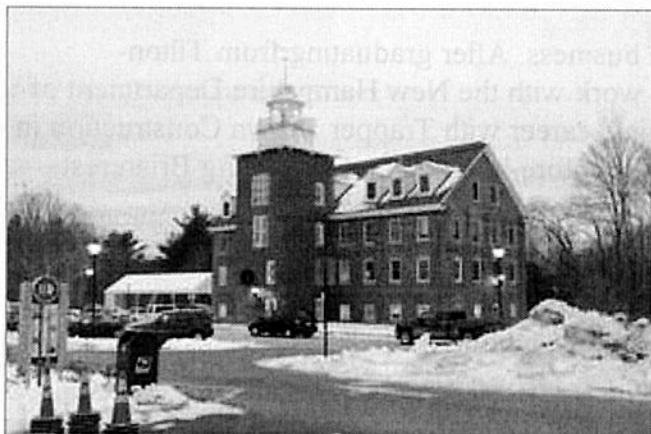


Welcome, planner@belmontnh.org

Belmont voters to decide on mill renovation, SB2 status

By TIM CAMERATO | Mar 09, 2015

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*Photo by: TIM CAMERATO/CITIZEN*

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BELMONT — Months of planning, calculations and debate over the Belmont Mill will finally come to a head on Tuesday, when voters decide whether to renovate the building.

Article 3 on this year's warrant asks voters to approve an appropriation of \$3,357,250 to renovate the building into a town hall. Of that money, \$2,957,250 will be raised through the issuing of bonds, while another \$400,000 would come from the Municipal Facilities Capital

Reserve. A 3/5 vote is required to pass the project.

According to Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin, the first year of the bond's repayment in 2016 would have a tax impact of 16 cents per \$1,000 of property value, or \$32 next year on a \$200,000 home.

Article 10 proposes an operating budget of \$7,257,691, which is a decrease from this year's \$8,666,378. If voters fail to pass the budget, a default of \$7,052,519 would take effect.

Voters will also take up articles on the fire department's ladder truck and an attempt to bring the town out of SB2 style Town Meeting.

The fire department is hoping to replace its current ladder truck with another used one. Article 8 calls for money to be taken from the Fire/Ambulance Equipment and Apparatus Special Revenue Fund, or Comstar fund, which contains revenue from ambulance billings.

There's \$300,000 slated to come from the fund for the truck, while the current ladder truck would most likely be sold as scrap.

Article 5 comes before the voters every year. It asks for a certain amount of the billings from the fund to go toward other fire department expenses. This year's asks for \$85,427 to pay for overtime, training expenses, medical supplies, vehicle repair, fuel and billing fees.

Article 26 was submitted by petition. It would bring back the original Town Meeting style of government, where debate and voting are done on the same day. This is the first time since SB2's 2008 adoption that an article calls for abandoning it.

Other warrant articles ask for money to be placed in the Town Bridge Repair and Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund, Highway Reconstruction and Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund, General Cemetery Maintenance Fund, Dry Hydrant and Cistern Repairs Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund, Municipal Facilities Capital Reserve Fund and Water System Repair and Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund, among others.

There's also a contested race for the Board of Selectman. Incumbent Ruth Mooney is facing off against former selectman George Condodemetraky.

Mooney has a background in local business. After graduating from Tilton-Northfield High School, she began work with the New Hampshire Department of Safety. She left that position to begin a career with Trapper Brown Construction in Plymouth, and Opechee Construction before building and managing Briarcrest Estates with her husband, Mark Mooney.

Currently, she owns and works at Province Kiln-Dried Firewood. Before winning a seat on the board in 2012, Mooney served for one year on the Budget Committee and is an active parishioner of St. Joseph Catholic Church.

Condodemetraky hails from the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood of Manhattan. He graduated from New York University with an engineering degree before going on to join the Army Corps of Engineers.

From there, Condodemetraky worked on projects overseas before moving to New Hampshire with his family. He was a chief engineer on the Winnepesaukee River Basin Project, which established a sewer system from Moultonborough to Franklin, and helped create a town commission to bring Belmont into the project.

Condodemetraky was elected to the Board of Selectmen twice in the late 1970s and early 1980s, and currently owns GC Engineering and GC Enterprises.

Also on the ballot for elected office are Mark Roberts, Richard McNamara, Preston "Pret" Tuthill, and Tins Fleming, who will be unopposed for four open Budget Committee seats.

On the Planning Board, incumbent Claude B. Patten Jr. is joined on the ballot by town Code Enforcement Officer Steven Paquin, and David Dunham and John Froumy are seeking open slots on the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Sharon Ciampi is running as an incumbent for cemetery trustees, Karen Ann Demers and David Caron are running for spots on the Trustees of the Trust Funds, Sharon A. Dunham is running for library trustee, and Nikki J. Wheeler is running for supervisor of the checklist.

Polls are open Tuesday, March 10, from 7 a.m. to 7p.m., at Belmont High School, 255 Seavey Road.