

# Taxpayer FAQ?



1. Why is the Fall Tax Bill considered the first bill of the tax year? **Answer:** The tax year runs from April 1 – March 31<sup>st</sup>, the spring bill is based on the prior year's assessed value and tax rate. The Town sets its tax rate in mid to late September and the fall bills are issued soon after based on any changes in assessed value as of April 1<sup>st</sup> of the new tax year.
2. What can I do if I believe there is a mistake in the assessed value of my property? **Answer:** You can file an abatement application with the Town. Abatement applications can only be filed after receipt of the fall tax bill (1<sup>st</sup> bill of the new tax year); applications are accepted until March 1<sup>st</sup> following receipt of your bill.
3. What information is needs to be submitted with the abatement application? **Answer:** If you have had an appraisal done within the past year, a copy should be submitted with the form or if you recently purchased the property and you can show other sales that have taken place for a sale price close to your purchase price. If there are discrepancies in the physical data listed, you would identify the problem on the form, i.e. 2 bedrooms vs 3, no basement, etc.
4. How do I apply for a Veteran's Tax Credit? **Answer:** The Town of Belmont has adopted State of NH - RSA 72:28-b - All Veteran's Tax Credit. If you were previously denied due to not serving in a qualifying war or conflict or not having a required medal, we encourage you to apply for this newly adopted All Veterans' Tax Credit (RSA 72:28-b). If you feel you qualify it will be important to come into the Assessing Department and submit the application with all required paperwork by **April 15, 2018** to avoid any delay in processing. If all criteria are met, the All Veteran's Tax Credit will be applied to your 2018 property tax bill, if application is received before 4/15/2018, the statutory deadline to apply for tax year 2018. A person shall qualify for the All Veteran's Tax Credit if the person is a resident of this state who served not less than 90 days of active duty service in the armed forces of the United States and was honorably discharged or an officer honorably separated from service; or the spouse or surviving spouse of such resident, provided that Title 10 training for active duty by a member of a national guard or reserve shall be included as service under this paragraph; provided however that the person is not eligible for and is not receiving a credit under RSA 72:28 - Standard and Optional Veteran's Tax Credit or RSA 72:35 - Tax Credit for Service-Connected Total Disability. As required for the Standard and Optional Veteran's Credit (RSA 72:28), the veteran must be a resident of the State of NH for one year as of April 1<sup>st</sup> of the year of application and also be the owner of the property and using the property as their primary residence as of April 1<sup>st</sup> of the year of application.
5. How do I apply for an Elderly Exemption? **Answer:** Applications may be obtained from the Assessing Office. The Town of Belmont requires that an Elderly Exemption Worksheet be completed to determine if an individual qualifies for the exemption. This form can be obtained at Town Hall.
  - The applicant must be 65 years or older April 1st of the tax year.
  - The applicant must be a New Hampshire resident for the past three years.
  - The property in which the exemption is claimed must be the principal place of abode.

- Income Limitations (from all sources, including social security):
    - a. Single \$25,000
    - b. Married \$35,000 Income limitations specified are based upon earnings during the prior calendar year.
  - Asset Limitations
    - a. \$150,000 (Excluding the value of the applicant's residence, excluding excess acreage)
  - Exemptions
    - a. Age 65-74 \$65,000 off assessed valuation
    - b. Age 75-79 \$80,000
    - c. Age 80 + \$125,000
  - Apply by the filing deadline date of April 15th of the current tax year.
6. If I am disabled, do I qualify for a Tax Exemption? **Answer:** In 2015, the Town voted to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:37-b, Exemption for the Disabled, to allow a \$50,000 property tax exemption for qualified taxpayers. To qualify the person must be eligible under Title II or Title XVI of the Federal Social Security Act for benefits to the disabled, must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 5 years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$25,000 or if married, a combined net income of not more than \$35,000, and own net assets not in excess of \$100,000 excluding the value of the person's residence. You must apply by April 15<sup>th</sup> for the year in which you are applying.
7. How do I apply for Current Use? **Answer:** If your lot has more than 10 acres or you own an abutting lot whose combined acres exceeds 10 acres, you may qualify to place the land in Current Use. Once land has been placed in Current Use any development of the land in Current Use will trigger a Land Use Penalty which is based upon 10% of the value of the property at its highest and best use. Current Use restricts the property; you cannot have any buildings or improvements in the current use area. A map is required at the time you apply, it must show the categories for which you are applying and if already developed, the area considered to NOT be in Current Use. Applications are due to the Assessing Office by April 15<sup>th</sup> of the tax year for which you are applying.
8. How do I get a copy of my assessment card? **Answer:** You can visit Town Hall and print your tax card from the Public Access computer located in the Land Use office or you can visit the following website; <https://www.axisgis.com/BelmontNH/> and search for your property by name, street address or tax map and lot number, you can then pull up a copy of your assessment record card and the tax map associated with it. Please note; to be sure that you have the most recent assessment record card it is best to visit Town Hall and print the card.
9. Where do I file an Notice of Intent to Excavate? **Answer:** The Notice of Intent to Excavate form is available in the Selectmen's office and is available on line at <http://www.belmontnh.org/dataapplications.asp>. The form should be completely filled out and signed by the Property Owner. The application is then submitted to the Selectmen's office with a \$100 fee made payable to the State of New Hampshire. Once the application is signed by the Selectmen, a copy will be returned to the owner and a copy will be submitted to the Department of Revenue Administration.
10. Where do I file an Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber? **Answer:** The Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber form is available in the Selectmen's office and is available on line at <http://www.belmontnh.org/dataapplications.asp>. The form should be completely filled out and signed by both the owner of the property and the logger responsible for the cut. The form is then submitted to the Selectmen's office for approval. Once the application is signed by the Selectmen, a copy is sent to the Owner, the Logger and the Department of Revenue Administration.

11. If I have questions regarding my assessment or an application for a credit, exemption, abatement, or other property related question, who do I call? **Answer:** You can call the Town Administrator's office at 267-8300 ext. 124 or email her at [townadministrator@belmontnh.org](mailto:townadministrator@belmontnh.org) for further assistance.
12. When do the Selectmen meet? **Answer:** The Board of Selectmen meet regularly on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month with the exclusion of Monday holidays. They meet in the upstairs meeting room at the Corner Meeting House and their meetings begin at 5:00 p.m. Meetings are televised live on [www.livestream.com/belmontnh](http://www.livestream.com/belmontnh).
13. When does the Budget Committee meet? **Answer:** The Budget Committee meets on Tuesday evenings and will begin meeting on Tuesday, November 7, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the upstairs meeting room at the Corner Meeting House. Meetings will be televised live on [www.livestream.com/belmontnh](http://www.livestream.com/belmontnh). Meeting agendas are also posted at Town Hall, the Belmont Post Office and on our website at [www.belmontnh.org](http://www.belmontnh.org).
14. When is the 2018 Deliberative Session and Annual Meeting? **Answer:** The Deliberative Session must be held between February 3 and February 10<sup>th</sup> for 2018; our Deliberative Session will be Saturday, February 3, 2018 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Belmont High School in the Cafeteria. The Annual Town Meeting will be on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 from 7 am to 7 pm at the Belmont High School in the Cafeteria. Please check our website for copies of the Annual Budget and Voter's Guide.

15. Contact Information:

- Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator: 267-8300, Ext. 124
- Belmont Fire Department non-emergency: 267-8333
- Belmont Police Department non-emergency: 267-8351
- Belmont Public Works Department: 528-2677
- Belmont Water & Sewer Department: 267-8300, Ext. 120
- Belmont Public Library: 267-8331
- General Assistance Office: 267-8313
- Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office: 267-8300, Ext. 122
- Land Use Office: 267-8300, Ext. 119
- Building Inspector's Office: 267-8300, Ext. 111
- Shaker Regional School District: 267-9223