



143 Main Street
PO Box 310
Belmont NH 03220
603-267-8300

2018 Voter's Guide

www.belmontnh.org

Town Meeting

Belmont High School Gymnasium

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Town Reports will be available approximately one week before the Voting Session of Town Meeting in March. The Town Report will be placed on the Town's Website and paper copies will be available at Town Hall and at the polls. The Town Report contains reports from the various departments, boards and officials of the Town.

The voting session of Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday , March 13, 2018 from 7 am to 7 pm in the Belmont High School Gym. All registered voters are eligible to participate in the process.

- ◆ Voters will be deciding on the annual budget for the Town.
- ◆ Voters will also make decisions as to amendments to the zoning ordinance for the Town.
- ◆ The annual Town warrant and other informational documents have been posted to the Town's website along with the Voter's Guide to assist voters in their decision making process.
- ◆ This guide is intended to provide information to voters in regards to the process and matters under consideration before the Town Meeting. The Town website is the primary source of updated information in regards to the budget and Town Meeting. See the main page at www.belmontnh.org.

2018 Voter's Guide

Page 2
www.belmontnh.org

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCESS

First you must be registered to vote. **How Do I Register To Vote?**

1. You may apply to your Town Clerk's office. You will be required to fill out a standard voter registration form.
2. You may also register with your community's Supervisors of the Checklist. By law, the supervisors are required to meet on the Saturday 10 days prior to each election (Saturday, March 3, 2018 at 11 a.m., Belmont Town Hall). Check the local newspaper or call your clerk's office for the date and time of such meeting.
3. Qualified individuals may register to vote at the polling place on Election Day at all elections.

No matter when or where you register to vote, you will be required to fill out a standard voter registration form, and you will be asked to show proof of identity, age, citizenship, and domicile. These qualifications may be established by signing affidavit(s). Proof of identification is needed.

Further questions may be answered at SOS.NH.GOV or by contacting your local Town Clerk, Cynthia DeRoy at 267-8300 ext. 122.

Second, you may attend the Deliberative Session of Town Meeting. All of the warrant articles will be open for discussion (except zoning ordinance changes). The Moderator will recognize voters who may speak on the articles. Voters may ask questions, make statements and/or make motions to amend the warrant articles.

The NH Legislature has placed limitations on amending warrant articles. Voters may amend some warrant articles however they cannot change the underlying purpose of the warrant article. For example voters change the dollar amount of a warrant article to purchase a building however they cannot change its purpose to purchase a vehicle. Voters cannot change the default budget amounts in operating budgets. Some articles require specific language which cannot be modified.

Warrant articles cannot be removed from consideration at the Deliberative Session. Warrant articles which are amended will reflect the changes made at the Deliberative Session and will be on the ballot for the Voting Session of Town Meeting in March. Warrant articles can be amended by a simple majority vote at the Deliberative Session. Belmont's Deliberative Session was held on Saturday, February 4th.

Third, at the Voting Session of Town Meeting on March 13, 2018 voters can come to the polls anytime between 7 am and 7 pm to vote on the articles as amended from the Deliberative Session. Voters cannot make any changes to the articles at this session. Voters only have the option to vote YES to be in favor of an article or NO to be opposed to an article. Proof of identification is needed on voting day.

The votes are tallied by computer and reported the same day as the polls are open. Most articles require a simple majority for passage. Some articles have special requirements such as bond articles and changing the purpose of a capital reserve fund. These articles require a supermajority for passage. They require a 3/5 majority or 60% to pass.

2018 Voter's Guide

Page 3
www.belmontnh.org

Ballot Question #1.

Selectman, three-year term (vote for one):

Ruth P. Mooney

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

Justin David Borden

Robert Chapman

Mark W. Roberts

Preston "Pret" Tuthill

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

Roland Coffin, Jr.

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

David Caron

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

Gail Thomas

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

Sharon Ciampi

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

Gary J. Grant

Recardo "Rick" Segalini

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

Alvin E. Nix, Jr.

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

David Dunham

John Froumy

*Candidate order on the ballot is in accordance with the Secretary of States last random selection list in effect June 2016 through June 2018.

2018 Voter's Guide

Page 4
www.belmontnh.org

BALLOT QUESTIONS —PROPOSED ZONING AMENDMENTS

Ballot Question #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?

Boat Storage-Amend Art. 5, Table 1 and Art. 15 of the existing Ordinance to regulate indoor and outdoor boat storage separately in the permitted use table and create separate definitions.

Boat Storage Facilities

Split into Interior and Exterior designs. Allow interior use in the Commercial, Industrial and Rural (by special exception) zones. Allow exterior use only in the Commercial zone (by special exception).

Ballot Question #3. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town Zoning Ordinance as summarized below?

Warehousing/Self-Storage-Amend Art 5, Table 1 and Art.15 of the existing Ordinance to regulate indoor and outdoor warehousing/self-storage separately in the permitted use table and create separate definitions.

Warehousing/Self Storage Facilities

Split into Interior and Exterior designs. Allow interior use in the Commercial, Industrial and Rural (by special exception) zones. Allow exterior use only in the Commercial zone (by special exception).

Ballot Question #4. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town Zoning Ordinance as summarized below?

Accessory Dwelling Unit-Amend Art. 8.F of the existing Ordinance to prohibit Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) as additions to manufactured homes, recreational vehicles, and where one or more single-family units are already attached such as condominium developments and duplexes. Prohibit the condominium sale of an ADU separate from the principal unit.

Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs):

In 2016 the State adopted RSA 674:71-73-Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) to require communities to create additional affordable housing units and provide aging homeowners with housing options. The Town currently allows ADUs for all single-family dwellings. In 2017 the State amended the RSA to allow Towns to prohibit ADUs in certain types of housing such as manufactured housing units (sometimes referred to as mobile homes) and Townhouses. The purpose of the State's amendment is to allow Towns to make decisions for their own communities based on their existing housing stock and consider important issues such as density and the financial impacts to their community.

The proposed manufactured home amendment does not impact modular or stick-built homes where ADUs will still be permitted. The majority of manufactured homes are located in pre-zoning parks which already exceed maximum lot density. Although there are some grandfathered manufactured homes on individual lots; currently they are allowed only in manufactured home parks and subdivisions. Additions to manufactured homes are more difficult because they must either be designed by a Licensed Engineer or connected to the manufactured home with only a flexible membrane in order not to void the HUD certification of the unit.

2018 Voter's Guide

Page 5
www.belmontnh.org

BALLOT QUESTIONS —PROPOSED ZONING AMENDMENTS

Ballot Question #4 cont.:

There are currently 1,066 manufactured homes and 572 multi-family units in Belmont. Many meet the standard for affordable or are subsidized housing. They account for 45% of the Town's entire housing stock.

A 2007 community report found that Belmont “has more than met its share of the need for family subsidized units”. This relates to Belmont's share of the regional affordable housing need and the Planning Board recognizes the need still exists in our community, but Belmont's amended ADU Ordinance will continue to address that need and recognizes that, in the past, newly constructed affordable housing has often immediately been occupied by new residents that come from other communities and not by existing residents.

The report also estimated that in 2005 a single-family home in Belmont with a value of \$275,000-\$300,000 essentially fell within the “break-even” category of generating sufficient tax revenue to cover the cost of services provided by the Town. These findings indicate that Belmont could be impacted by a significant influx of additional affordable housing units.

Lastly is the issue of public safety. Many manufactured homes have minimal setbacks to adjacent units. Additions and/or second family quarters at the rear of these units in such close confines cause concern related to fire, especially when fuel sources such as LP tanks are located between units. Additional lot coverage, even in a conforming footprint, can be problematic in such densely developed areas.

The Planning Board's duty is to balance the benefits and impacts of amendments they propose to the voters. This proposed amendment considers the need for affordable housing, the appropriateness of certain housing types for such expansion and the underlying cost to the community.

Full amendment doc at <http://www.belmontnh.org/docs/Planning/18Amendments/180119FinalVersion.pdf>, pages 1 & 3.

Presentation at <http://www.belmontnh.org/docs/Planning/18Amendments/180205BOSADUs.mp4>.

2018 Voter's Guide

Page 6
www.belmontnh.org

BALLOT QUESTIONS —PROPOSED ZONING AMENDMENTS

Ballot Question #5. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town Zoning Ordinance as summarized below?

Subordinate Dwelling Unit-Amend Art. 5, Table 1, delete Art. 13.F.1, and add a definition to Art. 15 of the existing Ordinance to allow one subordinate dwelling unit on a lot with a primary business use in the Commercial & Industrial Zones and require a Conditional Use Permit for occupancy by other than the business owner (e.g. business manager or security person).

Subordinate Dwelling Unit

One dwelling unit is allowed as an accessory use to a business in the Commercial or Industrial zone. Occupancy is limited to the business owner, or business manager or security person if a conditional use permit is obtained.

Ballot Question #6. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #5 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town Zoning Ordinance as summarized below?

Snow Dump-Amend Art. 7.C.14 of the existing Ordinance to clarify that a “snow dump” regulates snow brought to a lot from off-site.

Snow Dump

This is to clarify the existing ordinance that a “snow dump” is a location where snow is brought to a property from off site.

Ballot Question #7. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #6 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town Zoning Ordinance as summarized below?

Signs-Amend Art. 4.I.4 of the existing Ordinance to allow internally illuminated signs.

Signs

This is to correct an error in the 2017 sign amendment that will allow signs that are lit from within. The light is indirect, located behind a translucent sign face with opaque lettering or design.

2018 Voter's Guide

Page 7

www.belmontnh.org

BALLOT QUESTIONS—CONT.

Ballot Question #8. Shall the Town vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:81 to allow a new construction property tax exemption for commercial and industrial uses as defined in Article 5 Table 1 of the Town of Belmont Zoning Ordinance last amended March 16, 2017. The exemption shall apply only to municipal and local school property taxes assessed by the municipality and shall exclude state education property taxes and county taxes. The exemption shall be as follows: 50% of the increase in assessed value attributable to construction of new structures, and additions, renovations, or improvements to existing structures and shall run for a maximum period of 6 years following the new construction. If adopted by the Town, the percentage rate and duration of the exemption shall be granted uniformly within the Town to all projects for which a proper application is filed. This vote adopting RSA 72:81 shall remain in effect for a maximum of 5 tax years; provided, however, that for any application which has already been granted prior to expiration of such 5-year tax period, the exemption shall continue to apply at the rate and for the duration in effect at the time it was granted.

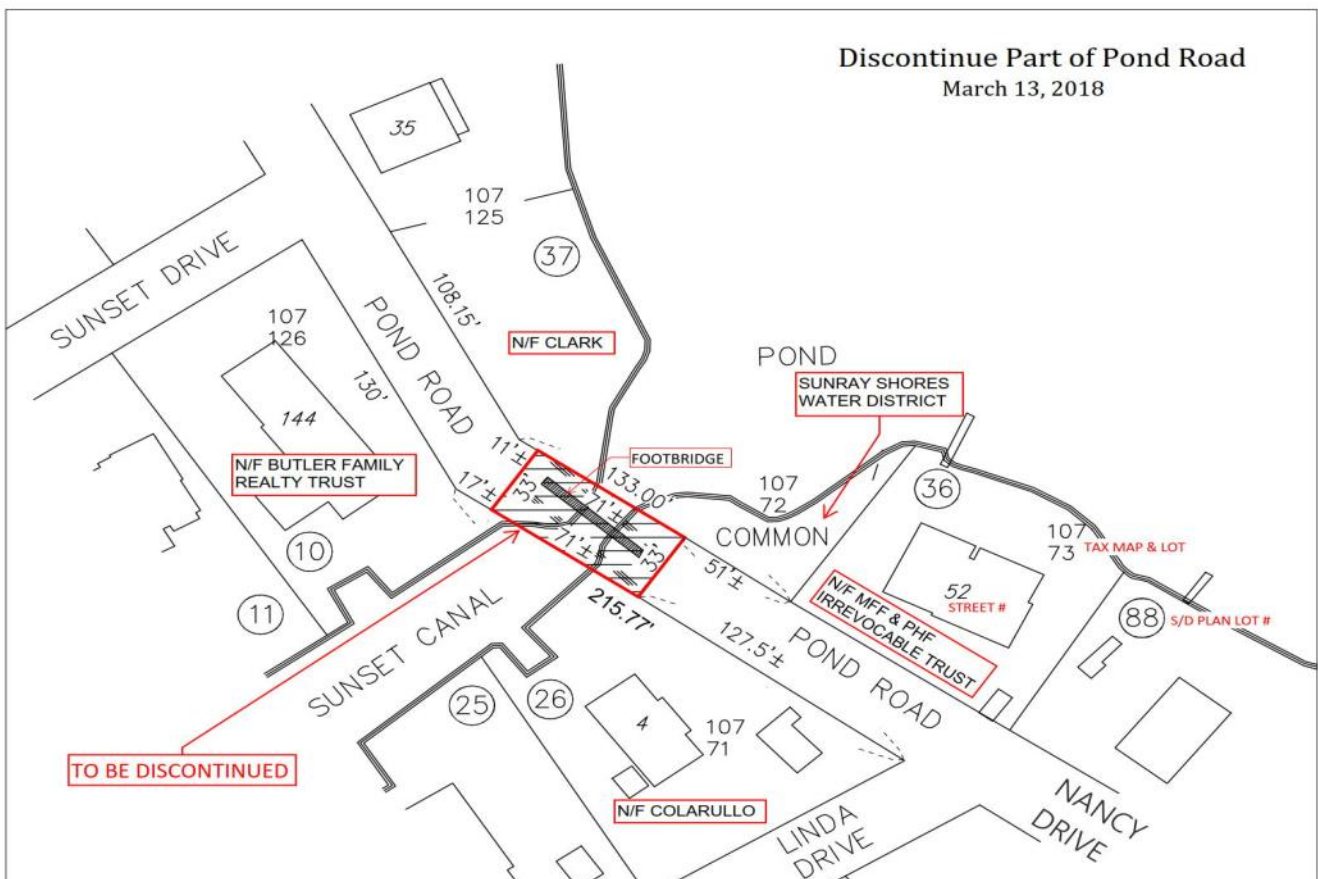
Any projects currently on the books, those with Building Permits and Site Plan Review will not qualify for the exemption. The provisions of the exemption apply to any permits issued for commercial and industrial improvements after the date the exemption is adopted and only after the property owner makes application to the Town. We have commercial and industrial property that is vacant and we continue to hear that developers are concerned about Belmont's high tax rate. The exemption is 50% of the increase in assessed value attributable to construction of new structures, and additions, renovations, or improvements to existing structures and shall run for a maximum period of 6 years following the new construction. So residents will immediately receive the benefit of 50% of the increased value against their taxes and the remaining 50% gain in valuation will come when the exemption expires. The new construction or improvements do not increase the cost of services to the Town, it won't add children to the school system or require new firefighters/police officers or even a change in planning staff. We hope to encourage property owners to improve their commercial property, build new, add jobs and hopefully spur economic development in the community which will offset the seniors and other residential taxpayers in the community. The exemption expires in 6 years and the vote adopting the exemption sunsets in 5 years.

2018 Voter's Guide

Page 8
www.belmontnh.org

BALLOT QUESTIONS - CONT.

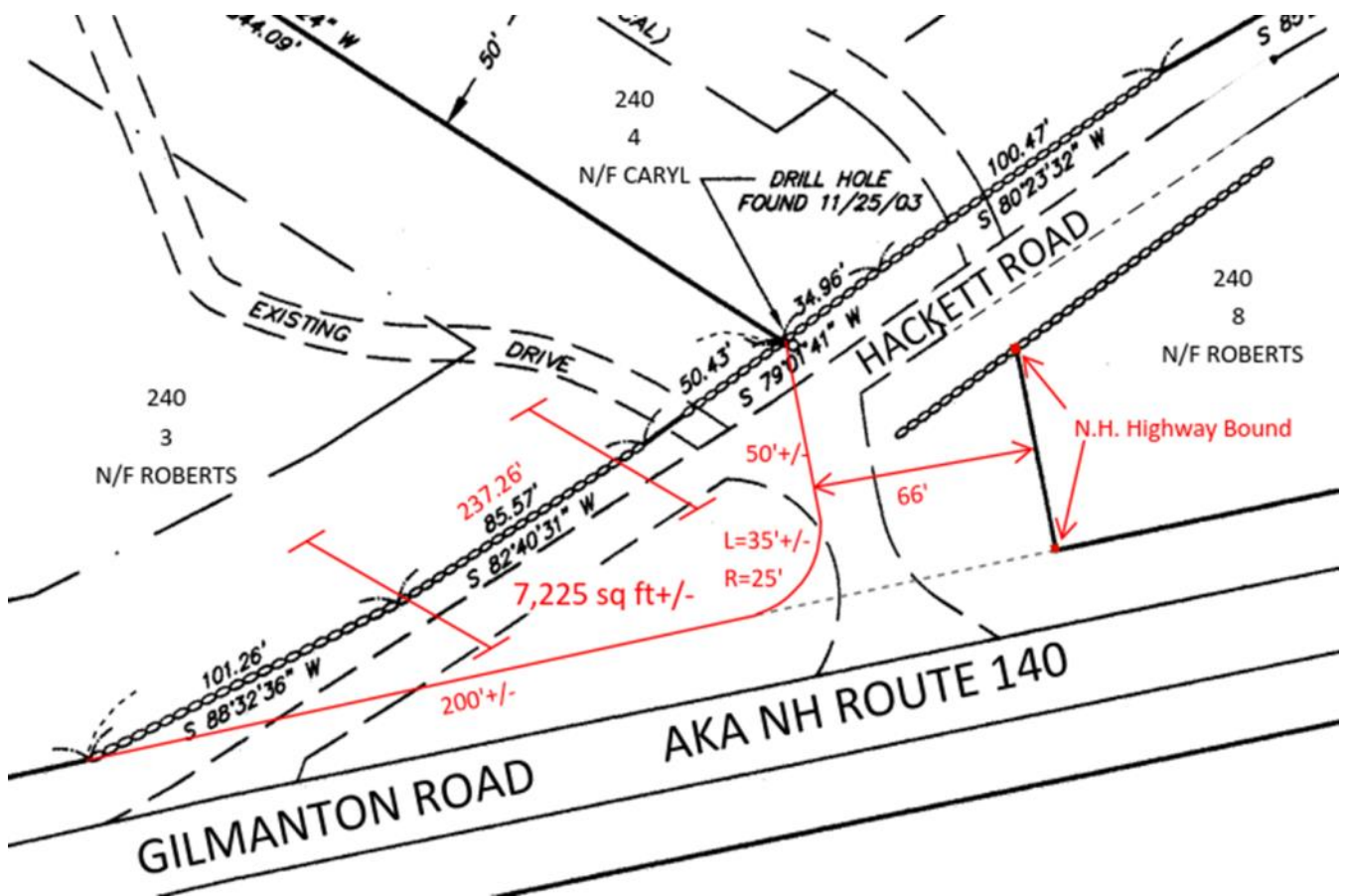
Ballot Question #9. Shall the Town vote to discontinue completely, a portion of Pond Road, so-called, in Belmont with the title in the land to revert to the Sunray Shores Water District. The portion to be discontinued is described as follows: Beginning at a point on the southerly sideline of Pond Road, so-called, and the land now or formerly of Butler Family Realty Trust, 17'± southeasterly from the angle point of said Pond Road; thence turning and running southeasterly along said Pond Road 71'±, crossing over the Sunset Canal, so-called, and along land now or formerly of Shawna Collarullo to a point 127.5'± from the intersection of said Pond Road and Linda Drive, so-called; thence turning at right angle northeasterly 33' to a point on the sideline of Common Land of the Sunray Shores Water District; thence turning and running northwesterly and parallel with the first course 71'± along the Common Land, crossing over said Sunset Canal, and along land now or formerly of Gerald and Beatrix Clark to a point 11'± southeasterly of an angle point in said Pond Road; thence turning at a right angle running southwesterly 33' to the point of beginning. Said portion of Pond Road containing a footbridge to be completely discontinued with ownership reverting to the Sunray Shores Water District.



2018 Voter's Guide

BALLOT QUESTIONS - CONT.

Ballot Question #10. Shall the Town vote to discontinue completely, a portion of Hackett Road, so-called, in Belmont with the title in the land to revert to the abutting property. The portion to be discontinued is described as follows: Beginning at a point on a stonewall at the southeasterly corner of land of Clive and Alison Roberts on the sideline of Hackett Road, so-called; Thence running along the stonewall and said Hackett Road, in a southwesterly direction 237'± to a rebar set in the ground at the end of the wall at the sideline of Gilmanton Road (also known as NH Route 140), so-called; Thence turning and running along said Gilmanton Road in a southeasterly direction 233'± to a point; Thence turning and running along a curve to the left having a radius of 25' a distance of 39'± to a point; Thence turning and running in a northeasterly direction 48'± to the point of beginning. Meaning and intending to describe a roughly triangular parcel 7,180± ft² in area, a portion of Hackett Road to be discontinued and attached to the land of Clive and Alison Roberts and to become a part of Tax Lot 240/003.



2018 Voter's Guide

Page 10
www.belmontnh.org

BALLOT QUESTIONS - CONT.

Ballot Question #11. Shall the Town vote to rescind the following bond authorizations approved but not issued, a 3/5 majority vote is required.

March 15, 2008	Pleasant Valley Roadway, Water and Drainage	\$40,982
March 13, 2012	Sewer Pump Station (5) Replacement	\$179,196
March 13, 2012	Belmont Village Water Line Replacement	\$76,679
March 12, 2013	Belmont Village Phase II Water Line Replacement	\$14,939

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

The purpose of this article is to clear unissued bond authorizations from our Balance Sheet. The amounts resulted from lower project costs therefore less funds were borrowed.

Ballot Question #12. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$65,000) for the purpose of a Space Needs and Feasibility Study; funding for this article is to come from the Municipal Facilities Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2006. No amount of money will be raised by taxation under this article.

(The Budget Committee recommends \$65,000 and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.) The current balance in the Capital Reserve account is \$419,096.34.

- ◆ Key information on Town Buildings is needed for long term decisions on their best use.
- ◆ A Citizen Committee found there are 16,000 square feet of unused or underused space in Town buildings. There is no decision for use of the Belmont Mill or Bank Building.
- ◆ At the same time, there are safety and operational issues at the Police Station, and cramped conditions at Town Hall and the Library due to inadequate space.
- ◆ Existing Facility Capital Reserve Funds would be used for this study. No new tax dollars would be used.

2018 Voter's Guide

Page 11
www.belmontnh.org

BALLOT QUESTIONS—CONT.

Ballot Question #12 Continued :

- ◆ Belmont contracted a 10-Year Road Study to guide road reconstruction work. This study provides a similar tool for Town Building decision-making..

Key questions include:

- ◆ How much space is needed for the Police Dept, Town Hall and other Town activities for 10 years and more?
- ◆ Are options for the Police Station and Town Hall feasible? What would they cost?
- ◆ What's the best use of Town buildings ? Which should we retain, sell or lease? What are the options for improvements and cost to meet future needs?
- ◆ Belmont spends about \$330,000 annually on Town Building operations, maintenance and improvements. This study would help guide investment in Town buildings needed for the future and use existing studies of the Belmont Mill, Library and other Town buildings. All building needs cannot be addressed at once, but priorities can be proposed for the next 10 years for the community to consider.

Police Station



Town Hall



Belmont Public Library



Belmont Mill



Bank Building



Corner Meeting House

2018 Voter's Guide

Page 12
www.belmontnh.org

BALLOT QUESTIONS—CONT.

Ballot Question #13. Shall the Town 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 \$171,400 of revenues from ambulance billings received during the 2018 budgetary year to be deposited in the Special Revenue fund known as the Fire/Ambulance Equipment and Apparatus Fund. The first \$171,400 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 2018 budgetary year (Majority Ballot Vote Required). **The current balance in the Special Revenue Account is \$551,823.57. This article has been included on the Town's Meeting Warrant since 2011; funds collected for ambulance services are used to offset the operating expenditures of the department.**

Training Expenses	\$3,000
Medical & Supply Expenses	\$26,000
Ambulance Billing Fees	\$22,000
Overtime	\$40,000
Telephone	\$2,000
Conferences & Dues	\$1,000
Office Expense	\$12,000
Vehicle Repair & Parts	\$8,000
Fuel	\$7,400
Kitchen Renovations – Fire Station	\$50,000

Ballot Question #14. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$950,000) for the cost of a Quint Fire Truck for the Fire Department and further to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand dollars (\$250,000) from the Fire/Ambulance Equipment and Apparatus Special Revenue Fund previously established in accordance with RSA 31:95, c; the balance of Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$700,000) is to come from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program. In the event the Town does not receive the grant; this appropriation will not be funded. (Majority ballot vote required.)

(The Budget Committee recommends \$950,000 and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.)

2018 Voter's Guide

BALLOT QUESTIONS—CONT.

Ballot Question #14 cont.

WHAT IS OUR AMBULANCE REVENUE ACCOUNT USED FOR?

Offsetting Revenue from Ambulance Billing	Balance as of Dec. 31, 2017 \$551,823.57
Overtime	\$40,000.00
Telephone	\$2,000.00
Conferences & Dues	\$1,000.00
Training Classes	\$3,000.00
Medical & Supply Expenses	\$26,000.00
Ambulance Billing Fees	\$22,000.00
Office Expenses	\$12,000.00
Vehicle Repair & Parts	\$8,000.00
Fuel	\$7,400.00
Kitchen Renovation	\$50,000.00
Lease Payment—Pumper	\$62,117.00
Total Proposed Expenditures for 2018	\$233,517.00
Total Balance left in Ambulance Billing Account	\$318,306.57

In using the \$250,000.00 from the Ambulance Revenue Account, there would still be approximately \$68,306.57 left over for future year budgets, along with money continually being deposited in that account from ambulance billing.

This is our town, these are our people, and this is our responsibility. Please help us serve you and your neighbors better by supporting the equipment we need to keep our town safe.



If Belmont Fire is not awarded the grant for this proposal, the new Quint will not be purchased, and all money approved from the Ambulance Revenue Account will be returned to the account.

For any questions, comments or concerns regarding Belmont Fire's proposal for a new Quint, please contact Deputy Fire Chief Michael Newhall. He can be reached Monday through Friday between the hours of 8am and 4pm at 603-267-8333.

2018 Voter's Guide

BALLOT QUESTIONS—CONT.

Ballot Question #14. cont.

WHAT IS A QUINT?

A quintuple combination pumper or “quint” is a fire service apparatus that serves the multiple purpose of an engine, rescue and a ladder truck. The name quint is derived from the Latin prefix quinque-, meaning five, and refers to the five functions that a quint provides: pump, water tank, fire hose, aerial device, and rescue.



WHAT WOULD THE QUINT BE REPLACING?

Belmont Fire currently has 3Rescue1, a 1994 F350 Chassis with a Road Rescue body (23 years old) and 3Tower1, a 1988 E-One Hurricane 95' Tower (29 years old) in it's fleet. These two pieces of apparatus would be phased out and replaced with a Quint.

SHOULD WE SELL OR SCRAP?

3Tower1

\$20,000.00–\$50,000.00

3Rescue1

\$5,000.00–\$10,000.00

Total Between Both:
\$25,000.00 to \$60,000.00

Loss of Two Pieces of Apparatus

If used towards a grant:
\$500,000.00 to \$700,000.00

A net of:
\$475,000.00 to \$640,000.00

A TWO for ONE

IS THIS COST EFFECTIVE?

<u>Average Price for Pumper</u>	<u>Average Price for Rescue</u>	<u>Average Price for Ladder</u>
<u>\$560,000.00</u>	<u>\$600,000.00</u>	<u>\$1,000,000.00</u>

Total price for all three = **\$2,160,000.00**

Total price for Quint (Ladder/Pumper/Rescue) = **\$950,000.00**

Total savings of buying a Quint (Ladder/Pumper/Rescue) = **\$1,210,000.00**

There is also the possibility of an additional \$100,000.00 savings with the trade in and pre-pay

2018 Voter's Guide

Page 15
www.belmontnh.org

BALLOT QUESTIONS—CONT.

Ballot Question #14 cont.

HOW WILL MY TAXES BE IMPACTED?

As a taxpayer of Belmont, you will have a \$0.00 impact on your taxes. The cost of the Quint will be offset by the grant funds as well as funds from the Ambulance Revenue Ac-

The overall cost for the Quint would not exceed \$950,000.00. The AFG Grant would fund up to \$750,000.00, leaving the Town Responsible for 5% of the cost, totaling no more than \$37,500.00. To show a good faith effort to the Federal Government, the Town of Belmont would be contributing a total of \$250,000.00, all of which would be coming from the Ambulance Revenue Account. Since the entire deposit for the Quint would be coming from the Ambulance Revenue Account, the impact on Belmont taxpayers would be \$0.00.



2018 Voter's Guide

Page 16
www.belmontnh.org

BALLOT QUESTIONS—CONT.

Ballot Question #15: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty Two Thousand One Hundred and Seventeen Dollars (\$62,117) for the third 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 #16: Shall the Town 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	\$600.00
Belmont Baseball Organization	\$2,000.00
Belmont Conservation Commission	\$250.00
Belmont Early Learning Center	\$700.00
Belmont Girl Scouts Troop 10972	\$300.00
Belmont Girl Scouts Troop 12117	\$400.00
Belmont Girl Scouts Troop 20431	\$250.00
Belmont Girl Scouts Troop 20532/21532	\$300.00
Belmont Girl Scouts Community Account	\$300.00
Lake Region Girls Softball	\$1,000.00
Belmont Boy Scouts Troop 65	\$700.00
Belmont High School PTO	\$500.00
Belmont Historical Society	\$300.00
Belmont Middle School Nature's Classroom	\$3,000.00
Belmont Middle School PTO	\$1,000.00
Belmont Old Home Day Committee	\$600.00
Belmont Parks & Recreation Scholarship	\$1,500.00
Belmont Police Explorers	\$1,000.00
Belmont Police DARE Program	\$500.00
Belmont Public Library	\$1,300.00
First Baptist Church of Belmont Mission	\$2,000.00
St. Joseph's Food Pantry	\$2,691.11
Friends of Belmont Football	\$1,000.00
Total Funds to be distributed	\$22,191.11

2018 Voter's Guide

Page 17
www.belmontnh.org

BALLOT QUESTIONS—CONT.

Ballot Question #17: Shall we allow the operation of keno games within the Town of Belmont?

This new law allows businesses that hold liquor licenses to operate keno games upon obtaining a license from the liquor commission. Funding from the games will be provided to school districts for full-day kindergarten. Districts will receive a minimum of \$1,100 per full-time student beginning in FY 2019.

Ballot Question #18: Shall the Town 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 Five Hundred Ninety-Three Nine Hundred Nineteen Dollars (\$7,593,919)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Seven Million Seven Hundred Seventy-Six Thousand Five Hundred Forty-Eight Dollars (\$7,776,548) 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 **\$7,593,919** and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.)

This year's budget contains the following highlights and department news:

- ⇒ Health Insurance Rates decreased by 17.9%
- ⇒ Staff reorganization in Town Hall and the Public Works Department result in budget reductions.
- ⇒ Regional electric supply aggregation program through Lakes Region Planning Commission result in lower electric costs
- ⇒ Fuel purchasing through the WEX Program reduces fuel costs Town wide
- ⇒ Assessing Software update required by Vision Appraisal prior to January 2019; approximate cost \$15,000 including conversion of data and sketches.

2018 Voter's Guide

Page 18
www.belmontnh.org

BALLOT QUESTIONS—CONT.

Ballot Question #19: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be placed in the BRATT Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2006) (Amended 2014).

(The Budget Committee recommends **\$25,000** and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.) **The current balance in the Capital Reserve account is \$89,855.37. The BRATT Capital Reserve Fund was established to implement the design and construction of the Lake Winnisquam Scenic Trail. Phase 1 was completed in 2016 running from Agway on Rte. 3 and connecting to Laconia's WOW Trail. Phases 2 & 3 are proposed to connect with the next phase of the Winnepesaukee River Trail at the Tilton town line to become part of a state-wide trail system.**

Ballot Question #20: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to be placed in the Highway Department Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2002).

(The Budget Committee recommends **\$25,000** and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.) **The current balance in the Capital Reserve account is \$28,637.71.**

Ballot Question #21: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000) to be placed in the Municipal Facilities Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2006).

(The Budget Committee recommends **\$75,000** and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.) **The current balance in the Capital Reserve account is \$419,096.34.**

Ballot Question #22: Shall the Town 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, 2017.

(The Budget Committee recommends **\$30,000** and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.) **The current balance in the Capital Reserve account is \$87,388.69. The Town's anticipated liability based on retirement eligible employees is \$358,963.**



2018 Voter's Guide

Page 19
www.belmontnh.org

BALLOT QUESTIONS—CONT.

Ballot Question #23: Shall the Town 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 Budget Committee recommends **\$750,000** and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.) **The current balance in the Capital Reserve account is \$386,602.29; The Board will be issuing an RFP for Engineering services for the following roads; Hurricane, Jamestown and Plummer Hill, with actual construction to begin in 2019.**



Hurricane Road, September 2017

Ballot Question #24: Shall the Town 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 Budget Committee recommends **\$25,000** and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.) **The current balance in the Capital Reserve account is \$73,666.04.**

Ballot Question #25: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000) to be placed in the Property Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2005).

(The Budget Committee recommends **\$40,000** and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.) **The current balance in the Capital Reserve account is \$51,833.53. The Town is currently undertaking a Measure & List of all properties exclusive of the mobile homes in parks as they were done in 2017. It is anticipated new values will be ready for 2019.**

Ballot Question #26: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Ninety-Five Thousand Eight Hundred Forty-Nine Dollars (\$195,849) for the reconstruction of highways, said appropriation to be offset by Highway Block Grant funds provided by the State of New Hampshire?

(The Budget Committee recommends **\$195,849** and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.)

2018 Voter's Guide

Page 20
www.belmontnh.org

BALLOT QUESTIONS—CONT.

Ballot Question #27: Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) 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 Budget Committee recommends **\$10,000** and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.) **The current balance in the Capital Reserve account is \$6,946.52.**

Ballot Question #28: Shall the Town 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 Budget Committee recommends **\$2,500** and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.) **The current balance in the Capital Reserve account is \$11,353.01..**

Ballot Question #29: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Thirty Thousand Fifty-Five Dollars (\$230,055) 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 Twenty-Eight Thousand One Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars (\$228,175) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law.

(The Budget Committee recommends **\$230,055** and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.)

Ballot Question #30: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Fifteen Thousand Nine Hundred Forty-Two Dollars (\$515,942) 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 Eighteen Thousand Three Hundred Ninety-Seven (\$518,397) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law.

(The Budget Committee recommends **\$515,942** and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.)

2018 Voter's Guide

Page 21
www.belmontnh.org

BALLOT QUESTIONS—CONT.

Ballot Question #31: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to be placed in the Heritage Fund previously established (2005).

(The Budget Committee recommends **\$5,000** and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.) **The current balance in the Capital Reserve account is \$33,552.07.**

Ballot Question #32: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to be placed in the Village Rail Spur Trail Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2016).

(The Budget Committee recommends **\$5,000** and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.) **The current balance in the Capital Reserve account is \$30,233.10.**



Ballot Question #33: Shall the Town 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 Budget Committee recommends **\$25,000** and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.) **The current balance in the Capital Reserve account is \$270,270.16.**

2018 Voter's Guide

Page 22
www.belmontnh.org

BUDGET PROCESS

The budget process is less of a beginning and ending process than it is a cycle. In early summer, the Board of Selectmen issue guidance to department heads and the various boards. The guidance has varied from year to year but usually sets the amount of annual salary increase and other criteria. During this same timeframe department heads are asked to update and submit their Capital Improvement Plan requests.

Budgets are usually required to be submitted to the Board no later than the end of August. The submitted budgets are generally in two forms, an excel spreadsheet and a narrative explanation. The excel spreadsheets are integrated into one master budget spreadsheet. The Board reviews the proposed budgets and meets with department heads during late September through October. The Board makes adjustments and submits a recommended budget to the Budget Committee. The Board's budget also includes items which will be the basis for individual or special warrant articles.

The Budget Committee reviews the proposed budgets submitted by the Town during November and December. The Budget Committee votes to recommend a budget to the Voters of the Town and holds a public hearing in early January prior to the Deliberative Session. This is an informational session for voters to learn more about the budget and ask questions.

The Deliberative Session of Town Meeting is the next step in the process and is held between the last Saturday in January and the first Saturday in February. At this meeting voters in attendance have the power to amend some warrant articles including the amounts of the proposed appropriations. The changes made at this session will be included on the ballot to be voted on at the Voting Session of Town Meeting which is held the second Tuesday in March, this year's Voting Session will be March 13, 2018 from 7 am to 7 pm in the Belmont High School Gymnasium. Voters cannot amend the articles at this session; they can only vote yes or no on each ballot question.

The Town has a calendar year budget which begins each year on January 1st, and ends on December 31st. Voters in March are voting on a budget which actually began in January.

Additional town meetings can be held to address budget issues. The Selectmen may call one additional town meeting if the budget is not approved by the voters. The Selectmen can also request additional meetings through the Superior Court to address budget crises which arise between town meetings. These rarely occur; however they are permissible under those circumstances.

2018 Voter's Guide

Page 23
www.belmontnh.org

PURPOSE OF THE CIP

A Capital Improvements Program is a decision making tool used to plan and schedule town improvements over a period of six years or more. It is a statement of a town's intended schedule for the construction, expansion or replacement of public facilities and equipment that have an appreciable life expectancy such as schools, libraries, and highway equipment. For Belmont, a capital improvement has been defined as an item costing at least \$25,000 and having a useful life expectancy of at least one year. Operating expenditures are not included in this definition.

It is recommended that a CIP should be updated on an annual basis and this is accomplished yearly by the Planning Board. The first year of the CIP is typically referred to as the capital budget and includes all capital projects to be appropriated by the governing body. While the CIP should be used as a guide for the municipal budget process, it is an advisory document only and not a strict set of guidelines. The responsibility for preparing the annual town budget remains with the Selectmen and the Budget Committee, with the final approval for appropriations made by the voters at Town Meeting.

Using the CIP to make annual expenditures for public improvements is one of the best ways to implement the town's Master Plan. For example, the Community Facilities Chapter of the Belmont Master Plan identifies several recommendations for improvements to public facilities. The ideals and recommendations represented in the Master Plan should be consistent with capital improvement requests made by individual community departments. It has been the case in several Lakes Region communities that a Master Plan update is followed by the development of a CIP. In fact, a stated goal in the Belmont Master Plan is the development of a CIP.

A leading purpose for a CIP is to show the financial impact caused by major expenditures for larger projects. Funding for capital improvements can come from a variety of sources including town appropriations, bonds, and state and federal programs. An understanding of project funding sources aids in determining the impact of capital improvements on the *municipal portion of the local tax rate*. By planning, fluctuations in the municipal portion of the tax rate can be minimized.

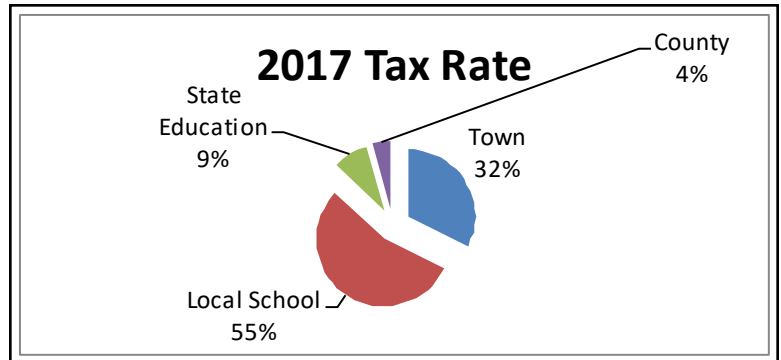
Another purpose of the CIP is that it allows for the coordination of planned capital expenditures of the various departments within a town government. Often school capital expenditures are not included in the municipal CIP because the focus of a CIP is the impact capital projects have on the town tax rate. However, annual updates on anticipated capital projects from the school district may aid the CIP Committee in understanding and coordinating these expenditures with their own work on the municipal capital improvements program.

2018 Voter's Guide

HOW IS THE PROPERTY TAX RATE SET?

The property tax rate is set every year usually in October but sometimes as late as November by DRA. The tax rate has four components:

2016 Town	\$9.53
2016 Local School	\$16.10
2016 State Education	\$2.53
2016 County	\$1.30
TOTAL	\$29.46



This rate is assessed for every **\$1,000** of property valuation. In other words if you own property such as a house valued at **\$200,000** the rate is calculated **\$200 x \$29.46 = a tax bill for \$5,892.**

When the voters approve the budgets those appropriations are factored into determining the annual tax levy. In the case of the 2017 budget the voters approved the following:

Town Appropriations	\$9,830,768
School Appropriations	\$15,467,303

The total of all appropriations for the Town, School and County represent the amount of revenue needed to pay for the appropriations for the respective budgets. In 2017 that amount was **\$27,575,863.** This is the total amount of anticipated spending for the year for the town, School and County. This amount is offset by other anticipated revenues from various sources other than property taxes as well as credits. After those adjustments were made the amount to be raised in property taxes in 2017 was as follows:

Town amount	\$5,717,728
School amount	\$9,672,327

The county and State Education amounts to be raised through property taxes are added to these amounts. In the case of 2016 the following amounts were assessed:

County Assessment	\$781,527
School Education Assessment	<u>\$1,496,265</u>
Total property tax levy less War Service Credits for 2017 was:	\$17,428,147

This amount is assessed over the tax base of the town which was valued at **\$600,602,677.** In the case of the **Town** portion of the tax levy the tax rate is determined by the following formula:

$$\text{\$5,717,728 tax levy} / (\text{\$600,602,677 assessed value} / \text{\$1,000}) = \text{\$9.53 Town Tax Rate}$$

2018 Voter's Guide

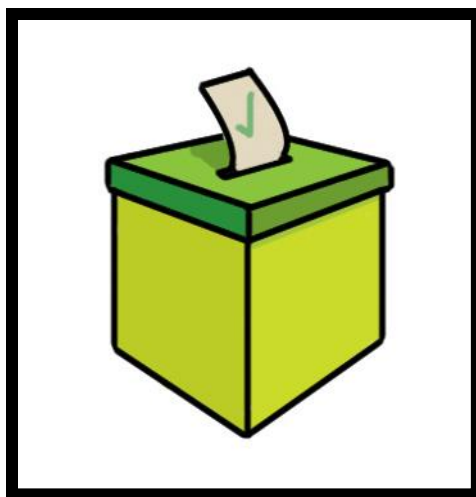
Page 25
www.belmontnh.org

CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS AND UNRESERVED FUND BALANCE

Why are we proposing to place money into capital reserve funds? Capital reserve funds are in essence savings accounts for a particular purpose. Capital reserve funds are generally used for big ticket items. Without capital reserve funds, vehicles, equipment, new facilities or renovation of existing facilities would need to be funded through leases or the sale of municipal bonds. Borrowing money for these purposes can add additional costs in the form of interest payments over the period of the lease or bond until those instruments are paid off.

Both capital reserve funds and borrowing money spread the cost of what is being purchased over multiple years. This minimizes spikes in the tax rate. Capital reserve funds make those payments in advance of the purchase while borrowing spreads out the cost in the future. Appropriations to capital reserve funds are invested and earn interest. The Trustees of the Trust Funds invest and manage these funds.

What is the unreserved fund balance? The unreserved fund balance also known as the unassigned fund balance, is composed of two sources. The first is the surplus funds or unused funds in the Town budget for each year. Unexpended funds from the budget are transferred to the unreserved fund balance. The second source is additional revenues above that which was anticipated for any particular year. These funds are also transferred to the unreserved fund balance. The NH Department of Revenue Administration along with guidance from the Government Finance Officers Association recommends the unreserved fund balance should be between 5% as a minimum and a maximum of 17% of general fund operating revenues. The fund balance retained in 2017 was \$1,292,382 or 6.15%. It is important to remember that the unreserved fund balance is not actually cash.



2018 Voter's Guide

Page 26
www.belmontnh.org

2018 Proposed Tax Rate

◆ Proposed Budget	\$ 10,630,382
◆ Projected Revenue	\$ (4,719,747)
◆ Reserved for Abatements	\$ 25,000
◆ War Service Credits	\$ 246,700
◆ Unexpended Fund Balance Applied	\$ (425,000)
◆ Estimated Assessed Value Used to Calculate	\$605,602,000/\$1000=\$605,602
◆ Estimated 2018 Tax Rate Town Portion	\$9.51
◆ 2017 Tax Rate Town Portion	\$9.53

◆ HOW DO I VOLUNTEER FOR THE TOWN?

The Town relies upon volunteers to serve on the various boards, committees and commissions as members and alternate members. Some of these positions are elected however some are appointed by the Board of Selectmen or the members of the sitting board. The positions which are appointed are as follows: Conservation Commission, BRATT, Alternate members of the Zoning Board and Planning Board and Heritage Commission. Check the website for available opportunities.

There are other community volunteer opportunities and highlighted to the right are just a few of the projects that have been organized by dedicated volunteers. If you have questions about volunteering or wish to volunteer for the Town, please contact the Town Administrator at Town Hall. Volunteers are critical to making the various functions of the Town operate effectively.

“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.” - Elizabeth Andrew