

Belmont police chief to work part-time under new contract

Written by Tom Caldwell

By THOMAS P. CALDWELL, LACONIA DAILY SUN

BELMONT — Under a new five-year contract with the town, Belmont Police Chief Mark Lewandoski will work no more than 32 hours per week, and his annual salary will drop from \$91,652 to \$86,000, with a clause providing a 1.5 percent annual increase after the first year.

The change came at the chief's request, and selectmen approved the proposal on Oct. 16. The contract becomes effective on March 4.

Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin said selectmen are confident that the department will continue to run as effectively as it does now after the change.

Because Lewandoski will be officially retired and working at reduced hours, he will no longer be contributing to the New Hampshire Retirement System.

Under the contract, Lewandoski cannot accept other employment that might interfere with his duties as Belmont's chief of police. He must fulfill all duties as outlined in town, state, and federal law, as well as under the town's personnel policy and other direction by the Board of Selectmen.

There is a provision to extend the contract for fixed terms as long as he remains employed by the town.

While the chief is ineligible for health insurance, the town will cover professional liability and provide him with an automobile, as well as covering the cost of training, conferences, and membership in professional associations.

He may resign with three months' notice unless removed for cause under RSA 105:C.

The chief did not return calls seeking comment on the agreement.