



**Tuesday, March 12, 2024**

**Belmont High School**

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

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**Town of Belmont Voter's Guide**

Dear Belmont Residents:

This year marks the Town of Belmont's 16<sup>th</sup> experience with the Official Ballot Voting process that is commonly known as "SB2". The first session of the annual Town Meeting was held on Saturday, February 3rd. At the Deliberative Session, the voters in attendance were presented with the articles on the warrant as proposed by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee. There was great discussion and input into all the articles presented. You may cast your ballot on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, from 7 am to 7 pm in the Belmont High School Gym, 255 Seavey Road. All registered voters are eligible to participate in the process. A picture ID is required to vote. Unregistered voters may register at the polls with proof of residency and picture ID.

We realize that sometimes lengthy legal language required by law to write various warrant articles can be confusing to voters who have not been actively involved in the debate that created the article. To help voters, we have prepared the ensuing Voter's Guide for your use. This guide will be available at Town Hall and online via the Town's website ([www.belmontnh.gov](http://www.belmontnh.gov)) Should you have any questions, regarding the information contained in the guide, please do not hesitate to contact the Town Administrator Alicia Jipson (267- 8300, ext. 124).

Tax impact information listed in the guide will not be listed on the ballot. We have provided this information here to give voters an idea of what the individual items are estimated to cost if voters approve the item. The tax impact information listed in the voter's guide is simply an estimate based on a current snapshot in time using information and revenue projections that are available today. The actual tax rate will be set by the NH Department of Revenue Administration (NHDRA) in October/November 2024, using actual information that is available including any new value attributed to new construction and in 2024 we are anticipating the completion of a statistical update to property values.

In closing, we would like to "Thank you" for the opportunity to represent you, and we appreciate your consideration as we work together to maintain Belmont as a great community in which to live.

**Sincerely,**

**Belmont Board of Selectmen**

**Ruth P. Mooney, Chairman**

**Jon Pike, Vice Chairman**

**Claude B. Patten, Jr.**

**Travis O'Hara**

**Sharon Ciampi**

**Ballot #1. Election of Officers**

**Selectman 3- Year Term (Vote for up to 2)**

Brian Gardiner  
Ruth Mooney  
Douglas Trottier  
Sharon Ciampi

**Town Clerk Tax Collector 1- Year Term (Vote for not more than 1)**

Jennifer Cashman

**Budget Committee 3- Year Term (Vote for up to 4)**

Jessica Fleck  
Don House  
Mark Roberts

**Budget Committee 2- Year Term (Vote for up to 2)**

Marc Zimmerman  
Donald Hurd

**Town Moderator 2- Year Term (Vote for not more than 1)**

Alvin Nix

**Trustee of Trust Funds 3- Year Term (Vote for not more than 1)**

David Caron

**Library Trustee 3- Year Term (Vote for up to 2)**

Hillary Horn  
Teresa Elliott

**Cemetery Trustee 3- Year Term (Vote for not more than 1)**

Fred Wells  
Sharon Ciampi

**Planning Board 3- Year Term (Vote for up to 2)**

Kevin Sturgeon  
Gary Grant

**Supervisor of the Checklist 6- Year Term (Vote for not more than 1)**

Brenda Paquette

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

Elizabeth Stewart  
Reese Gray

**Ballot #2** Are you in favor of Amendment #1 to the Belmont Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board as follows: Incorporate the statutory definition of alternative treatment center into Article 15 and add alternative treatment centers as uses permitted by special exception in the Commercial Zone and by conditional use permit in the Industrial Zone.

Currently the Ordinance does not contain a definition, and does not identify “alternative treatment center” in the Table of Permitted Uses. This would add a definition, as defined by the State of NH, and add the use to the Table of Permitted Uses. An Alternative Treatment Center would be allowed by Special Exception from the Zoning Board in the Commercial Zone and by Conditional Use Permit from the Planning Board in the Industrial Zone. It would not be an allowed use in the Residential Multifamily, Residential Single Family, Rural and Village Zones.

**Alternative Treatment Center** - As defined in RSA 126-X:1, I.

"Alternative treatment center" means a not-for-profit entity registered under RSA 126-X:7 that acquires, possesses, cultivates, manufactures, delivers, transfers, transports, sells, supplies, and dispenses cannabis, and related supplies and educational materials, to qualifying patients, designated caregivers, other alternative treatment centers, and visiting qualifying patients.

	Commercial	Industrial	Residential Multi-Family	Residential Single Family	Rural	Village
<b>Commercial Uses</b>						
Alternative Treatment Centers	SE	CU	N	N	N	N

**Ballot #3** Are you in favor of Amendment #2 to the Belmont Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board as follows: Amend the number of permitted storage vehicles, trailers or shipping containers permitted on properties in the Commercial and Industrial Zones from a total of 640 square feet of such containers to 2-6 containers with a maximum square footage of 640-1920 depending on the size of the lot; and allow Storage Vehicles and Trailers Use as Permitted Uses in the Residential Multi Family, Residential Single Family and Rural Zones rather than requiring a conditional use permit.

In 2023 the Zoning Ordinance was amended to allow storage containers (e.g. “Conex boxes”) in certain zones. This is an amendment to increase the number of permitted units in the Commercial and Industrial Zones; to clarify the number allowed in certain residential zones; and to change the use to permitted with a building permit in the Residential Multi-family and Residential Single-Family zones where previously a Conditional Use Permit from the Planning Board was required.

**Storage Facilities** - Vehicles, trailers, shipping containers, or other enclosures being primarily used for onsite storage shall be regulated by this Ordinance as to use and shall be considered a structure. **Make Storage Vehicles, Trailers, and Containers a permitted use in the Rural Zone, Residential Single and Residential Multifamily Zones.**

	Commercial	Industrial	Residential Multi-Family	Residential Single Family	Rural	Village
Storage Vehicles and Containers	P	P	<del>CU</del> P	<del>CU</del> P	<del>CU</del> P	N

**Add Footnote:** Storage vehicles, trailers, and/or shipping containers shall be limited to a total of **two (2) with a maximum of 640sf** per lot in the Residential Multi Family, Residential Single Family, and Rural Zones. Storage vehicles, trailers, and/or shipping containers shall be limited to a total of **640sf per lot four (4) with a maximum of 1,280sf per lot for lots less than five acres; and six (6) with a maximum of 1,920sf for lots five acres or greater** in the Commercial and Industrial Zones. **Storage containers shall not exceed 10 feet in height in any zone.**

**Ballot #4** Are you in favor of Amendment #3 to the Belmont Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board as follows: Amend Article 1 to allow the Planning Board to make changes as required by changes in State law after holding two public hearings at regularly scheduled Planning Board meetings.

Currently all changes and corrections to the Ordinance, including those dictated by changes in the RSAs, must go through two public hearings at the Planning Board, be placed on the warrant, and then be voted on at Town Meeting. This is a time consuming and costly process. This language would allow the Planning Board to make changes that are required by changes to the State RSA after holding two public hearings.

The Planning Board may, by majority vote, after holding public hearings at two regularly scheduled Planning Board meetings, make corrections throughout this Ordinance as required by changes to the RSA.

**Ballot #5** Are you in favor of Amendment #4 to the Belmont Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board as follows: Incorporate statutory definition of cultivation locations into Article 15 and add cultivation locations as uses permitted by conditional use in the Commercial and Industrial Zones.

Currently the Ordinance does not contain a definition, and does not identify “cultivation location” in the Table of Permitted Uses the. This would add a definition, as defined by the State of NH, and add the use to the Table of Permitted Uses. A Cultivation Location, under the control of an Alternative Treatment Center, would be allowed by Conditional Use Permit in the Commercial and Industrial Zones. It would not be an allowed use in the Residential Multifamily, Residential Single Family, Rural and Village Zones.

**Cultivation Location** - As defined in RSA 126-X:1, IV.

"Cultivation location" means a locked and enclosed site, under the control of an alternative treatment center where cannabis is cultivated, secured with one or more locks or other security devices in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

**Make Alternative Treatment Centers/Cultivation Locations a permitted use by CUP in Commercial & Industrial Zones.**

	Commercial	Industrial	Residential Multi-Family	Residential Single Family	Rural	Village
<b>Commercial Uses</b>						
Cultivation Locations	CU	CU	N	N	N	N

**Ballot #6** Are you in favor of Amendment #5 to the Belmont Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board as follows: Add the statutory definition of Agritourism and allow Agritourism as a permitted use in all zones.

Currently the Ordinance does not contain a definition and does not identify “agritourism” in the Table of Permitted Uses the. This would add a definition, as defined by the State of NH, and add the use to the Table of



Permitted Uses. Agritourism would be permitted in all zones as required by State RSA. This does not exempt agritourism business from Site Plan requirements.

AGRITOURISM, is defined as attracting visitors to a farm to attend events or activities that are accessory uses to the primary farm operation, including, but not limited to, being provided a meal, making overnight stays, enjoyment of the farm environment, education which shall be instruction or learning about the farm's operations, or active involvement in the activities of the farm.

	Commercial	Industrial	Residential Multi-Family	Residential Single Family	Rural	Village
Agritourism	P	P	P	P	P	P

**Ballot #7** Are you in favor of Amendment #6 to the Belmont Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board as follows: Add a definition of Retail Sales as the sale of goods, services or merchandise to the general public and which may include rendering services incidental to the sale of such goods, principal services or merchandise, and change identification of use in the Table of Uses from Retail Stores to Retail Sales.

Currently the Ordinance does not contain a definition of “retail sales” and is identified in the Table of Permitted Uses as “Retail Stores”. This would add a definition and allow the use where there may not be a brick-and-mortar store. E.g., a landscape business that sells mulch to the public.

**RETAIL SALES:** The sale of goods, services or merchandise to the general public and which may include rendering services incidental to the sale of such goods, principal services or merchandise.

	Commercial	Industrial	Residential Multi-Family	Residential Single Family	Rural	Village
Retail Stores Sales	P	P	N	N	N	P

**Ballot #8** Are you in favor of Amendment #7 to the Belmont Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board as follows: Allow Contractor’s Yards in the Commercial Zone by right as opposed to by special exception.

Currently a Contractors Yard is allowed by a Special Exception from the Zoning Board of Adjustment in the Commercial Zone. This change would make the use a Permitted use in the Commercial Zone. A Site Plan from the Planning Board would still be required, this would eliminate having to apply to the Zoning Board of Adjustment before being able to submit a Site Plan.

	Commercial	Industrial	Residential Multi-Family	Residential Single Family	Rural	Village
Contractor’s Yard	E P	P	N	N	E	N

# Zoning



**Ballot #9** To see if the Town will vote to discontinue a portion of old N.H. Route 140 (Gilmanton Road), a Class VI Highway, as follows: all that portion of old NH Route 140 (Gilmanton Road) located on property owned by the Susan Condodemetraky Trust (Map 241, Lot 019), which portion is also described in prior deeds as “the road leading from Belmont Village to Gilmanton Academy”.

This article came forward as a request from the property owner of (Map 241, Lot 019). This article is supported by the Board of Selectmen.

**Ballot #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 Ten Million Six Hundred Seventy-Three Thousand One Hundred Fifty-Three Dollars (\$10,673,153). Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Ten Million Two Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Seven Hundred Fifteen Dollars (\$10,275,715) 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 \$10,673,153 and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.)



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**A LOOK**  
*at the*  
**BUDGET**

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**Ballot #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-2024, Council 93, Local 3657 (Public Safety Employees Union-Fire Unit B) for the term April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2026, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Year Increase in wages and Benefits

2024 \$145,432

Year Estimated Increase in Wages and Benefits

2025 \$31,097

And further to raise and appropriate \$145,432 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.)

Should this article fail to pass, the cost items approved by the 2023 Town Meeting for the Public Safety Employees Union-Fire Unit B collective bargaining agreement for the term ending March 31, 2026 shall remain in place, unless the governing body calls a special meeting pursuant to Article #12 and the above cost items for the term April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2026 are subsequently approved at such special meeting.

(The Budget Committee recommends \$145,432 and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.)

**2024 Estimated Tax Impact per thousand \$0.08**



Due to the unprecedented labor market and economic factors, the Selectmen tasked management to conduct a wage study in 2023. The results of the wage study showed that Belmont employees were underpaid compared to other municipalities. As a result, the Selectmen adopted management's recommendations and built the wage increases into the 2024 budget. Although the existing Union Contracts expire in 2026, the Selectboard and Unions agreed to open negotiations this year to incorporate the results of the wage study. These increases will bring Belmont's wages closer to the wages of surrounding communities. It is management's hope that the increases will allow us to retain and attract employees. In 2023 the department felt the hard hit of employees with tenure in Belmont leaving to go to other communities for higher pay and sign on bonuses. Because Belmont's wages are low across the board, we are not attracting experienced employees to fill those valuable positions. In 2023 we had positions remain unfilled for a majority of the year and some still remain unfilled in 2024. We strongly believe that by remaining competitive with other communities around us we will be able to retain the tenured employees we have in Belmont, who know the residents, and the community, while training new employees to take over when it comes time for them to retire. We risk cutting critical services to the Town if positions remain unfilled. In the long term, increases to wages are less expensive than the cost of onboarding, training and outfitting gear and uniforms to new employees due to high employee turnover. The \$145,432 covers the increase in wages to remain competitive and the mandatory fringe benefits associated with wages such as Fica, Medi, Social Security and Retirement.

**Ballot #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 #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-Police Unit A) for the term April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2026, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Year Increase Wages & Benefits

2024 \$319,033

Year Estimated Increase Wages & Benefits

2025 \$60,717

And further to raise and appropriate \$319,033 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.)

Should this article fail to pass, the cost items approved by the 2023 Town Meeting for the Public Safety Employees Union-Police Unit A collective bargaining agreement for the term ending March 31, 2026 shall remain in place, unless the governing body calls a special meeting pursuant to Article #14 and the above cost items for the term April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2026 are subsequently approved at such special meeting.

(The Budget Committee recommends \$319,033 and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.)

2024 Estimated Tax Impact per thousand \$0.10



Due to the unprecedented labor market and economic factors, the Selectmen tasked management to conduct a wage study in 2023. The results of the wage study showed that Belmont employees were underpaid compared to other municipalities. As a result, the Selectmen adopted management's recommendations and built the wage increases into the 2024 budget. Although the existing Union Contracts expire in 2026, the Selectboard and Unions agreed to open negotiations this year to incorporate the results of the wage study. These increases will bring Belmont's wages closer to the wages of surrounding communities. It is management's hope that the increases will allow us to retain and attract employees. In 2023 the department felt the hard hit of employees with tenure in Belmont leaving to go to other communities for higher pay and sign on bonuses. Because Belmont's wages are low across the board, we are not attracting experienced employees to fill those valuable positions. In 2023 we had positions remain unfilled for a majority of the year and some still remain unfilled in 2024. We strongly believe that by remaining competitive with other communities around us we will be able to retain the tenured employees we have in Belmont, who know the residents, and the community, while training new employees to take over when it comes time for them to retire. We risk cutting critical services to the Town if positions remain unfilled. In the long term, increases to wages are less expensive than the cost of onboarding, training and outfitting gear and uniforms to new employees due to high employee turnover. The \$313,033 covers the increase in wages to remain competitive and the mandatory fringe benefits associated with wages such as Fica, Medi, Social Security and Retirement.

**Ballot #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 #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, 2024 to March 31, 2026, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Year Increase Wages & Benefits

2024 \$54,208

Year Estimated Increase Wages & Benefits

2025 \$19,776

And further to raise and appropriate \$54,208 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.)

Should this article fail to pass, the cost items approved by the 2023 Town Meeting for the Public Works Employees Union collective bargaining agreement for the term ending March 31, 2026 shall remain in place, unless the governing body calls a special meeting pursuant to Article #16 and the above cost items for the term April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2026 are subsequently approved at such special meeting.

(The Budget Committee recommends \$54,208 and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.)

**2024 Estimated Tax Impact per thousand \$0.04**



Due to the unprecedented labor market and economic factors, the Selectmen tasked management to conduct a wage study in 2023. The results of the wage study showed that Belmont employees were underpaid compared to other municipalities. As a result, the Selectmen adopted management's recommendations and built the wage increases into the 2024 budget. Although the existing Union Contracts expire in 2026, the Selectboard and Unions agreed to open negotiations this year to incorporate the results of the wage study. These increases will bring Belmont's wages closer to the wages of surrounding communities. It is management's hope that the increases will allow us to retain and attract employees. In 2023 the department felt the hard hit of employees with tenure in Belmont leaving to go to other communities for higher pay and sign on bonuses. Because Belmont's wages are low across the board, we are not attracting experienced employees to fill those valuable positions. In 2023 we had positions remain unfilled for a majority of the year and some still remain unfilled in 2024. We strongly believe that by remaining competitive with other communities around us we will be able to retain the tenured employees we have in Belmont, who know the residents, and the community, while training new employees to take over when it comes time for them to retire. We risk cutting critical services to the Town if positions remain unfilled. In the long term, increases to wages are less expensive than the cost of onboarding, training and outfitting gear and uniforms to new employees due to high employee turnover. The \$54,208 covers the increase in wages to remain competitive and the mandatory fringe benefits associated with wages such as Fica, Medi, Social Security and Retirement.

**Ballot #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 #17** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy-Six Dollars (\$60,776) for the ninth 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. No amounts to be raised through taxation.

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

**No funds to come from taxation. The current balance in the Ambulance Special Revenue Fund as of 12/31/2023 is \$618,802.47. Funds to support Articles 17,18,19,20 are proposed to be withdrawn from the Ambulance Special Revenue fund. The last payment will be in 2025.**

**Ballot #18** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Five Thousand Dollars (\$105,000) for the first year's payment on the long term lease/purchase agreement entered into in 2023 for the purchase of a new Ambulance 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 7 at the 2023 Town Meeting, to make these yearly payments. No amounts to be raised through taxation.

(The Budget Committee recommends \$105,000 and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.)

**No funds to come from taxation. The current balance in the Ambulance Special Revenue Fund as of 12/31/2023 is \$618,802.47. Funds to support Articles 17,18,19,20 are proposed to be withdrawn from the fund.**

This article is part of the Capital Improvement Program. These funds will be used to purchase a new ambulance with equipment for the Fire Department through a Capital Lease. Last year the Town placed on the Ballot a Warrant Article to purchase a new Ambulance. That Article passed in 2023. That vote last year authorized the down payment and all future loan payments. The downpayment was made on the Ambulance in 2023 and the first year's payment will be made in 2024.

**Ballot #19** 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 Special Revenue Fund to instead restrict all but the first \$124,500 of revenues from ambulance billings received during the 2024 budgetary year to be deposited in the Special Revenue fund known as the Fire/Ambulance Equipment and Apparatus Fund. The first \$124,500 of revenues from ambulance billings will be deposited in the Town's General Fund to defray the cost items identified below. This restriction shall only be effective for the 2024 budgetary year (2/3 Majority Vote Required). No amounts to be raised through taxation.

Training Expenses \$3,000

Medical & Supply Expenses \$30,000

Ambulance Billing Fees \$20,000

Overtime \$40,000

Telephone \$2,000

Conferences & Dues \$1,500

Office Expense \$12,000

Vehicle Repair & Parts \$8,000

Fuel \$8,000

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

**No funds to come from taxation. The current balance in the Ambulance Special Revenue Fund as of 12/31/2023 is \$618,802.47. Funds to support Articles 17,18, 19, 20 are proposed to be withdrawn from the fund.**

**Ballot #20** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000) for the cost of an Air Compressor Cascade System Replacement for the Fire Department and further to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000) from the Fire/Ambulance Equipment and Apparatus Special Revenue Fund previously established in accordance with RSA 31:95-c. (Majority Vote Required.) No amount to be raised through taxation.

(The Budget Committee recommends \$60,000 and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.)

**No funds to come from taxation. The current balance in the Ambulance Special Revenue Fund as of 12/31/2023 is \$618,802.47. Funds to support Articles 17,18,19,20 are proposed to be withdrawn from the fund.**

The Scott Revolve Air Charging Station, set up with the American Airworks Compressor. The system has been out of service on and off for the past few years. The system has been worked on for numerous leaks and other mechanical problems. Parts for this aging equipment have been hard to come by. This is an essential part of firefighter life safety for working in hazardous conditions not limited to building fires. When the cascade goes out of service members have to go to surrounding towns to fill up our SCBA's (breathing apparatus). We have not found the original date or age of this system however it came from the Winnisquam Fire Station when it closed circa 2007. We are looking to replace this with a Bauer Breathing Air Compressor Vertecon 13CFM, 10HP single Phase 6000psi, with CO monitoring, Securus Filtration-Dew Point Monitoring system and a Bauer two Position Fill Station. This will be the first new Cascade System for the station for the Town of Belmont.

**Ballot #21** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Hundred Fifty-Four Thousand Two Hundred Ninety-Eight Dollars (\$654,298) for the operation and maintenance of the Sewage Collection and Disposal System for the ensuing year, said sum to be offset by user fees. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Six Hundred Forty Thousand Three Hundred Twenty-Three Dollars (\$640,323) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law.

(The Budget Committee recommends \$654,298 and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.)

**This budget is to be offset by user fees not from taxation.**

**Ballot #22** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Seventy-Three Thousand Four Hundred Eighty-One Dollars (\$273,481) for the operation and maintenance of the Water Distribution and Treatment System for the ensuing year, said sum to be offset by user fees. Should this article

be defeated, the default budget shall be Two Hundred Sixty-One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$261,500) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law.

(The Budget Committee recommends \$273,481 and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.)

**This budget is to be offset by user fees not from taxation.**

**Ballot #23** 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 Budget Committee recommends \$750,000 and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.)

**2024 Estimated Tax Impact per thousand \$0.58. The balance in the Capital Reserve Fund as of 12/31/2023 is \$1,308,862.06.**

The Highway Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund was established in 2006. This \$750,000 appropriation allows the Town to continue necessary road reconstruction and improvements to the infrastructure. The current request for appropriation remains the same as the 2009 request.

**Ballot #24** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) to be placed in the Municipal Facilities Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2006).

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

**2024 Estimated Tax Impact per thousand \$0.39. The balance in the Capital Reserve Fund as of 12/31/2023 is \$711,413.81.**

This fund is for the purpose of funding necessary infrastructure projects for our Town properties. Funds have been used to renovate the Belmont Mill in anticipation of Town Hall moving to the building in the future. The numerous Capital Reserve accounts previously established by the Town act as Savings Accounts and serve as important management tools. The following information is pertinent to this reserve account created in 2006 to fund the purchase, repair, reconstruction of municipal facilities and the funds have been used for numerous projects, including siding on Town Hall, painting of the front of Town Hall and Library exterior, a new roof on the Mill, the purchase of the property at 154 Main Street, replacement Heat and HVAC systems at the Highway and Fire Departments, the overhang at the Highway Garage, lighting retrofits at the Highway Garage, repairs to the floor on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the Mill, access system at Town Hall including security cameras, renovations to the Mill allowing usage of the 4<sup>th</sup> floor for meetings and the 1<sup>st</sup> floor for relocation of General Assistance Office. Funds have been used to replace the oil tanks at the Mill and to enclose the dumpster and roof repair at the Fire Station. Repairs were made to the Mill's furnace, and the tennis court backboard at Sargent Park was rebuilt. A new elevator was installed at the Mill, proposed plans for 2024 include a generator at the Mill, and continued renovations to floors 1, 2, and 3.

**Ballot #25** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) to be placed in the Accrued Benefits Liability Expendable Trust Fund previously established (2007), and further to fund said appropriation by authorizing the transfer of \$100,000 from the unexpended fund balance as of December 31, 2023. No amount to be raised from taxation.

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

**The balance in the Expendable Trust Fund as of 12/31/2023 is \$97,564.01.**



This Trust was established to cover the payment of earned time balances when employees retire as required by law or negotiated contracts. We have 10 employees that are at retirement status. The total amount needed to fund all these liabilities in 2024 is \$151,703.14.

**Ballot #26** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) to be placed in the Water System Repair and Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2006) with said sum to be offset by user fees.

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

**The balance in the Capital Reserve Fund as of 12/31/2023 is \$305,171.24.**

The Water Department request for \$100,000 in the Capital Reserve Fund allows funds to be available for future upgrades and repairs to the distribution system. These funds are necessary for continued upgrades as well as unanticipated and emergency repairs.

**Ballot #27** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) to be placed in the Sewer System Repair and Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2010) with said sum to be offset by user fees.

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

**The balance in the Capital Reserve Fund as of 12/31/2023 is \$59,251.52.**

The Sewer Department request for \$30,000 in the Capital Reserve Fund allows funds to be available for future upgrades and repairs to our collection system. These funds are necessary for continued upgrades as well as unanticipated and emergency repairs.

**Ballot #28** 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 Budget Committee recommends \$60,000 and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.)

**2024 Estimated Tax Impact per thousand \$0.05. The balance in the Capital Reserve Fund as of 12/31/2023 is \$119,673.78.**

This article is part of the Capital Improvement Program. These funds are used to purchase necessary Heavy Equipment for the Highway Department. This is an annual request and the amount remains the same as previous years and acts as a reserve account for future equipment purchase.

**Ballot #29** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Ninety-Four Thousand Two Hundred Thirty-Four Dollars (\$194,234) for the reconstruction of highways, anticipated to be offset by Highway Block Grant funds provided by the State of New Hampshire. No amount of money to be raised by taxation.

(The Budget Committee recommends \$194,234 and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.)

**No funds to come from taxation.**

**Ballot #30** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty One Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Seven Dollars (\$41,267) to be placed in the Town Bridge Repair and Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2003), with said funds to come from unassigned fund balance (this represents the State

of NH one-time payment for repair, maintenance, and construction of municipal bridges from State Surplus that was received by the Town on December 6, 2023). No amount of money to be raised by taxation.

(The Budget Committee recommends \$41,267 and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.)

**No funds to come from taxation. The balance in the Capital Reserve Fund as of 12/31/2023 is \$347,685.45.**

Explanation of Ballot #29 & #30- The 2023 legislative session resulted in more revenue sharing and state aid to local governments in a non-budget year. With the state reporting a record surplus of funds this fiscal year, Certain provisions in [Chapter 79 \(HB 2, Sections 520 and 521\)](#) provides \$20 million is one-time property tax relief through additional direct payments to cities and towns for immediate infrastructure improvements: an additional \$10 million in municipal highway block grants and \$10 million for the repair and maintenance of municipally-owned bridges. **Highway Block Grants.** The \$10 million allocated for roads will follow the Department of Transportation "Apportionment A" formula used when calculating the annual highway block grant each municipality receives. Therefore, funds will be distributed among the municipalities based on their population in proportion to the entire state's population and the other half is disbursed based on a municipality's Class IV and V road mileage in proportion to the total statewide Class IV and V mileage.

**Municipally Owned Bridge Allocation.** The appropriation for bridges will be based on a similar 50/50 formula, where \$5 million will be distributed based on a municipality's deck area proportional to the total deck area for municipally owned bridges, and \$5 million will be distribution based on a municipality's total share of the state population.

**Ballot #31** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000) to be placed in the Property Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2005).

(The Budget Committee recommends \$75,000 and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.)

**2024 Estimated Tax Impact per thousand \$0.06. The balance in the Capital Reserve Fund as of 12/31/2023 is \$121,242.87.**

In 2022 voters supported this ballot item, and at that time, the Voter's Guide noted it was the intention of the Board of Selectmen to complete statistical updates over the next two years, 2022 and 2023, due in part to the low Equalization Value of 67.8% in 2021. The purpose of statistical updates is to bring property values up to 100% of market value, which helps us to meet the requirements of our state statutes. A full measure and list was completed in 2018/2019, and 2024 will include a field review of properties along with assessment updates using the income approach for commercial properties, and another townwide statistical update to help achieve an Equalization Value of 100%. At this time, this is the last planned assessment update for 5 years, but future voters may want to continue with regular updates if there is a fluctuating real estate market.

**Ballot #32** 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 Budget Committee recommends \$25,000 and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.)

**2024 Estimated Tax Impact per thousand \$0.02. The balance in the Capital Reserve Fund as of 12/31/2023 is \$381,927.24.**

This article is part of the Library Trustees Capital Improvement Program. These funds will be used in the future to build an addition onto the library. The Original Library is 100 years old, and Belmont has outgrown the building and lacks the necessary ADA accommodations. It is the intention of the Library Trustees to move forward with plans for an addition to the current building that will support ADA needs and bring more space.

**Ballot #33** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the Information Technology Non-Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2002).

(The Budget Committee recommends \$10,000 and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.)

**2024 Estimated Tax Impact per thousand \$0.01. The balance in the Capital Reserve Fund as of 12/31/2023 is \$25,418.87.**

This article is part of the Capital Improvement Program. These funds will be used if necessary to buy/replace/repair any necessary Information Technology needs necessary to run Town Business.

**Ballot #34** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to be added to the Durrell Mountain Road Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2021). This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation.

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

**No amount to be raised from taxation. The balance in the Capital Reserve Fund as of 12/31/2023 is \$11,083.36.**

The establishment of a Capital Reserve for the maintenance of Durrell Mountain Road was part of an agreement reached in 2019 with the owners of the gravel pit located in Gilford at the end of Durrell Mountain Road. Year one we received \$2,500 and in subsequent years the pit owner is required to contribute \$5,000 to be placed in the account.

**Ballot #35** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to be placed in the already established General Cemetery Maintenance Fund governed under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a for the purpose of cemetery maintenance, said amount to be expendable at the discretion of the Cemetery Trustees (1997).

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

**2024 Estimated Tax Impact per thousand \$0.00 (a fraction of one penny). The balance in the Cemetery Maintenance Fund as of 12/31/2023 is \$35,651.39.**

The Cemetery Trustees Capital Reserve Fund is used as a tool for the Trustees to save for large or long-term projects such as restoration. Funds are also used for emergencies like storm damage.

**Ballot #36** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$4,500) to be placed in the Heritage Fund previously established (2004).

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

**2024 Estimated Tax Impact per thousand is \$0.00 (a fraction of one penny). The balance in the Heritage Fund as of 12/31/2023 is \$40,797.19.**

**Ballot #37** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500) to be placed in the Dry Hydrant and Cistern Repairs and Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2011).

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

**2024 Estimated Tax Impact per thousand is \$0.00 (a fraction of one penny). The balance in the Capital Reserve Fund as of 12/31/2023 is \$25,757.26.**

**Ballot #38** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the Election Equipment Expendable Trust Fund Non-Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2020).

(The Budget Committee recommends \$10,000 and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.)

**2024 Estimated Tax Impact per thousand is \$0.00 (a fraction of one penny). The balance in the Capital Reserve Fund as of 12/31/2023 is \$7,420.95.**

This Capital Reserve Account was created to act as a savings account to be able to replace voting equipment as mandated by the State of NH. The State governs our elections and requires us to have 1 voting booth per 100 registered voters. In Belmont we have 4,627 registered voters. Soon the State will be switching to a different ballot machine and the Towns will be responsible for that cost. That cost has been determined to be around \$7,000-\$10,000. Adding funds to this account will aid us in purchasing a new machine when the time comes.

**Ballot # 39** To see if the Town will vote to expend the income from the John M. Sargent Trust Fund for the purposes recommended by the Sargent Fund Committee. No amount of money to be raised by taxation.

Belknap House \$3,000  
Belmont Conservation Commission \$100  
Belmont Elementary Support Team \$600  
Belmont Girl Scouts Troop 12117 \$400  
Belmont Girl Scouts Troop 60200 \$720  
Belmont Girl Scouts Troop 64087 \$100  
Belmont Community Girl Scouts \$300  
Belmont Heritage Commission \$250  
Belmont High School PTO \$600  
Belmont Historical Society \$500  
Belmont Middle School Fifth Grade Camp Cody \$3,750  
Belmont Middle School PTO \$600  
Belmont Public Library \$1,400  
GOT LUNCH! Belmont & Friends \$7,000  
Saint Joseph Food Pantry \$2,918.75  
Save our Gale School \$400  
Visiting Nurse Association of Franklin \$2,000

**No amount to be raised from taxation. Total award given out for 2024 if approved is \$24,638.75. This is the total of net earnings in the Sargent Fund for CY2023.**

**TOWN OF BELMONT  
SHAKER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ELECTION AND BALLOT VOTING  
BELMONT HIGH SCHOOL GYM  
255 Seavey Road  
MARCH 12, 2024  
POLLS OPEN AT 7:00 A.M.  
AND CLOSE AT 7:00 P.M.**

