



TOWN OF BELMONT

VOTER'S GUIDE

*Guide to the Second Session of the Town Meeting in accordance
with Senate Bill 2*

Belmont High School

Tuesday, March 13, 2012

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 13. 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.

Ballot Question #1.

Selectman 3 Years (vote for one)

George Condodemetraky

Ruth Mooney

Chris White

Moderator 2 Years (vote for one)

Thomas Garfield

Budget Committee 3 Years (vote for four)

Tonyel Mitchell-Berry

Tina Fleming

Herman G. Martin

Ward Peterson

Mark Roberts

Budget Committee 1 Year (vote for one)

Tracey LeClair

Trustee of Trust Funds 3 Years (vote for 1)

David R. Caron

Library Trustee 3 Years (vote for 1)

Marilynn J. Fowler

Danielle Rupp

Cemetery Trustee 3 Years (vote for 1)

Sharon Ciampi

Planning Board 3 Years (vote for 2)

Claude B. Patten. Jr.

William Rollins

Zoning Board of Adjustment 3 Years (vote for 2)

Mark Mastenbrook

Pleasant Oberhausen

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 summarized below?

Provide that small building components that are placed next to each other to form one structure constitute a “structure” as the term is defined in the zoning ordinance.

Ballot Question #3. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town Zoning Ordinance as summarized below?

Regulate outdoor wood-fired boilers, restricting non-EPA Phase II boilers from the Village and Residential Single and Multi-Family Zones.

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 summarized below?

Limit the height of building mounted signs to the maximum roof-line height of the structure to which the sign is mounted.

Ballot Question #5. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town Zoning Ordinance as summarized below?

Clarify that retaining walls higher than 4’ are regulated.

Ballot Question #6. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #5 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town Zoning Ordinance as summarized below?

Complete revision of the conditions for the granting of a Special Exception.

Ballot Question #7. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Five Hundred Thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) for the purpose of replacing 5 (five) sewer pump stations and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$1,500,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act

(RSA 33) and to authorize the municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon (**3/5 ballot vote required**). Future bond payments are anticipated to be funded from Sewer User Fees. **(The Budget Committee recommends \$1,500,000 and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.) Tax Rate Impact 0 – Current Sewer Rate reflects Sewer Pump Station Replacements/Improvements through approval of this bond or annual contributions to a Capital Reserve Fund for that purpose. Rate should remain stable as set in August 2011 for four (4) years. The Town will seek funding through the State Revolving Fund for this bond if available.**

Ballot Question #8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four hundred and twenty two thousand three hundred and seventy seven dollars for the purpose of replacing 3,560 feet of water lines within Belmont Village including engineering costs, acquisition of land or interests in land and all other costs reasonably associated with this project and to authorize the issuance of bonds or notes in the amount of two hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$220,000) in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. The balance of two hundred two thousand three hundred seventy seven dollars (\$202,377) to come from the Community Development Block Grant Program, or from similar grants, with no amount of the balance to be raised by taxes. Future bond payments are anticipated to be funded from Water User Fees. **(3/5 Ballot Vote Required) (The**

Budget Committee recommends \$422,377 and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.)

The Town submitted an application to the Community Development Block Grant program on Monday, January 30th in the amount of \$202,377; in addition the Town has been advised by the NH DES that it is eligible for loan funding (\$220,000) through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund with \$44,000 of the loan to be forgiven by the program. The anticipated cost to the water user is .67 cents per 1,000 gallons of water used or \$60.30 per year based on household use of 90,000 gallons.

Ballot Question #9. Shall the Town vote to amend the vote taken on Article 7 at the 1999 Annual Meeting to restrict all revenues from ambulance billings (Comstar) to be deposited in the Special Revenue fund known as the Fire/Ambulance Equipment and Apparatus Fund to instead restrict all but the first \$97,091 of revenues from ambulance billings (Comstar) received during the 2012 budgetary year to be deposited in the Special Revenue fund known as the Fire/Ambulance Equipment and Apparatus Fund. The first \$97,091 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 2012 budgetary year (Majority Ballot Vote).

Shift Coverage (Vac., Sick, Personal)	\$33,400
Training Coverage (EMT-I RTP and EMT-P RTP)	\$12,500
Office Expense	\$ 1,000
Telephone Expense	\$ 1,000
Computer	\$ 1,600
Conferences & Dues (EMS related)	\$ 500
Medical & Supply Expenses	\$24,591
Comstar Billing Fees	\$12,500
Vehicle Repair & Parts	\$ 5,000
Fuel	\$ 5,000

Account Balance as of 12/31/2011: \$367,500.87

Ballot Question #10. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Sixteen Thousand Four Hundred and Thirty Dollars (\$216,430) for the purpose of purchasing Self Contained Breathing Apparatus, to be funded by a grant from the **Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant** Program in the amount of Two hundred and Five Thousand Six Hundred and Nine Dollars (\$205,609)(95% of the total cost) and the withdrawal of \$10,821 (5% of the total cost) from the Fire/Ambulance Equipment and Apparatus Special Revenue Fund (Comstar) previously established in accordance with RSA 31:95, C (Created 1994/Amended 1999). Should the Town not receive the grant from the **Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant** Program in the amount of \$205,609, this appropriation shall be null and void.

Ballot Question #11. Shall the Town vote to expend the income from the John M. Sargent Trust Fund for the purposes recommended by the Sargent Fund Committee?

Belknap County 4-H Association	\$600
Belmont Baseball Organization	\$600
Belmont Community Girl Scouts	\$900
Belmont Historical Society	\$620
Belmont Public Library Programs	\$650
Belmont NH Heritage Website Support	\$180
Belmont Police Explorers	\$400
Belmont Police Relief Assoc. Santa's Helpers	\$400
Belmont Park & Rec. Program Scholarships	\$400
Belmont Boy Scouts Troop 65	\$600
Belmont Cub Scout Pack 65	\$600
Belmont Memorial Veterans Park Caretakers	\$100
Charles Kilborn Post #58 American Legion Street Banner Request	\$300
First Baptist Church Pantry	\$1500
LR Girls Babe Ruth Softball	\$500
Old Home Day Good Citizen Scholarship	\$750
Saint Joseph's Food Pantry	\$1,500

Ballot Question #12. Shall the Town vote to adopt the provision of RSA 79-E,

Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive to apply to the Factory Village District as defined by the 2003 Section 106 Study, as submitted to the N.H. Division of Historical Resources?

RSA 79-E, Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive allows the Board of Selectmen the option of granting property owners in the designated Factory Village District short-term property assessment relief to encourage substantial reinvestment in underutilized structures. Upon receipt of an application for tax abatement, the governing body will hold a public hearing to determine whether the structure is a qualifying structure, whether the proposed rehabilitation qualifies as substantial rehabilitation and whether there is a public benefit to granting the requested tax relief. This RSA gives the Selectboard another tool to encourage reinvestment in the Village area. The abatement delays the additional tax on the qualifying rehabilitations for a designated period of time.

Ballot Question #13. Shall the Town vote to amend the Solar Exemption adopted in accordance with RSA 72:62 for exemption from the assessed value for persons owning real property which is equipped with a solar energy system as defined in RSA 72:61. The amount of the exemption is to be equal to the annual assessed value for such system. The original warrant article provided for an exemption in the amount of the cost of the solar energy system. ***The intent of the article is to exempt from taxation the full assessed value of the solar improvement.***

Ballot Question #14. Shall the Town of Belmont vote not to discontinue

completely, with ownership to revert to the abutters, the easterly portion of Old Ladd Hill Road, so-called, and thereby cease any and all public rights to Old Ladd Hill Road from its end at Mile Hill Road to the westerly end of property owned by the Mirski Irrevocable Family Trust (Map 205 Lot 40) and the Sara Mirski and Peter Spencer Revocable Trust (Map 205 Lot 37). **The passage of this article will, on July 1, 2012, terminate all public right to the public right of way in so far as it fronts on the Mirkis' property.**

This article was amended at the Deliberative Session and the word "not" was added in the first sentence. The result of either a positive or negative vote will be moot.

Ballot Question #15. To see if the Town will vote to increase the membership of the Heritage Commission established in 2004 in accordance with RSA 673:4-a from 5 members to consist of 7 members to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen. Initial terms for new members shall be (1) for three years, and (1) for two years.

This article was submitted to the Board of Selectmen for consideration by the Heritage Commission.

Ballot Question #16. Shall the Town vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 398 relative to the licensing of pawnbrokers?

Ballot Question #17. 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 \$6,921,955.69 Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Six Million Seven Hundred Seventy One Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Dollars and Seventy Three cents (\$6,771,730.73) 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 \$6,921,955.69 and the Board of Selectmen recommends \$6,943,455.69.)**

Ballot Question #18. Shall the Town vote to amend Section VI of the Solid Waste Ordinance adopted March 11, 2005, by adding a new subparagraph (e) to authorize the Board of Selectmen to institute a "Pay as you Throw" program for the Town of Belmont, which shall include a curb-side recycling program for materials such as glass, aluminum cans, plastics and newspapers?

- **What is PAYT ?**

- **"Pay As You Throw" = a resident's disposal costs are based upon how much they throw away (similar to water bill)**
- **In the past, property taxes typically paid for waste disposal**

- *Therefore, a resident's cost for trash was based on the value of their property*
- *How does PAYT work?*
 - *Residents -*
 - ✦ *Purchase specially marked trash bags at local stores*
 - ✦ *Pay for only the trash bags they are going to use*
 - ✦ *Can recycle for free*
 - ✦ *Are inspired to recycle to reduce their trash disposal costs*

The contract for collection of curbside recyclables will be separate from the Town's Trash collection contract and may include collection of recyclables from multi-family properties such as Mobile Home Parks, Apartment buildings and other multi-family dwellings. The Board will review this option with those bidding on the recycling collection contract. The goal for the Town of Belmont is to reduce the trash we deliver to the Penacook incinerator at \$66.80 per ton and to encourage recycling. In turn the Town will receive revenue for the single stream materials to help lower the overall costs of Solid Waste collection and disposal for the taxpayers of Belmont.

Ballot Question #19. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Dollar (\$1) for the purpose of curbside recycling? Passage of this article is contingent upon Article #18 passing. Funding for this article is proposed to be offset by revenue from

the "Pay as you Throw" program in Article #18. **(The Budget Committee recommends \$0 and the Board of Selectmen recommends \$1.) This article was amended at the Deliberative Session by the Board of Selectmen. The cost of a curbside recycling collection program would be covered by recycling revenue and the sale of bags under the PAYT program.**

Ballot Question #20. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty Two Dollars (\$3,852) to be used to upgrade the Fire and Panic Alarm System at the Belmont Public Library. **(The Budget Committee recommends \$3,852 and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.)**

Ballot Question #21. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Seventy Three Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Five Dollars and Ten Cents (\$173,495.10) for the reconstruction of highways, said appropriation to be offset by Highway Block Grant funds provided by the State of New Hampshire? **(The Budget Committee recommends \$173,495.10 and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.)**

Ballot Question #22. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Forty Nine Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Three Dollars and Forty Three Cents (\$349,683.43) 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 \$349,683.43 and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.)**

Ballot Question #23. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Sixty Two Thousand One Hundred Thirty Six Dollars and Seventy One Cents (\$262,136.71) for the operation and maintenance of the Water Distribution and Treatment System for the ensuing year, said sum is to be offset by users' fees. **(The Budget Committee recommends \$262,136.71 and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.)**

Ballot Question #24. 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, 2011. **(The Budget Committee recommends \$25,000 and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.)** *Account balance as of 12/31/2011: \$60,148.15*

Ballot Question #25. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One hundred Ten Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$110,200) to be placed in the Municipal Facilities Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2006), and further to fund said appropriation by authorizing the transfer of \$110,200 from the unexpended fund balance as of December 31, 2011. **(The Budget Committee recommends \$110,200 and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.)** *Account balance as of 12/31/2012: \$279,027.34*

Ballot Question #26. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty

Thousand dollars (\$20,000) to be placed in the Library Building Improvements Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2000). **(The Budget Committee recommends \$20,000 and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.)** *Account balance as of 12/31/2011: \$303,127.26*

Ballot Question #27. 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.)** *Account balance as of 12/31/2011: \$17,786.46*

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.)** *Account balance as of 12/31/2011: \$75,010.55*

Ballot Question #29. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000) to be placed in the Highway Department Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2002). **(The Budget Committee recommends \$40,000 and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.)** *Account balance as of 12/31/2011: \$72,349.26*

Ballot Question #30. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$600,000) to be

placed in the Highway Reconstruction and Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2006). **(The Budget Committee recommends \$600,000 and the Board of Selectmen recommends \$625,000.) Account balance as of 12/31/2011: \$454,636.91**

Ballot Question #31. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) to be placed in the Drainage Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2003). **(The Budget Committee recommends \$20,000 and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.) Account balance as of 12/31/2011: \$87,329.63**

Ballot Question #32. Shall the Town 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 (2010). **(The Budget Committee recommends \$2,500 and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.) Account balance as of 12/31/2011: \$1,589.41**

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 Sewer Pump Station Upgrades, Replacement and Repairs Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2010), said sum to be offset by user's fees. **(The Budget Committee recommends \$25,000 and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.) Account balance as of 12/31/2011: \$115,000**

Ballot Question #34. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five

Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to be placed in the Heritage Resources Fund previously established (2005). **(The Budget Committee recommends \$5,000 and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.) Account balance as of 12/31/2011: \$23,720.91**

Ballot Question #35. Shall the Town vote to discontinue the following Capital Reserve funds; said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the municipality's general fund.

Emergency Power Supply (Created 2005)	\$ 7.68
Homeland Defense (Created 2002)	\$195.43
Lamprey Cemetery Restoration (Created 2005)	\$ 2.62

Ballot Question #36. To see if the Towns People of Belmont will vote to keep the TOTAL town budget for the fiscal year of 2012, to include the main budget article, all money warrant articles by the Town and by petition, to match the same Total Town budget for the fiscal year of 2011, which includes all of the same articles above resulting in a 0% increase in spending for the fiscal year 2012. **(This article submitted by petition.) (The Board of Selectmen does not support this article and the Budget Committee does not support this article.)**

Ballot Question #37. To see if the Towns People of Belmont will VOTE to direct the planning board to provide the citizens of Belmont with a comprehensive plan to control the long term growth of Belmont. This long-term plan should stabilize our growth and the projected future tax burden on a year-to-year basis. **(This article submitted by petition.)**



Anticipated Tax Rate impact of passage of the budget as presented for consideration:

\$7.41 per \$1,000 of value

Propose rate is down .11 Cents

Impact on a \$100,000 home

\$7.52 x \$100,000 = \$752.00 @ current Tax Rate

\$7.41 x \$100,000 = \$741.00 @ proposed 2012 Tax Rate

Please visit the Town's website at www.belmontnh.org or call the Town Administrator's office at 267-8300, ext. 24, with any questions.

Reminder:

Voting Day is Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at the Belmont High School from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm.