



TOWN OF BELMONT

VOTER'S GUIDE

Guide to the Deliberative Session, Saturday, February 6, 2010, 10:00 a.m.
Belmont High School and Second Session of the Town Meeting in
accordance with Senate Bill 2
Belmont High School
Tuesday, March 9, 2010
Polls open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m.

You may register to vote at the polls with proper ID.

This handout has been prepared to assist you in making informed voting decisions, prior to walking into the voting booth on March 9. PLEASE BRING THE HANDOUT WITH YOU ON ELECTION DAY. BALLOT QUESTIONS READ EXACTLY AS THE ARTICLES IN THE HANDOUT.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to call the Selectmen's Office at 267-8300, ext. 24.

Article/Ballot Question #1. To choose necessary officers, including Selectman three-year term (1) **Wade Burchell, Jon Pike, Douglas Trottier** Town Clerk/Tax Collector three-year term (1) **Cynthia DeRoy**, Town Treasurer three-year term (1) **Nikki Wheeler**, Moderator two-year term (1) **Thomas Garfield**, Trustee of Trust Funds three-year term (1) **Gregg MacPherson**, Library Trustee three-year term (1) **David Morse**, Library Trustee two-year term (1) **Mary Louise Charnley**, Cemetery Trustee three-year term (1) **Diane Marden**, Planning Board three-year terms (2) **George Condodemetraky, Elizabeth Christine Long, Ward Peterson**, Zoning Board of Adjustment three-year term (1) **George Condodemetraky, Linda J. Couture**, and Budget Committee three-year term (4) **Albert Akerstrom, George Condodemetraky, Kenneth Ellis, Kenneth Knowlton, Ronald Mitchell**.

Article/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 follows?

1. To prohibit the Land Application of all Sludge and Biosolids in all zones and to define Biosolids.

Article/Ballot Question #3. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment # 2 as Proposed by Petition for the Town Zoning Ordinance as summarized below?

2. To repeal all current Belmont Zoning Ordinance provisions that regulate applying sludge and/or biosolids within Belmont. To permit the Land Application of Biosolids/Short Paper Fiber throughout the Rural Zone. To adopt definitions for “Land Application of Biosolids/Short paper Fiber”, “Biosolds” and “Short Paper Fiber”. (The Planning Board does not support this petitioned article.)

Article/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 follows?

3. To amend existing Aquifer Ordinance and Map to include municipal well-head protection areas in the newly titled Aquifer and Groundwater Protection Ordinance. To amend and update definitions and references. To require Best Management Practices for mobile fueling and when storing more than five gallons of regulated substances out of doors. To appoint the Code Enforcement Officer to review Spill plans.

Article/Ballot Question #5. Shall the Town vote to discontinue the Highway Equipment Trust Fund, said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the municipality’s general fund. (Majority vote required).

This account has been inactive for several years with no balance; this account has essentially been replaced by the Highway Department Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve (Article #29 created in 2002). We must formerly discontinue it to remove it from NH Department of Revenue records.

Article/Ballot Question #6. Shall the Town vote to rescind the provisions of RSA 31:95-c that restrict the revenues from ambulance billings to the replacement and repair of fire and ambulance apparatus and equipment, and to discontinue the Fire/Ambulance Equipment and Apparatus Fund established in 1994 amended in 1999, said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the municipality’s general fund. (Majority vote required).

It is the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen to discontinue the fund currently

known as the Fire/Ambulance Equipment and Apparatus Fund (Comstar) and to deposit all future revenue from ambulance billing into the General Fund to offset taxes. To accommodate the future purchases of vehicles for the Fire Department such as fire trucks, operations vehicles and ambulances; the Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen recommended the creation of a Capital Reserve Fund for this purpose (see Article 26). Due to the increasing costs of Emergency Medical Service it was felt that the revenue from billing can be used to offset the annual costs of providing EMS service and annually reduce tax impact.

Article/Ballot Question #7. Shall the Town vote to expend the income from the John M. Sargent Trust Fund for the purposes recommended by the Sargent Fund Committee?

St. Joseph’s Food Pantry	\$2,000
OHD Committee	\$450
Belmont Baseball Org.	\$400
Cub Scouts Pack 65	\$500
Boy Scouts Troup 65	\$500
Belmont Girl Scouts	\$900
Heavenly Sonshine Preschool	\$100
1st Baptist Church Food Pantry	\$2,000
Belmont Historical Society	\$800
Belmont PRA “Santa’s Helpers”	\$300
Belknap County 4-H Fair Assn.	\$800
Belmont NH Heritage Web Support	\$150
Belmont Heritage Committee	\$200
BES Support Team	\$100
Belmont Explorer Post	\$200

Article/Ballot Question #8. To see if the Town will vote to adopt a noise ordinance which will make it unlawful to play any device at such a volume that it is audible at the property line, to operate construction vehicles, tools or construction equipment, or to discharge fireworks or cannons, between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. Monday through Saturday and 10:00 p.m. on Saturday and 10:00 a.m. on Sunday. The ordinance shall also make it unlawful to operate an electronically

amplified sound system in or on a motor vehicle so as to produce sound that is clearly audible more than 50 feet from the motor vehicle, or to operate a motor vehicle so as to make any loud, unusual, or unnecessary noise. (This article submitted by Petition; recommended by the Board of Selectmen.)

Article/Ballot Question #9. To see if the Town will vote to approve the following resolution to be forwarded to our State Representative (s), our State Senator, the Speaker of the House, and the Senate President. Resolved: The citizens of New Hampshire should be allowed to vote on an amendment to the New Hampshire Constitution that defines “marriage”. **(This article submitted by Petition.)**

Article/Ballot Question #10. 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 Six Million Seven Hundred Thirteen Thousand One Hundred and Eleven Dollars (\$6,713,111)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Six Million Six Hundred Eighty Seven Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Six Dollars (\$6,687,396) 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.

This year’s proposed operating budget represents a \$25,715 increase over the 2010 Default Budget. Increases are noted in our Solid Waste Disposal costs, evergreen increases (step and benefit plans included in the 2009 CBA must be brought forward as set by legislative action). You will be asked to consider new contracts for Public Safety and Public Works in articles 15 and 17. Other changes

include necessary hardware and software maintenance contracts on Town computers which have been included by department. The 2010 proposed operating budget reflects a .4% increase over the 2010 Default Budget.

Article/Ballot Question #11. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twenty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Fourteen Dollars (\$128,814) for the purpose of curbside recycling? **(The Budget Committee recommends \$128,814 and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.)**

The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee support the above article to begin curbside recycling in 2010. Recyclables would be placed in recycling containers available for pickup at Town Hall or can be placed in containers clearly marked "RECYCLABLES". Recyclables would not require sorting. Containers will be picked up weekly with the residential trash collection. The eventual savings from recycling efforts will be seen in the reduction of the costs to dispose of our solid waste. The cost to dispose of our solid waste has risen to \$62.10 per ton. The community would save approximately \$43.00 per ton based on the current market for disposal of Single Stream Recyclables for every ton of recyclables removed from the waste stream. Last year the Board of Selectmen chose to ask the voters to not support a similar article due to budgetary constraints. This year they ask you to give this article your consideration.

Article/Ballot Question #12. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred and Eighty Two Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Five dollars (\$182,265) for the reconstruction of highways, said appropriation to be funded by \$182,265 from Highway Block Grant funds provided by the State of New Hampshire? **(The Budget Committee recommends \$182,265 and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.)**

Article/Ballot Question #13. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Seventeen Thousand Two Hundred Twenty three dollars (\$317,223) 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. **(The Budget Committee recommends \$317,223 and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.)**

The Sewer Commission who remains active until March 2010, recently held a meeting to increase sewer rates to meet the ongoing operational costs of the department and budget shortfalls. Rates per quarter/per unit will increase from \$25 to \$36 effective with the 1st issue bill 2010. This rate increase is directly attributable to the fact that the WRBP makes up 70% of the Department's budget; these fees are mandatory. It is important to note that our rates in comparison to the other communities who are members of the Winnepauskee River Basin Program are low. We will continue to strive to maintain our rate structure.

Article/Ballot Question #14. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Fifty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy dollars (\$257,970) for the operation and maintenance of the Water Distribution and Treatment System for the ensuing year, said sum is to be offset by user's fees. **(The Budget Committee recommends \$257,970 and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.)**

Article/Ballot Question #15. Shall the Town 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 for the term April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits:

2010 Wages \$7,088 2010 Benefits \$1,361
2010 (\$4,804) Health Insurance Savings

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Thousand Six Hundred Forty Five Dollars (\$3,645.00), which represents 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 in accordance with the most recent collective bargaining agreement. (The Budget Committee recommends \$3,645.00 and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.)

Pursuant to RSA 273-A:12, if approved, the terms of this collective bargaining agreement, including the pay plan, but excluding cost of living increases, will continue in force and effect until a new agreement is executed. The Town's current CBA's approved March 10, 2009 due to expire March 31, 2010 falls under the same provision.

Article/Ballot Question #16. Shall the Town of Belmont, if article #15 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address article #15 cost items only?

Article/Ballot Question #17. Shall the Town 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 for the term April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2012, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits:

- 2010 Wages \$14,527 2010 Benefits \$2,666
- 2010 (\$13,892) Health Insurance Savings

- 2011 \$19,868 Estimated Wage Increase
- 2011 \$3,654 Estimated Benefit Increase

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Thousand Three Hundred and One Dollars (\$3,301.00), which represents the First Year 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 in accordance with the most

recent collective bargaining agreement. **_(The Budget Committee recommends \$3,301.00 and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.)**

Pursuant to RSA 273-A:12, if approved, the terms of this collective bargaining agreement, including the pay plan, but excluding cost of living increases, will continue in force and effect until a new agreement is executed. The Town's current CBA's approved March 10, 2009 due to expire March 31, 2010 falls under the same provision.

Article/Ballot Question #18. Shall the Town of Belmont, if article #17 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address article #17 cost items only?

Article/Ballot Question #19. Shall the Town vote to authorize the selectmen to enter into a five year lease/purchase agreement for \$129,375 for the purpose of purchasing a 7400 International Plow Truck for the Highway Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,961 for the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease/purchase agreement contains an escape clause. (Majority vote required). **(The Budget Committee recommends \$25,961.00 and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.)**

The Town is proposing to lease/purchase a new 7400 International Plow Truck; the total cost including interest is \$129,375.40 over the 5-year term. The Public Works Department is in need of this truck to replace a 1999 International with a chassis mounted sander. The truck has 10,651 hours and 151,320 miles on it presently and in 2009 the Town expended \$5,200 in repairs to keep the truck on the road. We also struggle with ongoing frame issues with this truck. If replaced, the truck can be used for parts.

Article/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 Accrued Benefits Liability Expendable Trust Fund

previously established (2007), and further to fund said appropriation by authorizing the transfer of \$25,000 from the unexpended fund balance as of December 31, 2009. **(The Budget Committee recommends \$25,000 and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.)**

This fund was created in 2007 to offset future costs at the time of retirement of long term Town employees. It has been successfully funded in the past from our year-end unexpended fund balance.

Article/Ballot Question #21. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand Five Hundred dollars (\$4,500) to be placed in the Heritage Fund previously created in accordance with the provisions of RSA 674:44-d (created 2005). **(The Budget Committee recommends \$4,500 and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.)**

Article/Ballot Question #22. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000) to be placed in the Municipal Facilities Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2006). **(The Budget Committee recommends \$35,000 and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.)**

This past year funds from this account were used to side the Town Hall and to paint the Belmont Library (remediation of lead paint was also needed). Funds from this account are proposed to be used to purchase the former Northway Bank building at 154 Main Street.

Article/Ballot Question #23. 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 support this recommendation.)**

Article/Ballot Question #24. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy Five Thousand dollars (\$75,000) to be placed in the

Police Vehicles Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2002). **(The Budget Committee recommends \$75,000 and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.)**

It is proposed to replace two cruisers in 2010 and continue to place \$5,000 in the Capital Reserve Account for the replacement of the Department's SUV. No vehicles were purchased in 2009 and no funds were added to the Capital Reserve Fund for the Department's future needs. It is important to note that the annual replacement program established several years ago has reduced the overall costs of maintenance and repairs on the existing fleet. A second year of non-funding would have significant repercussions.

Article/Ballot Question #25. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) to be placed in the Water System Repair and Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2006) said sum is to be offset by user's fees. **(The Budget Committee recommends \$20,000 and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.)**

This account is funded from water user fees and is used for ongoing maintenance and repair of the existing system; funds were used this year for work on the Well SCADA system (electronic monitoring equipment) and meter replacement.

Article/Ballot Question #26. Shall the Town vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of purchasing vehicles such as Fire Trucks, Ambulances and other Fire Department vehicles, said fund to be named the Fire Department Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund, and further to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000) to be placed in this fund; and further to name the Selectmen as agents to expend said funds. **(The Budget Committee recommends \$125,000 and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.)**

The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee support the creation of this capital reserve fund for the future purchase of Fire Department vehicles including trucks, ambulances and operations/command vehicles.

Article/Ballot Question #27. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the Road Inventory Layout Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2005). **(The Budget Committee recommends \$10,000 and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.)**

This is the final year of this program; funding will be complete to finish the inventory.

Article/Ballot Question #28. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be placed in the Property Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2005). **(The Budget Committee recommends \$50,000 and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.)**

Article/Ballot Question #29. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) to be placed in the Highway Department Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2002). **(The Budget Committee recommends \$30,000 and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.)**

Article/Ballot Question #30. Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000) 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 \$2,000 and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.)**

Article/Ballot Question #31. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) to be placed in the Sidewalks

Capital Reserve fund previously established (2003). **(The Budget Committee recommends \$20,000 and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.)**

Funding of this article will continue to set aside funds for the eventual completion of a sidewalk on Church Hill. The Town is actively pursuing a grant through the Safe Routes to School program to assist with this project. Future meetings will be held as the project moves forward through design and layout.

Article/Ballot Question #32. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Hundred and 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 support this recommendation.)**

Funding this year of this request will complete reconstruction of Bean Hill Road. Engineering for the project has been completed and the project is currently out to bid; the bid opening is scheduled for February 23rd. We once again anticipate a competitive bidding process. Annual funding of this reserve fund enables the Town to complete necessary maintenance and reconstruction of Town roads in accordance with the Road Management Program outlined several years ago. Future plans include roads and drainage within the Village area as part of a plan for Village Revitalization.

Article/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 Drainage Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2003). **(The Budget Committee recommends \$25,000 and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.)**

Article/Ballot Question #34. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Two Hundred and Seventy Dollars (\$20,270); to be

used to upgrade the electrical panel at the Belmont Public Library (\$2,500) and further to place (\$17,770) in the Municipal Facilities Capital Reserve Fund to replace funds utilized in 2009 for lead paint remediation and exterior painting at the Belmont Public Library. **(The Budget Committee recommends \$20,270 and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.)**

In 2009 the Board of Selectmen authorized use of the Municipal Facilities Capital Reserve fund for the purpose of painting the Belmont Library. Lead paint was an issue and did need to be remediated. The Library Trustees are requesting that funds be appropriated to the Capital Reserve Fund to replenish those funds used on their behalf. In addition funds are requested to upgrade the electrical panel at the Library.

Article/Ballot Question #35. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred and Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (\$275,000) to purchase land and building located at 154 Main Street, Tax Map 122 Lot 008, said purchase price of \$275,000 is to be funded with \$275,000 from the Municipal Facility Capital Reserve Fund so long as either Article 22 or Article 34 pass. If both articles fail said purchase price of \$275,000 is to be funded with \$260,000 from the Municipal Facilities Capital Reserve Fund and \$15,000 from General Taxation. **(The Budget Committee recommends \$275,000 and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation).**

The Board of Selectmen are asking for your support on Article #35. The current owners of the former Northway Bank Building approached the Town in late November and offered the building to the Town for a purchase price of \$275,000. Please see the plan of the Village located at the entrance to the Cafeteria. A number of uses for the building are being discussed; they include office space for town departments. The added land will enhance future plans for Library expansion, green space expansion for relocation of the Bandstand and a campus style atmosphere which can be developed to bring focus to our

Village Center. The building is presently encumbered by a lease which runs through 2011. Funds are available in the Municipal Facilities Capital Reserve for this purpose.

Article #36. Shall the Town vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 287-E relative to the conduct of games of bingo and the sale of lucky 7 tickets?



This year's recommended budget would increase the tax rate by approximately .45 cents.