present the opportunity to propose, debate and adopt amendments to each warrant article, except those articles whose wording is prescribed by State law.

Town Moderator Alvin Nix introduced himself and welcomed everyone in attendance. Moderator Nix introduced the Town officials at the head table as follows: Ruth Mooney, Chairman, Board of Selectman; Jonathan Pike, Vice-Chairman, Board of Selectman; Claude "Sonny" Patten, Board of Selectman; Ronald Mitchell, Chairman, Budget Committee; Jeanne Beaudin, Town Administrator; Cynthia DeRoy, Town Clerk/Tax Collector; Jennifer Cashman, Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector and Alicia Jipson, Assistant Town Administrator.

Moderator Nix asked attendees to keep the meeting orderly, amicable and asked that there be no debates on the floor, that all questions or comments be directed to the Moderator and advised that today's meeting is being video recorded.

During this meeting the Moderator may ask a non-resident or Town Official to speak to clarify warrant articles. Non-residents were asked to identify themselves by a show of hands and advised that they were not allowed to amend any articles.

Moderator Nix advised that we do not follow the Roberts Rules but we are going to follow common sense rules for today's meeting. Moderator Nix declared that amendment requests must be submitted in writing, be legible and signed by the resident. Some articles cannot be amended and voters will be advised if we cannot. No articles will be removed from the warrant. Residents discussing articles must come up to the microphone and announce their name and street address.

Moderator Nix opened the meeting and asked attendees to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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## SECOND SESSION

You are also notified to meet for the Second Session of the Annual Town Meeting, to elect Town Officers by official ballot and to vote by official ballot on the warrant articles as they may have been amended at the First (Deliberative) Session, to be held at the Belmont High School, 255 Seavey Road, Belmont, New Hampshire on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020, being a Tuesday, between the hours of 7:00 o'clock in the forenoon and 7:00 o'clock in the afternoon, to act upon the following:

**Article #1.** To choose necessary officers, including Selectman three-year term (1), Budget Committee three-year term (4), Budget Committee, two-year term (1), Budget Committee, one-year term (1), Trustee of Trust Funds three-year term (1), Library Trustee three-year term (1), Cemetery Trustee three-year term (1), Supervisor of the Checklist six-year term (1), Planning Board three-year term (2), Zoning Board of Adjustment three-year term (2), and Town Moderator, two-year term (1).

Moderator Nix read the list of names of candidates for offices.

Upon no discussion article moved to ballot.

**Article #2.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$3,500,000) for the purpose of construction of a new Police Station on Town owned land at the corner of Fuller and Sargent Street including architectural and engineering costs, and all other costs reasonably associated with this project and to authorized the issuance of not more than (\$3,500,000) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. **(3/5 Ballot Vote Required)**

(The Budget Committee recommends **\$3,500,000** and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.)

Carmen Lorentz, 60 Cotton Hill Rd, Facility Strategy Committee member, spoke on Article #2 stating that she along with other committee members Tom Garfield and Donna Hepp evaluated the buildings used in Town and explained the purpose of Facility Strategy Committee as well as process of evaluating existing structures in town. The Facility Strategy Committee is in favor of tearing down the existing Corner Meeting House and building a brand-new police station on the site. She went on to explain that a new structure would leave the option of future expansion to grow as the Town grows. The existing Police station would be demolished after the completion of the new construction with the Police Department operating from current building as new construction happens.

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Police Chief Mark Lewandoski spoke on Article #2 explaining the safety and spatial concerns of the existing Police Department building. He spoke of a few issues with the building specifically, such as having to enter through the garage to reach the booking room and how the storage of impounded vehicles impedes this mode of access. He also stated that the booking room is attached to the armory and evidence room which presents the potential for a breach in security. There are mold problems as well as inadequate ventilation. Lack of space creates a lack of privacy for confidential conversations and research. The number of personnel has outgrown the facility and the Department is currently using a portable building to house excess personnel. He further explained that there is the need for more space for evidence storage. Chief Lewandoski invited residents to take a tour of the existing building to better understand how inadequate the current structure is. Chief Lewandoski spoke against expansion of current building due to displacement of personnel, evidence, armory, etc.... citing that there is no room for growth for the future. He stated that he believed the proposed new structure could house the Police Department for 20 years or more. Chief Lewandoski spoke about concerns of the location of Police Department with children in the area, walkers, etc... And stated that there could be the same issues no matter what the location is. The current policy of the Police Department is not to activate sirens or lights until a Police vehicle hits Main Street. He stated that prior public meetings indicated that the current location is well-received by residents citing the close proximity to all three schools and Town Hall. Chief Lewandoski supports this article.

Selectman Ruth Mooney thanked the Facilities Strategy Committee for their work and stated that our taxpayers voted in favor of \$65,000 to fund the committee indicating that residents see the need for facility improvement by supporting the funding. Selectman Mooney mentioned large trucks coming from Hurricane Road and that when the trucks are backed up by fire station it impedes the fire trucks as well as ambulances getting out of fire station in response to conversations members of the community have had about creating a Security Complex with land next to the current Fire Department. Selectman Mooney also mentioned liability connected to current police station. She encouraged residents to take a tour of the Police Department. Selectman Mooney stated she felt the current state of the Police Department's facility is embarrassing and that other state departments come to work with our Police Department in an inadequate workplace. Selectman Mooney stated that the current Corner Meeting House building is not in good shape or easily accessible. She spoke against purchasing land which would require site work, water/sewer access, and things of that nature citing costs would be higher than building in the footprint of the Corner Meeting House. Selectman Mooney indicated that residents have let her know they wanted to keep Police Department in its location in town.

Ron Mitchell, Chairman Budget Committee, gave history of how the Police Department ended up in its current location that used to be fire station. He further stated that the Police Department makes at least one arrest per day and that Belmont is centrally located in navigating through the Lakes Region indicating heavy traffic making more potential for arrests. R Mitchell stated that

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the Police Department has outgrown its current facility. Stated that the project would probably be bid for less than the amount proposed and the additional money is there as a buffer. R Mitchell stated that the Town's current debt should be paid off in 3 years' time as well as the cost to taxpayers to build this new Police Station would be .30 cents on the \$1000 of assessed value for taxpayers. R Mitchell supports this article.

Selectman Mooney explained that if bid came in under \$3.5 million we could only borrow as much as bid indicates up to \$3.5 million only.

Moderator Nix invited discussion from the audience.

Dennis Grimes, 21 Gilman Shore Rd., stated that he is an engineer and while he appreciates the design of the new building he doesn't like the proposed location. Mr. Grimes suggested building the proposed structure on land located next to the Fire Department creating a safety complex. Mr. Grimes addressed the traffic issues for entry and exit from the Fire Department by marking "DO NOT BLOCK" on the street. Mr. Grimes also mentioned a building available for \$1.6 million located on Route 106 and using that for a new Police Department for less money. He also voiced concern as to where the various boards and committees for the Town will meet if the Corner Meeting House is demolished.

Selectman Mooney addressed where meetings will take place stating that the fourth floor of the mill has been repaired for use and that meetings would take place there if the Corner Meeting House is demolished. She also stated that the Town's General Assistance office would probably move to mill as well. Also stated that Mill repairs are being done for less than the bid given.

Ron Mitchell addressed mill renovation costs stating that there is \$400,000 in reserve for that project.

George Condodemetraky, 194 Gilmanton Rd., asked why the Selectboard hasn't promoted need for new Police Department for years. After some back and forth comments, Moderator Nix instructed Mr. Condodemetraky to finish his comments completely, then the Selectmen will respond. Mr. Condodemetraky continued speaking, stating that building new Police Department facility on the Corner Meeting House lot is inadequate space for expansion. Mr. Condodemetraky doesn't support proposed building and site for Police Department, but does support the need for new facility.

Selectman Mooney, selectman for 8 years, discussed that a past proposal to build a new Police Department behind Post Office failed. Selectman Mooney stated that it was not a lack of knowledge that a new Police Department is needed but that timing was wrong to present a new project citing that the economy didn't supporting building in the past.

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Dennis Grimes, 21 Gilman Shore Rd., Mentioned again the property for sale on route 106 and inquired about the fourth floor Mill building meeting space and its accessibility as well as ADA compliance. He stated that he supports the meetings being held in that location. Mr. Grimes mentioned safety concerns of location of Police Department being close to Sargent Park. Mr. Grimes proposed that the Corner Meeting House be used to house the Parks and Rec department and the senior center.

Selectman Mooney spoke on the "Sally Port" being used for unruly detainees. Mentioned that current location of Police Station instills a sense of community and that it is not unheard of for officers to jump in to games being played by kids in the park area. She stated that the senior and Rec centers are in Mill building currently and that the Selectman are working with seniors to stay in mill even though their federal funding has been removed. No plan at this time to move Rec or senior center

Tracey LeClair, 321 Brown Hill Rd., Budget Committee member stated that she supports the plan for a new Police Department and likes the location being next to Sargent Park. Mrs. LeClair encouraged residents to tour current Police Department stating that there is currently inadequate space for keeping criminals separated by gender and age.

Ken Knowlton, Belmont, mentioned surrounding towns combining all aspects of safety departments. Mr. Knowlton also stated that he would like to see the tin work in Corner Meeting House preserved. He supports the new Police Station.

Mr. Condodemetraký commented on the hill at the location of the proposed new Police Station and the need for a retaining wall. He also stated that the first floor wouldn't have any windows.

Ron Mitchell stated that the evidence room and armory would be in windowless area which provides better for security.

Dave Libby, Lamprey Rd., stated that he has done research on the Police Department stating we have the same amount of officers now that the Police Department had in 2003. Mr. Libby went on to state that he had done research on stats of how much the Town will grow in 20 years' time. Mr. Libby also mentioned the high tax rate and that he felt over-taxed as it is. He doesn't feel that enough research was done for alternatives for a new Police Station. It is his opinion that the Town Hall and Police Department could fit in the Mill Building. Mr. Libby is not in favor of proposal for new Police Station. He asked that taxpayers be informed as to current debt before asking for more money.

Chief Lewandoski spoke of growth of the Police Department stating there was a lack of officers to fill full time positions. He further stated that part time officers are fulfilling duties that should

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be fulfilled by full time officers. Dave Libby rebutted that his research was done on the Police Department's website for clarification.

R. Mitchell gave information about the Police Station being a former Fire Station that was built in 1960's not up to today's code further stating that the Corner Meeting House is not in great shape or up to code either.

Selectman Mooney addressed the tax rate. Stated that school portion of tax rate is higher than the town portion and invited residents to attend school's deliberative session. She said that residents are looking at two cent increase in town portion of the budget.

Upon no further discussion article moved to ballot.

**Article #3.** To see if the Town will vote to delegate the duties and responsibilities of the Cemetery Trustees to the Board of Selectmen. If the majority votes in the affirmative, the discontinuance shall take effect 90 days after the vote.

Selectman Pike, Selectman for 12 years, spoke on this article stating that this is not a happy article but they are put in a situation that needs to be put under control. He further stated that spending has not been handled properly and projects have not been bid out following proper protocol. The Board of Selectman have been trying to bring this issue under control for 3 years. He specifically mentioned receiving a bill for \$3,000 for raking and trimming on the cemetery on Perkins Road. The Board thinks spending is being inflated. Going forward if this article passes, Craig Clairmont, Director DPW would handle cemetery upkeep and bids for maintenance. Asked for support on this article.

Sharon Ciampi, Jamestown rd., Cemetery trustee for 10 years. S. Ciampi stated that there are 41 cemeteries in Belmont that fall under the Cemetery Trustees jurisdiction. She said that traditionally the trustees have bid out maintenance but have found that poor work was provided which has caused damage to the cemeteries. S. Ciampi stated that she doesn't know a lot about town politics but has a passion for preserving the cemeteries and history of the Town. She asked for the opportunity to make changes to existing practices to fall more in line with Selectboard's expectations. She stated that the current maintenance contract covers 22 cemeteries and they are mowed every Saturday or every 10 days and that \$17,000 per year is spent on maintenance contract and asked how the Board feels they can do better.

Selectman Pike stated that S. Ciampi was incorrect on statement she made to cost and that more than the \$17,500 budgeted amounts are being spent and that more is projected to be spent this year. Selectman Pike stated that the Board is asking for accountability and that the Trustees haven't met with the Board as per their request to address issues.



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Linda Clairmont, South rd., asked if Trustees could spend as much as they like and asked about budget.

Selectman Pike stated that Trustees can spend money as they please once it is awarded by budget committee and they have lacked consideration of the Town for spending.

S. Ciampi addressed cost of raking on Perkins Rd. Cemetery stating that they opted for 2 year contract giving the maintenance provide one year to be evaluate and one year to complete necessary maintenance. She stated that it was hard to get contractors to do maintenance and that the cost of the maintenance contract didn't cover just raking but also cleanup of a rock wall. Amount of maintenance contract for 2020 will not change.

Woody Fogg, Jamestown Rd., He is a Member of the American Legion who place flags on graves and stated that he has seen a steady improvement over the past years in the maintenance of cemeteries and has helped with research of Veteran's graves. W. Fogg does not support this article.

Upon no further discussion article moved to ballot.

**Article #4.** 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 \$129,500 of revenues from ambulance billings received during the 2020 budgetary year to be deposited in the Special Revenue fund known as the Fire/Ambulance Equipment and Apparatus Fund. The first \$129,500 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 2020 budgetary year. **(A 2/3 Ballot Vote Required).**

Training Expenses	\$3,000
Medical & Supply Expenses	\$30,000
Ambulance Billing Fees	\$25,000
Overtime	\$40,000
Telephone	\$2,000
Conferences & Dues	\$1,500
Office Expense	\$12,000
Vehicle Repair & Parts	\$8,000
Fuel	\$8,000

Mike Newhall, Fire Chief, explained that this amount offsets the cost of running the Fire Department.

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Ken Knowlton, Belmont, asked how collections from ambulance fees are doing and if the Fire Department has a new system for collections?

Chief Newhall explained that the Fire Department has been using a new billing company for past 7-8 years and that there has been an improvement in collections of ambulance fees.

Upon no discussion article moved to ballot.

**Article #5.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) for the cost of Security Improvements for the Fire Department and further to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of Thirty Thousand dollars (\$30,000) from the Fire/Ambulance Equipment and Apparatus Special Revenue Fund previously established in accordance with RSA 31:95, c. (Majority ballot vote required.)

(The Board of Selectmen recommends **\$30,000** and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

Chief Newhall stated that there is currently no security in building and he would like to add cameras as well to increase security for the building.

Upon no further discussion article moved to ballot.

**Article #6.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty-Two Thousand One Hundred Seventeen Dollars (\$62,117) for the fifth 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 Budget Committee recommends **\$62,117** and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.)

Upon no discussion article moved to ballot.

**Article #7.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Thousand Dollars (\$7,000) for the cost of Advanced EMS Equipment for the Fire Department and further to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of Seven Thousand Dollars (\$7,000) from



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the Fire/Ambulance Equipment and Apparatus Special Revenue Fund previously established in accordance with RSA 31:95, c. (Majority ballot vote required.)

(The Board of Selectmen recommends \$7,000 and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

Ron Mitchell explained that there are \$200,000 yearly collected from ambulance fees which offsets expenses not property tax.

Upon no further discussion article moved to ballot.

**Article #8.** 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?

Belknap County 4-H Fair Association	\$3,000
Belmont Baseball Organization	\$2,000
Belmont Conservation Commission	\$250
Belmont Girl Scouts Troop 12117	\$400
Belmont Girl Scouts Community Account	\$300
Belmont Girl Scouts Troop 21532/20532	\$300
Belmont Heritage Commission	\$250
Lake Region Girls Softball	\$1,000
Belmont Boy Scouts Troop 65	\$800
Belmont Historical Society	\$300
Belmont Middle School Fifth Grade Cody	\$3,500
Belmont Middle School PTO	\$500
Belmont Parks & Recreation Scholarship	\$2,000
Belmont Public Library	\$1,000
Boys & Girls Clubs of Central NH dba	\$2,000
Lakes Region Child Care Services	
First Baptist Church of Belmont Mission	\$3,500
Save Our Gale School	\$2,427.14
<b>Total Funds to be distributed</b>	<b>\$23,527.14</b>

Moderator Nix Recognized Kevin Yelle and Diane Cleveland and their contribution to our community.

Upon no discussion article moved to ballot.

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**Article #9.** To see if the Town will vote to discontinue completely, Revolution Road and the easterly portion of Old Ladd Hill Road, so-called, with ownership to revert to the abutters, and thereby cease any and all public rights to Revolution Road and Old Ladd Hill Road from its end at Mile Hill Road to the westerly end of property owned by the Sara Kaye Mirski Revocable Living Trust (Map 205 Lot 040) and the S Mirski and P Spencer Revocable Trust (Map 205 Lot 037).

Sara Mirski, resident of Enfield, owner of property, spoke of familial history with town and that she has inherited the property. She stated that she supported the effort to stop development of Mile Hill Rd. And that this proposed article's purpose is to keep open space for wildlife. Making it a private road removes the ability to subdivide and develop land.

Fred Cisneros, Belmont, stated concern about snow mobile trails. He stated that he would like the road to remain accessible for residents, not necessarily developed. He suggested putting up gates to keep access open for the enjoyment of other residents. He stated that this article benefits the Mirski family only.

S. Mirski stated that she is not opposed to allowing access to residents, suggesting an easement on western piece of property and that she has discussed changes with snowmobile club. Offered to have discussion with opposition and come to an agreement that benefits everybody and that she is not opposed to that at all.

F Cisneros thanked S. Mirski for speaking.

Upon no further discussion article moved to ballot.

**Article #10.** 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 Seven Million Nine Hundred Seventy-Four Thousand Two Hundred Nine Dollars (\$7,974,209)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Seven Million Seven Hundred Seventy-Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Five Dollars (\$7,778,705) 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 ANY other warrant article.

(The Budget Committee recommends **\$7,974,209** and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.)

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R. Mitchell thanked the Budget Committee, Department Heads and Selectman for their hard work. He went on to say that increases in the budget this year are caused by contractual obligations. Spoke about the money to be raised by taxes will be just over \$5 million stating that auto registration brings in a lot of revenue.

Selectman Mooney noted error in budget moved to amend article amount to \$7,973,209. Seconded by Budget Chair Ronald Mitchell; vote in the affirmative to amend.

Mike Sylvia, Belmont, questioned the Parks and Recreation Department underspending budgeted amounts. He was told that the Parks and Rec programs will continue as they are now. The Belmont Town Beach will not have lifeguards over the summer, however swim lessons will have a lifeguard on duty. The Town will rely on the Police Department to monitor beach more.

Upon no further discussion article moved to ballot.

**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, 2020 to March 31, 2023, which calls for the following in increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Year	Increase (Wages)	Increase/(Decrease) Benefits
2020	\$38,756	\$7,821
Year	Estimated Increase (Wages)	Estimated Increase/(Decrease) Benefits
2021	\$27,324	\$8,141
2022	\$24,640	\$7,861

And further to raise and appropriate Forty-Six Thousand Five Hundred Seventy-Seven Dollars (\$46,577) 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 \$46,577 and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

Upon no discussion article moved to ballot.

**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.)

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Upon no discussion article moved to ballot.

**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 3657 (Public Safety Employees Union -Fire Unit B) for the term April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2023, which calls for the following in increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Year	Increase (Wages)	Increase/(Decrease) Benefits
2020	\$30,712	\$5,458
Year	Estimated Increase (Wages)	Estimated Increase/(Decrease) Benefits
2021	\$21,725	\$6,852
2022	\$21,018	\$6,629

And further to raise and appropriate Thirty-Six Thousand One Hundred and Seventy Dollars (\$36,170) 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 \$36,170 and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

Upon no discussion article moved to ballot.

**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.)

Upon no discussion article moved to ballot.

**Article #15.** 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, 2020 to March 31, 2023, which calls for the following in increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Year	Increase (Wages)	Increase/(Decrease) Benefits
2020	\$24,799	\$4,667
Year	Estimated Increase (Wages)	Estimated Increase/(Decrease) Benefits

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2021	\$21,772	\$4,097
2022	\$18,446	\$3,472

And further to raise and appropriate Twenty-Nine Thousand Four Hundred Sixty-Six Dollars (\$29,466) 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 \$29,466 and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

Upon no discussion article moved to ballot.

**Article #16.** Shall the Town, if Warrant Article #15 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Warrant Article #15 cost items only? (Majority vote required.)

Donald House, Sun Lake Dr., asked if it was possible to waive reading of each article. Moderator Nix stated that state law mandates that each article shall be read aloud.

Upon no further discussion article moved to ballot.

**Article #17.** 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 support this recommendation.)

Upon no discussion article moved to ballot.

**Article #18.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand dollars (\$30,000) 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 \$30,000 from the unexpended fund balance as of December 31, 2019.

(The Board of Selectmen recommends \$30,000 and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

Upon no discussion article moved to ballot.

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**Article #19.** 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 amounts to be expendable at the discretion of the Cemetery Trustees (1997).

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

Ron Mitchell advised that the budget for Cemetery Trustees is \$20,000 and should cover expenses with no increase necessary. There was some discussion on the cost of removal of trees, the Town feels that we should not remove all trees from cemeteries to keep them maintained.

Sharon Ciampi, Cemetery Trustee, stated that the extra money requested in this article is to cover emergency expenditures. She asked that voters approve this article

Upon no further discussion article moved to ballot.

**Article #20.** 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 (2010).

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

Upon no discussion article moved to ballot.

**Article #21.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000) to be placed in the Highway Reconstruction and Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2006).

(The Board of Selectmen recommends **\$750,000** and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

Alfred Fecteau, Main St., asked if the Town had any projects in mind.

Selectman Mooney, mentioned improvements to Plummer Hill Road and Jamestown Road.

Alvin Nix, Plummer Hill Rd., gave a heartfelt thank you.

Upon no further discussion article moved to ballot.



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**Article #22.** 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 Town Bridge Repair and Maintenance Capital Reserve fund previously established (2003).

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

Upon no discussion article moved to ballot.

**Article #23.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Forty-Six Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars (\$246,975) for the operation and maintenance of the Water Distribution and Treatment System for the ensuing year, said sum is to be offset by users' fees. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Two Hundred Forty-One Thousand Four Hundred Fourteen Dollars (\$241,414) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law.

(The Budget Committee recommends **\$246,975** and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.)

Upon no discussion article moved to ballot.

**Article #24.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Fifteen Thousand Six Hundred Fourteen Dollars (\$515,614) for the operation and maintenance of the Sewage Collection and Disposal System for the ensuing year, said sum is to be offset by user's fees. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Five Hundred Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety-Eight Dollars (\$509,898) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law.

(The Budget Committee recommends **\$515,614** and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.)

Upon no discussion article moved to ballot.

**Article #25.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000) to be placed in the Property Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2005).

(The Board of Selectmen recommends **\$35,000** and the Budget Committee support this recommendation.)

Upon no discussion article moved to ballot.

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**Article #26.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two-Hundred and One Thousand Seventy-Four Dollars (\$201,074) for the reconstruction of highways, said appropriation to be offset by Highway Block Grant funds provided by the State of New Hampshire?

(The Board of Selectmen recommends **\$201,074** and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

Upon no discussion article moved to ballot.

**Article #27.** 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 (2005).

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

Upon no discussion article moved to ballot.

**Article #28.** To see if the Town will vote to establish an Election Equipment Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a, for the purpose of purchasing equipment used in Town, State and Federal elections, and further to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to be put in the fund, with this amount to come from taxation; further to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. (Majority vote required.)

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

Upon no discussion article moved to ballot.

**Article #29.** 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) said sum is to be offset by user's fees.

(The Board of Selectmen recommends **\$100,000** and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

Upon no discussion article moved to ballot.

**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).

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

Linda Clairmont, South Rd., asked how much was in the fund. Selectman Pike responded with \$260,000.

**Article #31.** To see if the Town will vote to allow the operation of sports book retail locations within the Town of Belmont.

TA Beaudin stated explained that the allowance of sports betting is being granted by the State which doesn't change the law currently in place, just allows businesses to allow betting to take place within buildings and that there will be a public hearing February 24, 2020 at 10:15 AM similar to the Keno vote.

Donna Cilley, Jodi Dr., clarified that the school deliberative is Wednesday evening.

Kevin Sturgeon, Depot St., asked for a round of applause for the Facility Strategy Committee.

Moderator Nix asked for a motion to adjourn.

Moderator Nix wished everyone a wonderful day. Meeting was adjourned at 12:20PM.

Given under our hands and seal this the 21st day of January in the year of our lord two thousand and twenty.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ruth P. Mooney, Chairman

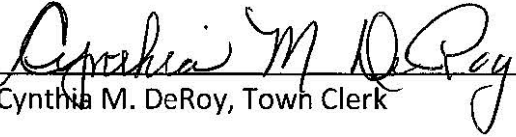
\_\_\_\_\_  
Claude B. Patten, Jr. Vice-Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jon Pike

Belmont Board of Selectmen

# Deliberative Session Minutes - 2020

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

  
Cynthia M. DeRoy, Town Clerk

  
Jennifer Cashman, Deputy Town Clerk  
Recording Secretary

