

Our Community Newsletter

BELMONT



Town Administrator's Monthly Report

Ballot Question #1 – To choose necessary officers for Town Offices.

Selectman three-year term (vote for one):

George Condodemetraky

Claude "Sonny" Patten

Budget Committee three-year term (vote for four):

Gary Grant

Norma Patten

Roland Coffin

Tina Fleming

Budget Committee two-year term (vote for one):

Mark Ekberg

Budget Committee one-year term (vote for one):

Cemetery Trustee three-year term (vote for one):

Norma Patten

Town Moderator two-year term (vote for one):

Alvin Nix, Jr.

Trustee of Trust Funds three-year term (vote for one):

Thomas E. Garfield

Ballot Questions

Library Trustee three-year term (vote for one):

Mary-Louise Charnley

Planning Board three-year term (vote for two):

Peter Harris

Richard C. Pickwick

Supervisor of the Checklist six-year term (vote for one):

Donna E. Shepherd

Zoning Board three-year term (vote for two):

Peter Harris

Norma Patten

Ballot Question #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.)

2020 Tax Rate Impact: 0.00

2021 Tax Rate Impact: 0.30

Ballot Questions

Why is a New Building Necessary?

New building adequately provides room for officers to work productively

Many safety concerns are addressed (booking, access, patrol)

Sight and Sound separation addressed for juveniles in accordance with State law

Temporary holding rooms (Male, Female, and juvenile) multiple arrests

Evidence storage increases along with long term storage

Armory relocated from current location in the booking room (safety concerns) Allows for firearm cleaning with ventilation

Locker rooms are large enough for multiple officers to change at one time

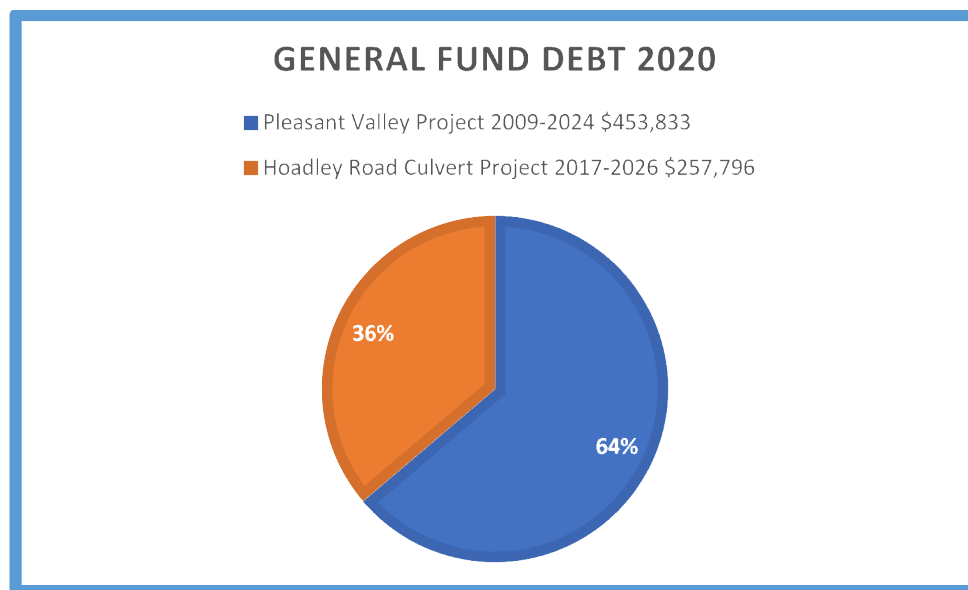
Addition of a conference room that we do not have

Lobby suitable for visitors with adjoining interview room for victims. No access to building.

Proper ventilation and heating / cooling.



Ballot Questions



A \$3,500,000 20-year bond @ 2.15% interest beginning in 2021 is estimated to add approximately \$.30 to the tax rate. To estimate the impact on your tax bill, divide your assessed value by \$1,000 and multiply by .30; for example:

$$\$100,000/\$1,000 = 100 \times .30 = \$30.00 \text{ per year}$$

Ballot Question #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.

Ballot Question #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).**

Ballot Questions

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

Ballot Question #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.)

Ballot Question #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.)

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

Ballot Questions

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

Ballot Question #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?

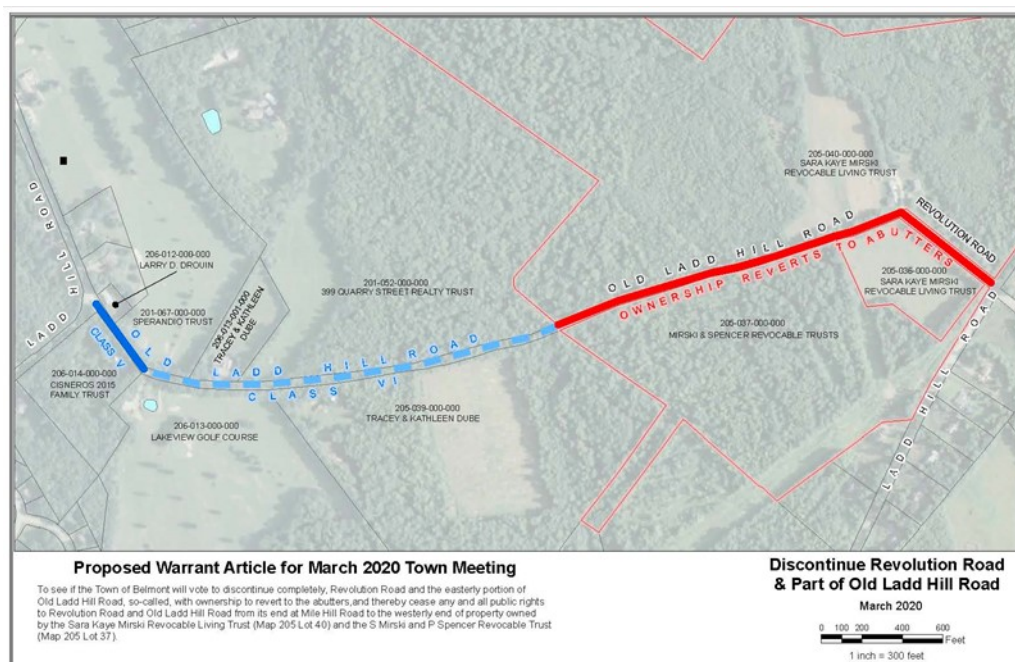
Belknap County 4-H Fair Association	3,000
Belmont Baseball Organization	2,000
Belmont Conservation Commission	250
Belmont Girl Scouts Troop 12117	400
Belmont Girl Scouts Community Account	300
Belmont Girl Scouts Troop 21532/20532	300
Belmont Heritage Commission	250
Lake Region Girls Softball	1,000
Belmont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

Ballot Question #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

Ballot Questions

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).



Ballot Question #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-Three Thousand Two Hundred Nine Dollars (7,973,209)? 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 7,973,209 and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.)

Note: The amount listed in the warrant article above and discussed at the Deliberative Session differs from the amount in the posted 2020 Budget by \$30,000; at the direction

Ballot Questions

of the Department of Revenue Administration, this amount will be added to the Operating Budget if approved and the Town will offset the amount by the use of additional fund balance at the time of tax rate setting. The additional \$30,000 will be allowed to lapse to fund balance at year-end 2020.

Ballot Question #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.)

2020 Tax Impact: \$.06

Ballot Question #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.)

Ballot Questions

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

2020 Tax Impact: \$.04

Ballot Question #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.)

Ballot Questions

The Board of Selectmen recommends \$36,170 and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

2020 Tax Impact: \$.05

Ballot Question #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.)

Ballot Question #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
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.)

2020 Tax Impact: \$.04

Ballot Questions

Ballot Question #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.)

Ballot Questions 11-16 relate to Union Contracts negotiated in 2019 with all three of the Town's collective bargaining units; Police, Fire and Public Works. Overall the Police (Unit A) contract calls for a 4.5% wage adjustment each year for 3 years. The only change in benefits was a minor change to dental coverage for all three units at a minimal cost. Retention and competitive wages in the Lakes Region were factors in the Selectmen's decision to support the request from the membership. The Fire (Unit B) contract calls for a 4.8% wage adjustment each year for the 3 years. Primarily adjustments were made in the starting wages of new firefighters as the scale had been low for several years. The Public Works contract calls for a 5.5% wage adjustment each year over the 3 years. The department's staff was realigned and wages were brought to a more competitive level in order to attract and retain staff.

The bargaining units and Board of Selectmen have ratified all three contracts subject to the vote on cost items.

Ballot Question #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.)

As of December 31, 2019, the reserve balance is \$92,645.96.

2020 Tax Impact: \$.08

Ballot Questions

Ballot Question #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.)

As of December 31, 2019, the reserve balance is \$35,745.95.

2020 Tax Impact: \$.04

Ballot Question #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.)

As of December 31, 2019, the reserve balance is \$24,583.92.

2020 Tax Impact: Less than 1 penny

Ballot Questions

Ballot Question #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.)

As of December 31, 2019, the Reserve balance is \$15,178.61.

2020 Tax Impact: Less than 1 penny

Ballot Question #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.)

As of December 31, 2019, the reserve balance is \$266,296.87. In addition, the Town has encumbered \$402,476.78 in Highway Block Grant Funds for the purpose of Highways and Streets. Highway Block Grant funds are provided to the Town through the State Highway Fund and are based on local roadway mileage. The Town is currently reviewing potential projects on Plummer Hill Road and Jamestown Road; both projects may require phasing to meet available funding.

2020 Tax Impact: \$1.02

Ballot Questions

Ballot Question #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.)

As of December 31, 2019, the reserve balance is \$127,209.26.

2020 Tax Impact: \$.03

Ballot Question #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.)

Ballot Question #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

Ballot Questions

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.)

Ballot Question #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.)

As of December 31, 2019, the reserve balance is \$23,433.05. It is proposed that the Town update property values on an annual basis to prevent the impact of the typical 5-year revaluation cycle.

2020 Tax Rate Impact: \$.05

Ballot Question #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.)

Ballot Questions

Ballot Question #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.)

As of December 31, 2019, the fund balance is \$40,667.

Ballot Question #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.)

Ballot Question #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.)

As of December 31, 2019, the reserve balance is \$13,466.60.

Ballot Questions

Ballot Question #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.)

As of December 31, 2019, the reserve balance is \$260,649.06.

2020 Tax Rate Impact: \$.03

Ballot Question #31:

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

**TOWN OF BELMONT
SHAKER REGIONAL SCHOOL
DISTRICT
ELECTION AND BALLOT VOTING**

**BELMONT HIGH SCHOOL GYM
265 Seavey Road**

MARCH 10, 2020

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



Town Administrator's News



IT is the LAW! (RSA 466:31 II (c))

Our message to all Dog Owners is to remind you of the importance of picking up your dog's waste from property not your own. The town installed at three different locations, dog waste stations where you can obtain a plastic bag to pick up the waste and deposit it in the numerous garbage cans located in the Village.



Following is a link to a video developed by our recycling vendor to help us recycle better. Better recycling leads to lower costs for trash disposal as whatever we can remove from the trash stream reduces the tonnage we pay for. Your help is needed! www.bit.ly/recyclebetter

The Casella site on Route 140 is open on the 2nd Saturday of the month from 8 am to 12 noon to take your bulky and other non-trash items. Please check with the attendant regarding any fees due at the time of disposal.

What's Flushable or Not



We continue to stress the importance of the "Not everything is flushable", **please check out the "Do Not Flush!" list to protect your sewer and septic system.** A "Flushable" label does not mean it is SAFE for your septic system or the Town's sewer. Please read the brochure we have included on the Town's website at www.belmontnh.org. We need your help to ensure our sewers keep flowing.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Town Administrator's Office at 267-8300 ext. 124.



Just a reminder that the Town of Belmont is an active member of Lakes Region Public Access Television which can be seen locally on Atlantic Broadband Channels 24, 25, and 26. If you are a camera buff and you have an interest in producing a show to be shown on LRPA, please contact the station at 528-3070 to discuss your idea. LRPA has made significant strides to improve programming this past year and its presence in the Lakes Region; we urge you to check out their website at <http://lrpa.org>.

Town Clerk's News

Greetings and salutations!!

Our annual Town election will be held Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at Belmont High School located at 255 Seavey Rd. The polls will be open from 7AM – 7 PM. Voter guides regarding the articles we will be voting on are available on our town website, www.belmontnh.org, or at Town Hall. If you are going to be absent on the day of the election and are in need of an absentee ballot we have them here in our office. You can stop by the Clerk's office and cast your vote, or submit a request and we can mail your ballot to you. You can also mail or email a request for a ballot; please keep in mind that every request **must** include your **signature** and indicate where you need your ballot mailed to.

We cannot accept any new voter registrations in our office after February 28, 2020.

After this date, you must register to vote at the polls on Election Day. Be sure to bring your valid State or Government issued ID (driver's license, passport, military ID, etc...) as well as proof of residency. If you have any questions please give our office a call.



There is new legislation that states that in the event of an impending weather emergency and the National Weather Service has issued a severe storm warning for the date of the election, you may vote by absentee ballot on the Monday immediately prior to the election. If the following pertains to you, you are considered an absentee voter:

- You are elderly, infirmed or have a physical disability and you would otherwise have voted in person but have concerns for your safety if you were to travel in the storm
- You care for children or infirmed adults and reasonably anticipate that school, child or adult care will be cancelled and you would otherwise have voted in person but are deterred from voting by the need to care for children or infirmed adults

If you have any questions about this, you may contact the NH Secretary of State's office or give our office a call for clarification.

Our first issue water/sewer bills for 2020 will be coming out this month. These bills cover the months of December through February and will be due in April. Keep your eyes on those mailboxes.

The time has come to renew the licenses for the furry, canine members of our families. That's right, dog licenses are due for renewal by April 30th. You can stop by our office and renew the license as well as on our town website, www.belmontnh.org. You can also mail in a check for the amount of your license along with a self-addressed stamped envelope so we can send your dog's tag to you.



We hope to see you at the polls!! Make your opinion matter by casting your vote at our Town's Election.

Police Department News

Mail Thefts

Captain Richard Mann

Belmont Police

Recently as part of an ongoing criminal investigation into drug possession, a search warrant was served on an automobile. Upon serving the warrant looking for drug evidence, the officer soon found himself in a much bigger case when he discovered hundreds of pieces of stolen mail along with altered personal and business checks and evidence of mail fraud.

That discovery has now expanded to involve area police departments along with the U.S Postal Inspector Service. Hundreds of investigative hours have been used to track down the level of fraud and locating victims. For weeks we have been contacting residents in several communities whose mail we have recovered. They have been most appreciative of our efforts and helpful tracking their own account to detect recent fraudulent activity.

This case will be active for some time as we identify the increasing number of victims. The suspect of this offense refused to cooperate with our investigation so we really have no idea how many other victims are still out there that may not even know they have been victimized.

This seems to be a good time to bring up a few things you can do to look after your mail.

- We suggest that it be collected daily.
- Leaving mail in your mail box overnight presents an opportunity for thieves to take it from your box while the neighborhood sleeps.
- If you are away on vacation you should stop your mail temporarily with a US postal form.
- You can install a postal approved locked mail receptacle or get a P.O. Box.
- The mail contains credit card offers and lots of personal information. People are opting for electronic statements. If you use electronic statements that get delivered via email or directly into your online banking account you avoid paper statements and possible interception by mail box thieves.
- You should consider shredding bills and financial documents once you don't need them to keep thieves from fishing them out of your trash. You can Freeze your credit report. This keeps creditors and others from "running credit" on you, protecting you from scammers who try to use your information to set up phony accounts.
- Freezing your credit is free, but you need to contact the three credit reporting bureaus: Equifax, Experian and Transunion. You can always unfreeze it temporarily to allow legitimate access to your credit, such as when you apply for a loan or a credit card. Consider joining a credit monitoring agency. Get a free copy of your credit report. Review it carefully and dispute any accounts you don't recognize.

If you think you or a family member may have been the victim of identity or mail theft, contact the police department to file a report and get the ball rolling to protect your credit along with your personal information. We can be reached at 267-8350



BFD Times

The Scoop on Winter Burning



With sufficient snow coverage, property owners are permitted to burn any time of day during the winter months. Sufficient snow coverage consists of a 100' radius from the fire edge covered with snow or other frozen precipitation. Normal burning rules and regulations still apply while winter burning is in effect. Your fire pile must be 50' or more away from any occupied structure and must be attended at all times. Only clean, untreated wood and brush 5" in diameter or less are can be legally kindled and accelerants should never be used. We ask residents that if you are planning on burning, please give a courtesy call to the station to let us know prior to igniting your pile. April 1st is the hard deadline for when winter burning ends for Belmont residents. This deadline may be moved up to a sooner time if warmer weather moves in. For any burning questions or concerns, please contact the Fire Department at 603-267-8333.

Highway Department News

Road Weight Limit in effect March 6th Until Further Notice:

Each spring the Town of Belmont posts all Town roads to a maximum weight limit of 6 tons during the spring thaw per RSA 231:190-191.

Local roads are especially vulnerable to damage in the spring due to the water freeze-thaw cycle. Imposing temporary weight limits can help to protect the roads during this time. Contractors, construction companies, parcel services, fuel services and solid waste haulers are asked to observe the posting by staying off soft road shoulders and reducing load weights.

Special permission may be given for "practical difficulty or unnecessary hardship" depending upon weather conditions and time of day. However, **Prior approval is required** and a bond for the cost of restoring the road may also be required for any exceptions.

The following vehicles are exempt: firefighting equipment, winter maintenance equipment that is owned, leased or rented by state or any political subdivision of the state, and farm equipment. Violators may be charged with a "violation" under RSA 231:191, VI resulting in a fine of up to \$1,000 along with restitution for damages and civil liability. Call the Public Works Department at 603-528-2677 with any questions.



Please take note of the frost heaves signs we have placed throughout the town. Frost heaves can pop up anytime this time of year. We try to warn motorists of the ones we feel are the worst but cannot mark them all.

Winter Roadway Maintenance:

Mailboxes and Other Structures Within the Highway Right-of-Way

Occasionally mailboxes or other devices are damaged by snow plowing operations due to poor visibility, the mailbox being buried in a snow bank or the weight/volume of the snow being plowed. This damage is not deliberate and, in most cases, unavoidable. The Town of Belmont is not responsible for damage and does not repair, replace or re-erect boxes that are located within the right-of-way. These devices are located within the highway limits and are the responsibility of the property owner. The Town of Belmont will work with the box owners to locate the box in the safest possible location and offer advice on its design to minimize potential damage.

Please note the following:

- It is the property owner's responsibility to maintain and properly locate their mailbox. The front of the mailbox should be located no closer than 2' from the edge of the pavement and should be a minimum 46" high to the bottom of the supporting post. We recommend a height of 46" as a minimum of possible contact as this will accommodate the plow wings to go under and not come in contact

Highway Department News (Cont.)

with the mailbox or the supporting post. We also recommend a metal mailbox; plastic will not hold up in the extreme cold weather. See FOLLOWING photo for a recommended installation:

A model has been installed at the Belmont Post Office for the public to view.



WIDENING OR PUSHING BACK SNOW BANKS

Following storms with heavy snowfall, or when several storms result in substantial snow bankings, the Town of Belmont will undertake a roadway widening procedure which will push back the snowbanks. This is necessary operation because it accomplishes the following:

- A. Provides room for future snow
- B. Prevents melting snow from running onto pavement creating ice
- C. Increasing safe distances at intersections and driveways
- D. Maintains a uniform line by eliminating protrusions at driveways

Unfortunately, there is no way to prevent depositing snow in previously cleaned driveways or walkways. With thousands of driveways it is impossible to clear these individual drives as the cost would be prohibitive and would result in complaints of highway funds expended for the benefit of certain individuals.

Ordinance Regulating Snow Obstruction and Removal

PROHIBITED ACTS

- No person shall put, place, or store or cause to be put, placed, or stored snow or ice which has been removed from private property onto any public road, sidewalk or parking area within the Town of Belmont

Highway Department News (Cont.)

- No person shall purposely or knowingly put or place, or cause to be put or placed, any snow, ice or other debris so as to cover a fire hydrant so as to make it inaccessible use in the event of a fire. For the purpose of this section “person” excludes agents of the state or any political subdivision engaged in the operation of snow removal from the traveled portion of any highway or the adjacent sidewalk or parking area.
- No person shall put, place or store or cause to be put, placed or stored snow or ice within the traveled way of any Class V or Class VI public road, emergency lane, public sidewalk or public parking area within the Town of Belmont.

Penalties: Any person who violates any provision of this ordinance shall be guilty of a violation and subject to a penalty in the amount of \$100.00

Parking Ban

A Parking ban will be in effect starting November 15th until April 15th— overnight on street parking will not be allowed during this time.



The Park and Ride has a 72-hour parking limit. If you must park there during a storm, we ask that you park in the rear of the lot. This makes it much easier for us to maintain it for other users. Thank You!

PUBLIC WINTER SAND

A new winter sand stockpile for the residents of Belmont has been completed outside of the Hurricane rd. facility. This will allow for residents to obtain sand while we maintain a secure and safe facility. A friendly reminder; if you need winter sand for your driveway, we have a three 5-gallon pail limit .



CONSTRUCTION SEASON IS ALWAYS UPON US

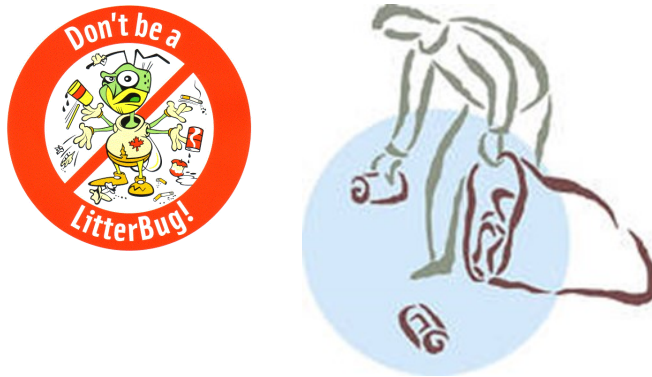
Your DPW crew takes pride in maintaining our roadways to be as safe as possible. Please remember in order for them to do their job, right of way should always be given as with any emergency vehicle. It's always wise to slow down, leave a little early and arrive to your destination safely. We thank you all for your cooperation!

Highway Department News (Cont.)

ROADSIDE TRASH PICKUP

Each year trash bags are available at the Highway garage for people interested in organizing local neighborhood trash pickup. If you or your organization would like to get bags, they can be picked up during normal business hours.

Highway Department employees, with help from the Belknap County Department of Correction, have picked up over 400 bags of roadside trash so far this year. Please be mindful of our efforts and try not to use our roadsides as a trash can!



Please drive cautiously (SLOW DOWN) as our crews will be out working as well as many private contractors in the area. Take note of all signage and slow down when entering a work zone. Remember to stay off your cell phone. The safety and lives of the many construction workers trying to improve your roads depends on it!!

DRIVEWAY CULVERT MAINTENANCE

Driveway culvert maintenance is the responsibility of the homeowner. Not only should you keep your culvert free from debris, it is recommended that snow should not be piled up to obstruct the flow of water. This can contribute to flooding and water washing out your driveway along with entering the road which can cause a hazard to motorists.



Before you dig, remember to call DigSafe .
Not only is it safe, **IT'S THE LAW!**



Planning and Zoning Committee News



Planning and Zoning News

[PI Day](#)

March 14

[Application Review Committee \(2/20/20\)](#)

Wende Richter – Smith Orchard: Review for Agriculture (Outdoor Agritourism Functions- Weddings, Meals, Birthday Parties, Educational Tours, Anniversary Parties), 184 Leavitt Road, Tax Lot 211-077-000-000. #01-20R

[Planning Board \(2/24/20\)](#)

Public Hearing – Pike Industries: Continuation of a request for Earth Excavation approval to increase quarry depth. Property is located at 308 Depot Street, Tax Lots 235-058-000-000, 232-031-000-000 & 236-014-000-000 in the “I” & “R” Zones. PB# 1019P. Case was continued to the March 23, 2020 Planning Board meeting.

Public Hearing – Mountain Made Materials: Approved an Earth Excavation request to expand existing excavation area including blasting and crushing activities. Property is located at 224 Hurricane Road, Tax Lot 231-014-000-000 in the “R” Zone. PB # 2119P.

[Zoning Board of Adjustment \(2/26/20\)](#)

NO CASES IN FEBRUARY

For additional Land Use Information:

Visit www.belmontnh.org

Contact LandUse@BelmontNH.org

Call 267-8300 x 119

Planning and Zoning Committee News (Cont.)

Spring Cleaning? Think Twice Before Tossing!

Although we can be sure Old Man Winter still has something to say about it, spring will eventually arrive and as you begin your spring cleaning, please keep in mind the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collections program conducted annually by Lakes Region Planning Commission. Each year LRPC teams up with the NH Department of Environmental Services to provide residents of the Lakes Region an opportunity to responsibly dispose of household hazardous wastes for FREE!

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS	YARD AND GARDEN
Art Supplies	Herbicides/Weed Killer
Cleaning Fluids	Pesticides
Roofing Tar	Pool chemicals
Unbroken Fluorescent Bulbs	Coal Tar-based Driveway Sealer
GARAGE	WORKBENCH
Car Wax Polish	Paint Stripper
Antifreeze	Oil-based Paint
Gasoline & Diesel Fuel	Stains & Varnishes
Carburetor Cleaners	Spray Paint

The graphic to the right lists types of materials that can be collected and disposed during Belmont's scheduled HHW collection date of:

Saturday, July 25, 2020 – Belmont Fire Station – 8:30 AM-12:00 PM

For further details, including a list of items not accepted, visit <https://www.lakesrpc.org/serviceshhw.asp>

Belmont Facility Strategy Committee News

Town Facility Committee Recommends Support for New Police Station



The Belmont Facility Strategy Committee urges community support for Article 2 which proposes raising funds to construct a new Police Station. This Warrant Article will be considered by voters at the Annual Town Meeting on March 10th. After over two years of study, inspection of all town buildings, and community feedback, the Facility Strategy Committee determined that addressing safety issues and congested conditions at the Police Station should be Belmont's

highest facility priority. Construction of a new Police Station on the corner of Fuller and Sargent Streets is recommended by the Facility Committee after considering a wide range of alternatives developed with the assistance of Lavallee Brensinger Architects (LBA), and input from Town residents, staff and the Selectmen. Postponing replacement of the Police Station will result in a higher cost for construction. LBA estimated that construction costs would increase 3% per year.

In November 2019, the Facility Strategy Committee completed Findings and Recommendations for a 20-Year Strategy for Belmont's Town Buildings. The goal of the study was to propose a more efficient use of existing town buildings to meet the service needs of town residents for the next 20 years without the town acquiring new property. The highest priority identified was to construct a new Police Station.

Alternatives Considered - The Committee discussed alternatives with the community for the Police Department including:

Reconstruction of the existing Police Station (adding a 2nd story)

The reconstructing the old Bank/Post Office or using the site for a new Police Station - *Most community feedback indicated Main Street wasn't good choice but favored existing location in Village and*

Building a new Police Station on the Corner Meeting House site.

Options considered but not developed into alternatives included co-location with the Fire Station - *There isn't sufficient space to build a new Police Station on the Fire Station parcel. The State has land adjacent to this parcel but plans to retain it for future improvements to Route 140.* Other suggestions discussed included housing the Police Department at the Belmont Mill (*insufficient space for Town Hall and Police Department*), and purchase of land to construct a new Police Station (*Selectmen charged Committee to make efficient use of existing Town property*).

Using the Corner Meeting House site for a new Police Station allows the Department to remain in place until the new building is constructed. Projected cost for a new building is close to reconstruction and relocation cost for rehabilitating the existing Police Station. This new building location allows room for future expansion beyond next 20 years. There would be no room for further expansion at the existing Police Station. If approved, the proposed Town bond is capped at \$3.5 million. The estimated tax rate impact is 30 cents per \$1000 of assessed value. If construction cost is less, the bond amount and effect on the tax rate will be reduced.

Findings and recommendations for all Town buildings are included in the full Facility Strategy Report which is available on the town website. There is also a virtual tour of town buildings available.

Library News



MARCH 2020

Monday and Wednesday 10am-7pm
 Tuesday and Thursday 10am-5pm
 Friday 10am-4pm Saturday 9am-1pm

146 Main Street – Belmontpubliclibrary.org – (603) 267-8331

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2 Read Across America Day	3	4 Family Storytime 10:30am	5	6	7
8	9 Trustees Meeting 4pm	10	11 Family Storytime 10:30am FRIENDS- 1pm	12 NonFiction BOOK GROUP 1pm	13	14
15	16 National Freedom of Information Day	17 Tuesday Book Group 10:30 am	18 Family Storytime 10:30am MIDDLE SCHOOL MADNESS 3PM	19	20 Friday Fiction Book Group 10:30am	21 World Poetry Day
22	23	24	25 Family Storytime 10:30am	26 Teen Games 3pm	27 Fiction BOOK GROUP 10:30 am	28
29	30	31	Family Storytime 10:30am			

Library News (Cont.)

NonFiction Group March 12 1pm

The Secret History of Wonder Woman by Jill Lepore

A riveting work of historical detection revealing that the origin of Wonder Woman, one of the world's most iconic superheroes, hides within it a fascinating family story—and a crucial history of twentieth-century feminism .

Tuesday Book Group March 17 10:30am

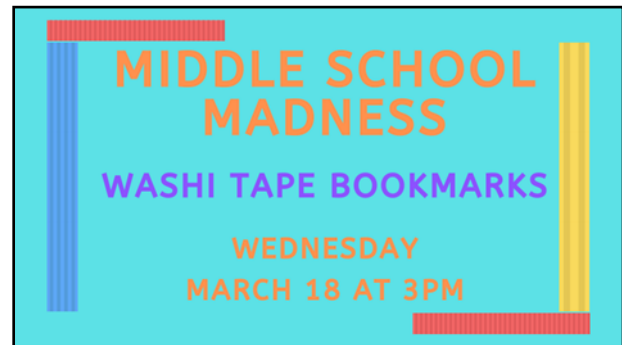
My Sister the Serial Killer by Oyinkan Braithwaite

A short, darkly funny, hand grenade of a novel about a Nigerian woman whose younger sister has a very inconvenient habit of killing her boyfriends.

Friday Fiction March 20 10:30am

Did You Ever Have a Family by Bill Clegg

The stunning debut novel from bestselling author Bill Clegg is a magnificently powerful story about a circle of people who find solace in the least likely of places as they cope with a horrific tragedy.



Letter to the Editor

As the new Executive Director for Belknap House, I want to share how incredibly awe-inspiring these past four months have been on the job and being a part of this greater Laconia community. Belknap House reopened in October, and will remain open as a year round family shelter. Beginning on day one, through Thanksgiving, Christmas and into this new year - generosity, kindness, concern, and joy, have continuously flowed through our doors at 200 Court Street in Laconia. Individuals – young and old, caring families, service-minded students, concerned business owners, committed resource agency workers, compassionate faith community members, devoted service organization partners, and dedicated school personnel have come to Belknap House in support of the families we serve. It has been an extraordinary experience and genuinely inspiring.

As I move deeper into the work of maintaining connections with friends of Belknap House, and cultivating new sources of funding, there's not more than a day or so that goes by without me thinking of the many kindnesses that have been shared. Our mission of providing families in Belknap County a safe shelter during homelessness, and empowering them to become self-sufficient through providing educational opportunities and local resource agency support, is possible because of you - beginning on day one.

A huge shout-out of gratitude goes out to each of you! Thank you for infusing kindness into this community and the work we do and inspiring me as I move forward. Thank you for standing for the value of our family members and what they have to offer – there really are no words. Please continue to stop by for a visit, and tour the House you help make happen.

Gratefully yours,

Paula Ferenc

Executive Director, Belknap House

DONATE: www.belknaphouse.org



Senior Center News

NOTICE

The Belmont Senior Center is no longer operating under the Community Action Program.

If you are interested in any of the other programs, all Belmont residents are welcome to go to:

Tilton Senior Center-11 Grange Rd., Tilton (5.2 miles) (603) 527-8291

- **Laconia Senior Center**-17 Church St., Laconia (6.8 miles) (603) 524-7689
- **TRIP-Franklin Senior Center**-12 Rowell Dr., Franklin (9.5 miles) (603) 934-4151

You may also call Concord with any questions at (603) 225-3295

Additionally, you may still call for bus transportation at (603) 225-1989 as usual.



Our Furry Friends



Pets of Belmont



Chester moved to Belmont 2 years ago from the seacoast. He loves the Village Spur Rail Trail in all seasons. However snow is the best because he can roll in it and run without many distractions. When not outside he is a couch potato at home with his owners Ron and Patty Cole.

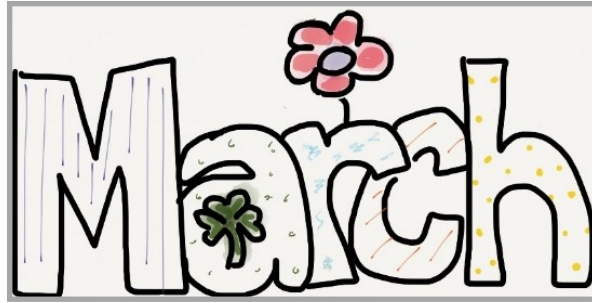


Want to make your pet the Talk of the Town? Just send a photo with a brief introduction to them to townhall@belmonthnh.org.

Our Furry Friends (Cont.)



He loves to visit our granddaughter too.



*All meetings held in CMH (Corner Meeting House) unless otherwise noted . ↑ = upstairs ↓ = downstairs

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2 BOS 5PM ↑	3	4 CC 6PM ↑	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 BOS 5PM ↑	17	18	19	20 ARC 8AM ↑	21
22	23 PB 6PM ↑	24	25 ZBA 6PM ↓	26	27	28
29	30	31	26			

BOS Board of Selectmen

Heritage Heritage Commission

CC Conservation Committee

ARC Application Review Committee

PB Planning Board

ZBA Zoning Board of Adjustment

SOGS Save Our Gale School

FSC Facilities Strategy Committee

WRPB Winnepesaukee River Basin Program