

Annual Meeting Warrant 2017  
Town of Belmont, New Hampshire

TO THE INHABITANTS OF THE TOWN OF BELMONT IN THE COUNTY OF BELKNAP, IN THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, QUALIFIED TO VOTE IN TOWN AFFAIRS:

**FIRST SESSION**

You are hereby notified to meet for the First (Deliberative) Session of the Annual Town Meeting, to be held at the Belmont High School, 255 Seavey Road, Belmont, New Hampshire on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of February 2017, being a Saturday at 10 o'clock in the forenoon. The First (Deliberative) Session will consist of explanation, discussion, and debate of each of the following warrant articles, and will afford those voters who are present the opportunity to propose, debate and adopt amendments to each warrant article, except those articles whose wording is prescribed by State law.

The First (Deliberative) Session of the Annual Town Meeting held at the Belmont High School, Belmont, New Hampshire on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of February 2017, being Saturday was called to order at ten o'clock in the morning. Moderator Alvin Nix introduced himself to the attendees.

Moderator asked attendees to stand for the pledge of allegiance.

Moderator Alvin Nix introduced the officials at the head table as follows: Ruth Mooney, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen; Jonathan Pike, Selectmen; Ron Cormier, Vice-Chair of the Board of Selectmen; Ronald Mitchell, Budget Committee Chairman; Jeanne Beaudin, Town Administrator; Cynthia M. DeRoy, Town Clerk – Tax Collector and Kari Smith, Deputy Town Clerk – Tax Collector today's Recording Secretary.

Moderator asked attendees to keep the meeting orderly, amicable and asked that there be no debates on the floor and that all questions or comments be directed to the Moderator. Moderator advised that today's meeting is being video recorded.

During this meeting the Moderator may ask a non- resident or town official to get up and speak to clarify warrant articles. Non-residents were asked to identify themselves by a show of hands and advised that they were not allowed to amend any articles. Moderator made note of the slide show presentation and the printed handouts available on today's articles.

Moderator advised that we do not follow the Roberts Rules but we are going to follow simple rule for today's meeting. Moderator declared that amendment requests must be submitted in writing. Motions for amendments must be legible, signed by resident making the amendment request and be done in a positive manner. Some articles cannot be amended and will be advised if we cannot. We cannot kill articles here today. Please show civility and have only one

## Annual Meeting Warrant 2017

### Town of Belmont, New Hampshire

(1) amendment on the floor at once. You must come up to the microphone and announce your name, your street address and spell if necessary.

Moderator asked attendees to please turn off all cell phones, pagers, beepers and electronic devices with the exception of law enforcement officials and emergency services personnel. Moderator made mention of the building exits in case of an emergency.

Selectmen Mooney began today's meeting with a brief overview of this past year. With the loss of Fire Chief Parenti it provided us the opportunity to combine our Chief services with the City of Laconia. Please give a warm welcome to Fire Chief Ken Erickson. I would also like to recognize our 18+ year veteran who is taking over the role of "father" in the fire house, Captain Michael Newhall. I cannot say enough of what a great job they have done and I encourage everyone to visit the fire department. We have the best dedicated guys in our department and sharing the Chief services with Laconia has only improved our services. I would also like to take a moment and thank our employees who compile our Police Department for their dedication in serving the Town of Belmont.

You are also notified to meet for the Second Session of the Annual Town Meeting, to elect Town Officers by official ballot and to vote by official ballot on the warrant articles as they may have been amended at the First (Deliberative) Session, to be held at the Belmont High School, 255 Seavey Road, Belmont, New Hampshire on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of March, being a Tuesday, between the hours of 7:00 o'clock in the forenoon and 7:00 o'clock in the afternoon, to act upon the following:

**Article #1.** To choose necessary officers, including Selectman three-year term (1), Budget Committee three-year term (4), Trustee of Trust Funds three-year term (1), Library Trustee three-year term (1), Cemetery Trustee three-year term (1), Planning Board three-year term (2), Zoning Board of Adjustment three-year term (2).

Article #1 was read by Moderator. Moderator opened this article open for discussion and asked if anyone had questions or comments on this article. Noting no further questions or comments from the attendees, the Moderator declared Article #1 as read will be placed on ballot as written.

**Article #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?

**Amend the definition of frontage to allow alternate driveway access to a lot where conditions warrant. The current Ordinance requires a lot be accessed over that lot's legal frontage. The**

## Annual Meeting Warrant 2017

### Town of Belmont, New Hampshire

**amendment would allow application for a conditional use permit to access from another location under certain circumstances (e.g. environmental impacts, traffic safety).**

Article #2 was read by Moderator. Moderator opened this article open for discussion and asked if anyone had questions or comments on this article. Noting no further questions or comments from the attendees, the Moderator declared Article #2 as read will be placed on ballot as written.

**Article #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?

**Amend the title and content of the Accessory Apartment ordinance to comply with the new RSA 673:71-73 and amend minimum unit size, definition, and clarify method of attachment to primary unit.**

Article #3 was read by Moderator. Moderator opened this article open for discussion and asked if anyone had questions or comments on this article. Noting no further questions or comments from the attendees, the Moderator declared Article #3 as read will be placed on ballot as written.

**Article #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?

**Replace in its entirety the existing Sign Ordinance to comply with the US Supreme Court decision, Reed v. Town of Gilbert Arizona. Changes relate, but are not limited to content-neutrality, purpose, definitions, general provisions and exempt, prohibited, directional and complex signs.**

Article #4 was read by Moderator. Moderator opened this article open for discussion and asked if anyone had questions or comments on this article.

Moderator asked Peter Harris, Planning Board Chairman to come up and give a brief summary of the sign ordinance. He advised that working with the Zoning Board they have come up with a good balance for this article. He spoke on Article #5 while he had the floor and thought it was a good opportunity to talk with land owners in hopes of refining the district.

Linda Frawley, Cotton Hill Road, Chair of Belmont Heritage Committee. We support the Planning Board's decision to follow court rulings but would like to suggest an Amendment be made to this Ordinance that restricts any new electronic signs in the village/factory district for

Annual Meeting Warrant 2017  
Town of Belmont, New Hampshire

the purpose of the tax incentive. We as tax payers have invested approximately 3 million dollars already in the village and it would be a shame to allow electronic signs in the village and she speak against this article.

Moderator advised that this article cannot be amended due to the prior Zoning Board hearings on this article.

Linda Frawley, Cotton Hill Road again advised she is against this article.

**Article #5.** Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town Zoning Map as summarized below?

**At the request of the property owner, rezone all of tax lot 236/015/000/000 and part of tax lot 123/027/000/000 on Dearborn Street from Industrial to Rural leaving the entire frontage of tax lot 123/027/000/000 for a depth of approximately 230' in the Industrial Zone.**

Article #5 was read by Moderator. Moderator opened this article open for discussion and asked if anyone had questions or comments on this article. Noting no further questions or comments from the attendees, the Moderator declared Article #5 as read will be placed on ballot as written.

**Article #6.** Shall the Town vote to support the future renovation of the Belmont Mill for use as Town Offices and other community purposes? No funding is being requested for this purpose under this article.

Article #6 was read by Moderator. Moderator asked Selectmen Pike to speak on this article. He said the next three articles speak for themselves. We are looking for some direction and need more space in the town hall which we have outgrown. We have this Mill building and have already had various committees on what to do with this building. In 2019 we will have outlived the 20-year Community Development Block Grant that funded the initial restoration and the doctor's office will move out at the end of their rental agreement. These next three questions are all up to you as the residents. We do not have a goal with these questions and will assist with the outcome to do what you, the residents, tell us to do. We have tried giving direction on what to do with these buildings and now it is being given to the voters to tell us what to do. We are not asking for funding for these articles just a direction on what we should do next.

Moderator opened this article open for discussion and asked if anyone had questions or comments on this article.

Annual Meeting Warrant 2017  
Town of Belmont, New Hampshire

Michael Sylvia, Farrarville Road, asked if, with these three questions, have you calculated the combinations of how articles 6, 7 and 8 are voted on. Selectmen Pike said he does not think the Town will tear the Mill building down and we are here to guide you. This is a stumper for us and that is what these three articles are about.

Moderator re-read Article 6.

Donna Hepp, Leavitt Road commented that Belmont needs a comprehensive plan for all town buildings. What would give answers, I propose, is to form a broad base committee to address these issues. This committee would help identify long term use for the town buildings and we cannot keep looking at just one building but all buildings. We need a basic building facility committee to look at the best options for all future options. I would be willing to volunteer for this committee.

Selectmen Cormier spoke on these three articles and has sat on several committees to look at facility needs. I feel this topic comes up and our biggest problem as the Board of Selectmen is that every year can only present one option on the ballot. We have to try and do all that in meetings or hearings that are poorly attended and the one plan we come up with people don't like what is presented. These articles were the best non-funded options to come up with a solution. The Town's Code Enforcer is an architect and has reviewed the structural and space needs of the town buildings. This is our attempt to gain information and gives us insight on what direction to follow. At this point we have to try and find a particular direction and look at things in a different light.

Selectmen Pike clarified the reason for this article being placed on the ballot is due to a request brought forward from residents and welcome anyone to attend our meetings.

Donald McLelland Sr, Highcrest Drive stated that Donna Hepp's idea on forming a committee is a great idea. He stated that he was the Town Administrator when the Mill building was inherited. It was found that the building was not structurally sound. There have been great plans to renovate the existing building or build a new building and spoke about the need to look at the need for a new building complex which holds the town offices and the Police Department. He congratulated the Board of Selectmen on these three articles but again support Donna Hepp's suggestion to form the committee and come up with a comprehensive plan to figure out what to do with these buildings.

Woodbury Fogg, Jamestown Road, comments that it is a great idea to form a committee and remind the Board of Selectmen that we have a Revitalization Committee that could be useful.

Annual Meeting Warrant 2017  
Town of Belmont, New Hampshire

We need to think long and hard before we dispose of the Mill and could enter into discussions on possibly the need to sell or lease, there are options we just have to find them.

Donald McLelland Sr, Highcrest Drive wanted to clarify that if residents vote Yes on Article #6 it is to vote on renovating the Mill building. He speaks against this article and wants residents to please read the articles carefully before casting your vote.

Mark Ekberg, Bryant Road, asked if these articles will be placed on the ballot by Yes or No vote. Moderator advised that the articles will be presented as a Yes or No vote.

Moderator asked if anyone had any further questions or comments on this article. Noting no further questions or comments from the attendees, the Moderator declared Article #6 as read will be placed on ballot as written.

**Article #7.** Shall the Town vote to support the future demolition of the Belmont Mill? No funding is being requested for this purpose under this article.

Article #7 was read by Moderator. Moderator opened this article open for discussion and asked if anyone had questions or comments on this article.

Ken Knowlton, Lamprey Road, commented that the Mill represents a central place to be proud of and all the revitalized work in village has been done around the Mill. I would hope that the citizens of Belmont wouldn't be callus enough to get rid of this building. A new building would cost the citizens more and the Mill building has character. I speak against this article.

Paul Schmidt, Magnolia Lane, commented that he is not in favor of destroying the Mill. We have to think of the whole picture and to see it destroyed would be a travesty. When you drive through town you think of the Mill as the center of Town.

Tracey LeClair, Brown Hill Road, asked if a note can be put on the voter guide referencing that the three articles are for resident input and not requesting for funding. It would be helpful also if the reporters here today can make note of this with in their stories of today's meeting. Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin advised that some language will be added to the voter's guide.

Selectmen Ruth Mooney stated that she is always amazed that when standing outside the polling areas that you hear people come to vote and comment that they are voting no on everything.

Donna Hepp, Leavitt Road, asked if we can amend this article to remove this article from the ballot. Moderator advised that we cannot amend to remove this article from the ballot.

Linda Frawley, Cotton Hill Road, commented that the figures for disposal look very low and asked for clarification on where the estimates came from. And suggested if those figures be

## Annual Meeting Warrant 2017

### Town of Belmont, New Hampshire

included in the voter guide so residents can get a clear picture of this article. Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin stated that a local and one outside agency were contacted and we received two rough estimates and gave a brief detail of the basic estimate of \$125,000.

Moderator asked if there were any further questions or comments on this article. Noting no further questions or comments from the attendees, the Moderator declared Article #7 as read will be placed on ballot as written.

**Article #8.** Shall the Town vote to support the future sale of the Belmont Mill? No funding is being requested for this purpose under this article.

Article #8 was read by Moderator. Moderator opened this article open for discussion and asked if anyone had questions or comments on this article.

Ken Knowlton, Lamprey Road, commented that he is going to go with his devious side and comment that there has to be a way to amend this article and state in a different way if there isn't a way to remove this article. Moderator stated that we cannot make a negative amendment.

Selectmen Pike stated that we had people come to these hearings and want this on the ballot. Just to be clear these articles are not from the Board of Selectmen but from residents.

Kevin Sturgeon, 110 Depot Street, advised he is the bad guy and came up with these articles. I don't want to see the Mill demolished or sold and I attended the public meetings. I totally agree with a committee after this vote and I would volunteer for the committee. I do speak against Article #7 and #8.

Richard C. Pickwick, Hurricane Road, would like to clarify that if Article #6 doesn't pass, we as the town need Article #8 to pass but he spoke in favor of Article #6.

Ron Mitchell, Union Road, made a statement that he doesn't think the Mill is going anywhere.

Selectmen Cormier stated that he is in favor of renovating the Mill. This Mill is on the Town's Seal. The Mill does need some work and if we don't maintain it we will need Article #7. We need to allocate funds or we will not have a choice but to demolish.

Tom Murphy, Concord Street, just wanted to confirm that there are no funds being asked for under these articles and they are for information only. Selectmen Cormier confirmed no funds are being requested but just guidance from the residents on where to go from here with this building. Stated he is in support of Article #6.

Annual Meeting Warrant 2017  
Town of Belmont, New Hampshire

Donald McLelland Sr, Highcrest Drive, asked if the Town Administrator can give a rough estimate to keep the Mill and commented that he totally respects the historic nature of the building but does not support renovating this building and thinks constructing a new building would be the better option. Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin commented probably from 1 to 2 million and commented that the rents from this building have never covered even the maintenance due to the rent restrictions outlined by the Grant.

Moderator if anyone had any further questions or comments on this article. Noting no further questions or comments from the attendees, the Moderator declared Article #8 as read will be placed on ballot as written.

**Article #9.** Shall the Town vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:28-b, All Veterans' Tax Credit? If adopted, the credit will be available to any resident, or the spouse or surviving spouse of any resident, who (1) served not less than 90 days on active service in the armed forces of the United States and (2) was honorably discharged or an officer honorably separated from service and is not eligible for or receiving a credit under RSA 72:28 or RSA 72:35. If adopted, the credit granted will be \$500.00, the same amount as the standard or optional veterans' tax credit voted by the Town under RSA 72:28.

Article #9 was read by Moderator. Moderator opened this article open for discussion and asked if anyone had questions or comments on this article.

Moderator asked the Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin to speak on this Article. She gave a brief detail that there are approximately 195 additional Belmont veterans who gave service for a minimum of 90 days or was honorably discharged that will be able to qualify for this credit. Currently the credit only qualifies veterans who served in time of war.

Michael Sylvia, Farrarville Road, spoke against this Article.

Moderator if anyone had any further questions or comments on this article. Noting no further questions or comments from the attendees, the Moderator declared Article #9 as read will be placed on ballot as written.

**Article #10.** Shall the Town vote to amend the vote taken on Article 7 at the 1999 Annual Meeting to restrict all revenues from ambulance billings to be deposited in the Special Revenue fund known as the Fire/Ambulance Equipment and Apparatus Fund to instead restrict all but the first \$166,400 of revenues from ambulance billings received during the 2017 budgetary year to be deposited in the Special Revenue fund known as the Fire/Ambulance Equipment and Apparatus Fund. The first \$166,400 of revenues from ambulance billings will be deposited in



Annual Meeting Warrant 2017  
Town of Belmont, New Hampshire

the Town's General Fund to defray the cost items identified below. This restriction shall only be effective for the 2017 budgetary year (Majority Ballot Vote).

Training Expenses	\$3,000
Medical & Supply Expenses	\$26,000
Ambulance Billing Fees	\$17,000
Overtime	\$40,000
Telephone	\$2,000
Conferences & Dues	\$1,000
Office Expense	\$12,000
Vehicle Repair & Parts	\$8,000
Fuel	\$7,400
Bathroom Renovations – Fire Station	\$50,000

Article #10 was read by Moderator. Moderator opened this article open for discussion and asked if anyone had questions or comments on this article.

Moderator asked Chief Erickson to speak on this Article. Chief Erickson commented that we have a fantastic fire department and gave an overview of this fund. This fund request is for upgrades to the showers, flooring, sheet rock and some minor mold found in the bathrooms.

Selectmen Mooney clarified that this building was constructed and funded by volunteers, with donations and this will be the first upgrade other than regular maintenance.

Ken Knowlton, Lamprey Road, commented that he was surprised to learn of the number of people that did not pay for services. Wondered if this was a recent problem?

Selectmen Mooney stated that we have changed collection agencies and although we will not collect every cent owed, it has improved since we changed agency.

Gretta Olson-Wilder, Forest Drive, asked for clarification of the \$12,000 listed for Office Expenses, it seems more than just supplies and the figure for the bathroom renovation is that an actual bid or an estimate? Chief Erickson explained that the Office Expenses includes funds for the salary of the Administrative Secretary for her to process the ambulance billing. The figure for the bathroom renovation is an estimate and there is no set bid for this work yet.

Moderator if anyone had any further questions or comments on this article. Noting no further questions or comments from the attendees, the Moderator declared Article #10 as read will be placed on ballot as written.

Annual Meeting Warrant 2017  
Town of Belmont, New Hampshire

**Article #11.** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Nineteen Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Two Dollars (\$119,482) for the cost of a replacement Communications System for the Fire Department **and further to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of Sixty Nine Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Two dollars (\$69,482) from the Fire/Ambulance Equipment and Apparatus Special Revenue Fund previously established in accordance with RSA 31:95, c; the balance of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be withdrawn from the Capital Reserve Account established in 2005 for the purpose of Digital Radio Equipment.** (Majority ballot vote required.)

(The Budget Committee recommends **\$119,482** and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.)

Article #11 was read by Moderator. Moderator opened this article open for discussion and asked if anyone had questions or comments on this article.

Chief Erickson stated that funds were put away two years ago for the upgrade of the radios. All current portable radios are outdated and cannot be repaired. Technology within the department is not up to current standards and instead of replacing radios one at a time we need to just replace them all for the safety of services.

Selectmen Pike commented that in 2005 we came to the residents and gave them an estimate of \$220,000 for these replacements but with the exceptional work of our new chief the request has come in this year at a greater savings to the town.

Richard Pickwick, Hurricane Road, would like to clarify that these radios will be compatible with the police department. Chief Erickson advised that the new equipment will be compatible with all surroundings safety service agencies.

Ron Mitchell, Budget Committee Chairman, explained the revenue source will be from the ambulance service billings. The funds go into a special account that is for replacement of equipment and vehicles. This special account helps not put a burden on the residents when the need arises and does not show in your tax rate.

Moderator if anyone had any further questions or comments on this article. Noting no further questions or comments from the attendees, the Moderator declared Article #11 as read will be placed on ballot as written.

## Annual Meeting Warrant 2017

### Town of Belmont, New Hampshire

**Article #12.** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Six Dollars (\$60,776) for the second year's payment on the long term lease/purchase agreement entered into in 2016 for the purchase of a new pumper truck for the Fire Department, and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of said amount from the Fire/Ambulance Equipment and Apparatus Special Revenue Fund previously established in accordance with RSA 31:95, c (Created 1994/Amended 1999). **The Town is obligated by the terms of the lease/purchase agreement, as well as the super majority ratifying that agreement in Article 4 at the 2016 Town Meeting, to make these yearly payments.**

(The Budget Committee recommends **\$60,776** and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.)

Article #12 was read by Moderator. Moderator opened this article open for discussion and asked if anyone had questions or comments on this article.

Chief Erickson commented that this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> payment on this truck purchase and should be receiving delivery soon. Tracey LeClair, spoke as a Budget Committee member and commented that we are obligated to this money as per the lease agreement and has to be on the ballot.

Michael Sylvia, Farrarville Road, asked what happens if this article fails?

Chief Erickson commented that the truck would be repossessed but we would still be liable for the remaining money due on the lease.

Moderator if anyone had any further questions or comments on this article. Noting no further questions or comments from the attendees, the Moderator declared Article #12 as read will be placed on ballot as written.

**Article #13.** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000) for the purpose of purchasing a Cab/Chassis Forestry Vehicle for the Fire Department, and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of said amount from the Fire/Ambulance Equipment and Apparatus Special Revenue Fund previously established in accordance with RSA 31:95, c (Created 1994/Amended 1999).

(The Budget Committee recommends **\$40,000** and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.)

Article #13 was read by Moderator. Moderator opened this article open for discussion and asked if anyone had questions or comments on this article.

Annual Meeting Warrant 2017  
Town of Belmont, New Hampshire

Chief Erickson explained that the current forestry truck has over 70,000 miles with a ¾ ton pickup bed which is heavily loaded with equipment and is worn out and needs to be replaced. The equipment will be removed from the existing truck and remounted on the new cab/chassis.

Moderator if anyone had any further questions or comments on this article. Noting no further questions or comments from the attendees, the Moderator declared Article #13 as read will be placed on ballot as written.

**Article #14.** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) for the purpose of purchasing an All Terrain Vehicle for the Fire Department, and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of said amount from the Fire/Ambulance Equipment and Apparatus Special Revenue Fund previously established in accordance with RSA 31:95, c (Created 1994/Amended 1999).

(The Budget Committee recommends **\$15,000** and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.)

Article #14 was read by Moderator. Moderator opened this article open for discussion and asked if anyone had questions or comments on this article.

Chief Erickson explained that this vehicle will be a small side by side 4x4 vehicle that would allow us to get to areas that the ambulance or larger vehicles cannot get to, such as the WOW trails and would be made available for use by the police department as well.

Moderator if anyone had any further questions or comments on this article. Noting no further questions or comments from the attendees, the Moderator declared Article #14 as read will be placed on ballot as written.

**Article #15.** Shall the Town vote to expend the income from the John M. Sargent Trust Fund for the purposes recommended by the Sargent Fund Committee?

Article #15 was read by Moderator. Moderator read the memo from the Sargent Fund Committee Meeting of January 21, 2017 to recommend distributing funds as follows:

Belknap County 4-H Fair Association	\$ 500.00
Belmont Baseball Organization	\$ 1,000.00
Belmont Conservation Commission	\$ 250.00
Belmont Early Learning Center	\$ 500.00
Belmont Girl Scouts Troop 10972	\$ 500.00

## Annual Meeting Warrant 2017

### Town of Belmont, New Hampshire

Belmont Girl Scouts Troop 12117	\$	400.00
Belmont Girl Scouts Troop 20431	\$	250.00
Belmont Girl Scouts Troop 20532/21532	\$	300.00
Belmont Girl Scouts Community Account	\$	300.00
Lake Region Girls Softball	\$	500.00
Belmont Boy Scouts Troop 65	\$	750.00
Belmont Cub Scouts Pack 65	\$	850.00
Belmont Heritage Commission	\$	250.00
Belmont High School PTO	\$	500.00
Belmont Historical Society	\$	500.00
Belmont Middle School Nature's Classroom	\$	3,325.00
Belmont Old Home Day Committee	\$	500.00
Belmont Parks & Recreation Scholarship	\$	1,500.00
Belmont Police Explorers	\$	1,275.00
Belmont Public Library	\$	1,520.00
First Baptist Church Food Pantry	\$	734.15
Friends of Belmont Football	\$	500.00
St. Joseph's Food Pantry	\$	2,400.00
South Road Cemetery Association	\$	<u>1,500.00</u>
Total Funds to be distributed	\$	20,604.15

Moderator opened this article open for discussion and asked if anyone had questions or comments on this article.

Selectmen Mooney explained that this is the interest from the Trust Fund which is distributed and is applied as requested annually.

Tracey LeClair asked if there is a greater need for the middle school request. Selectmen Mooney advised that these funds are to support families who cannot afford to send their children, not paid by the school, to the week of outdoor nature camp.

Moderator if anyone had any further questions or comments on this article. Noting no further questions or comments from the attendees, the Moderator declared Article #15 as read will be placed on ballot as written.

**Article #16.** Shall the Town vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 149-I:4-a authorizing the Town to contract with a private nongovernmental entity for the design, construction, and funding of a new sewer or sewerage system, or addition or modification thereto?

## Annual Meeting Warrant 2017

### Town of Belmont, New Hampshire

Article #16 was read by Moderator. Moderator opened this article open for discussion and asked if anyone had questions or comments on this article.

Jeanne Beaudin, Town Administrator, explained the purpose of this article is to allow Board of Selectmen to look at expansion of the sewer system on behalf of the Town and allow them to negotiate to add private systems to the Town's system.

Moderator if anyone had any further questions or comments on this article. Noting no further questions or comments from the attendees, the Moderator declared Article #16 as read will be placed on ballot as written.

**Article #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 Seven Million Five Hundred Eighty Six Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty One Dollars (\$7,586,951)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Seven Million Five Hundred Sixty Three Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty Six Dollars (\$7,563,786) 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 **\$7,586,951** and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.)

Article #17 was read by Moderator. Moderator opened this article open for discussion and asked if anyone had questions or comments on this article.

Ron Mitchell, Budget Committee wanted to thank the Budget Committee members who volunteer their Tuesday nights during the months of November, December and January to review the proposed budget to present to the residents. He gave an overview of the budget and explained the retirement systems increases and explained that the portion received from the state will no longer be available. Stated that this year's budget will increase \$.33 cents.

Moderator if anyone had any further questions or comments on this article. Noting no further questions or comments from the attendees, the Moderator declared Article #17 as read will be placed on ballot as written.

Annual Meeting Warrant 2017  
Town of Belmont, New Hampshire

**Article #18.** 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 (**Public Safety Employees Union Police Unit A**) for the term April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2020, which calls for the following increases and decreases in salaries and benefits:

Year	Increase (Wages)	Increase/ (Decrease) Benefits
2017	\$37,540	\$10,720
Year	Estimated Increase (Wages)	Estimated Increase Benefits
2018	\$30,347	\$8,836
2019	\$29,966	\$8,919

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Eighty Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Dollars (\$48,260) which represents the additional costs attributable to the increase and decrease 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 **\$48,260** and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.)

Article #18 was read by Moderator. Moderator opened this article open for discussion and asked if anyone had questions or comments on this article.

Jeanne Beaudin, Town Administrator, gave a brief explanation of this article and stated that we successfully negotiated with the unions. We looked at 9 communities and found we were lower than most of them. She thanked Officer Evan Boulanger for a great job he did on this review which came up with positive changes with wages, benefits and produced a new pay scale of 5 Grades with 10 Steps which totals new costs of \$126,000 that are spread over three years for the police department.

Gretta Olson-Wilder, Forest Drive, asked for the number of full time and part time employees covered under all three of the unions? Jeanne Beaudin stated there are approximately 13-14 full time employees. There are no part time employees in any of the unions.

Jeanne Beaudin explained that the lowest increase given to the newest employee in the department is 4% and the highest would be 11%.

Officer Evan Boulanger spoke and detailed the creation of the steps which allows for growth potential within the department.

## Annual Meeting Warrant 2017

### Town of Belmont, New Hampshire

Moderator if anyone had any further questions or comments on this article. Noting no further questions or comments from the attendees, the Moderator declared Article #18 as read will be placed on ballot as written.

**Article #19.** Shall the Town of Belmont, if article #18 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address article #18 cost items only?

Article #19 was read by Moderator. Moderator opened this article open for discussion and asked if anyone had questions or comments on this article.

Moderator if anyone had any further questions or comments on this article. Noting no further questions or comments from the attendees, the Moderator declared Article #19 as read will be placed on ballot as written.

**Article #20.** 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 (**Public Safety Employees Union Fire Unit B**) for the term April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2020, which calls for the following increases and decreases in salaries and benefits:

Year	Increase (Wages)	Increase/ (Decrease) Benefits
2017	\$13,620	\$4,420

Year	Estimated Increase (Wages)	Estimated Increase Benefits
2018	\$16,591	\$5,606
2019	\$14,695	\$4,960

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighteen Thousand Forty Dollars (\$18,040) which represents the additional costs attributable to the increase and decrease 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 **\$18,040** and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.)

Article #20 was read by Moderator. Moderator opened this article open for discussion and asked if anyone had questions or comments on this article.



Annual Meeting Warrant 2017  
Town of Belmont, New Hampshire

Gretta Olson-Wilder, Forest Drive, asked if the full time employees will remain on the existing scale. Jeanne Beaudin, Town Administrator said yes they will and gave a brief overview of the increases.

Moderator if anyone had any further questions or comments on this article. Noting no further questions or comments from the attendees, the Moderator declared Article #20 as read will be placed on ballot as written.

**Article #21.** Shall the Town of Belmont, if article #20 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address article #20 cost items only?

Article #21 was read by Moderator. Moderator opened this article open for discussion and asked if anyone had questions or comments on this article.

Michael Sylvia, Farrarville Road, asked what the effect of No votes would be on all six union contracts.

Jeanne Beaudin advised that they would remain the same as the current contract.

Moderator if anyone had any further questions or comments on this article. Noting no further questions or comments from the attendees, the Moderator declared Article #21 as read will be placed on ballot as written.

**Article #22.** 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 (**Public Works Employees Union**) for the term April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2020, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits:

Year	Increase (Wages)	Increase/ (Decrease) Benefits
2017	\$15,433	\$2,982

Year	Estimated Increase (Wages)	Estimated Increase Benefits
2018	\$8,010	\$1,577
2019	\$10,254	\$2,012

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighteen Thousand Four Hundred Fifteen Dollars (\$18,415) for the current fiscal year, which represents the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would

Annual Meeting Warrant 2017  
Town of Belmont, New Hampshire

be paid at current staffing levels in accordance with the most recent collective bargaining agreement.

(The Budget Committee recommends **\$18,415** and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.)

Article #22 was read by Moderator. Moderator opened this article open for discussion and asked if anyone had questions or comments on this article.

Gretta Olson-Wilder, Forest Drive, asked to clarify the departments that fall under this union.

Jeanne Beaudin, Town Administrator explained that there are 10 full time employees from the Public Works, Water & Sewer and Building Maintenance.

Tracey LeClair, Brown Hill Road, asked if all 6 union contracts fail would they work at the current wage and under no contract.

Jeanne Beaudin, Town Administrator, replied that yes they would work at the same current wage and without a contract.

Moderator if anyone had any further questions or comments on this article. Noting no further questions or comments from the attendees, the Moderator declared Article #22 as read will be placed on ballot as written.

**Article #23.** Shall the Town of Belmont, if article #22 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address article #22 cost items only?

Article #23 was read by Moderator. Moderator opened this article open for discussion and asked if anyone had questions or comments on this article.

Moderator if anyone had any further questions or comments on this article. Noting no further questions or comments from the attendees, the Moderator declared Article #23 as read will be placed on ballot as written.

**Article #24.** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand dollars (\$30,000) to be placed in the BRATT Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2006) (Amended 2014).

## Annual Meeting Warrant 2017

### Town of Belmont, New Hampshire

(The Budget Committee recommends **\$30,000** and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.)

Article #24 was read by Moderator. Moderator opened this article open for discussion and asked if anyone had questions or comments on this article.

Ronald Mitchell, Union Road, commented that after 17 years the 1<sup>st</sup> section of the WOW Trail was completed from the Laconia line to the Osborne Agway store on Route 3. The next portion will be from the Osborne Agway store possibly down Sunset Drive, Tucker Shore and then to Jefferson Road.

Federal government gives 80% and the Town needs to contribute the remaining 20% which would be approximately \$200,000. We have remaining funds of \$59,304.00 from the first phase and with this year's request of \$30,000 we would be close to the 20% needed. The State gave an easement along the lake for the WOW Trail behind the Belknap Mall.

Donna Hepp, Leavitt Road, spoke in favor of this article and thanked Ron and all those involved for a great job because this promotes tourism and between our portion and Laconia's trail it totals 4.5 miles of paved trail.

Fred Fecteau, Main Street, asked what do we do for future maintenance of this trail and how would it be funded? Ronald Mitchell advised that it would be included and treated like a Town park and maintained accordingly through the Public Works Department

Moderator if anyone had any further questions or comments on this article. Noting no further questions or comments from the attendees, the Moderator declared Article #24 as read will be placed on ballot as written.

**Article #25.** 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.)

Article #25 was read by Moderator. Moderator opened this article open for discussion and asked if anyone had questions or comments on this article.

Selectmen Pike commented that this article is nothing more than savings fund for the future need of equipment.

Annual Meeting Warrant 2017  
Town of Belmont, New Hampshire

Moderator if anyone had any further questions or comments on this article. Noting no further questions or comments from the attendees, the Moderator declared Article #25 as read will be placed on ballot as written.

**Article #26.** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be placed in the Municipal Facilities Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2006).

(The Budget Committee recommends **\$50,000** and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.)

Article #26 was read by Moderator. Moderator opened this article open for discussion and asked if anyone had questions or comments on this article.

Selectmen Pike commented that this article is again an account to place money for repairs to buildings. As an example the Mill door broke and there were funds here for the Building and Grounds department to repair it. I speak in favor of this article.

Moderator if anyone had any further questions or comments on this article. Noting no further questions or comments from the attendees, the Moderator declared Article #26 as read will be placed on ballot as written.

**Article #27.** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand dollars (\$30,000) 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 \$30,000 from the unexpended fund balance as of December 31, 2016.

(The Budget Committee recommends **\$30,000** and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.)

Article #27 was read by Moderator. Moderator opened this article open for discussion and asked if anyone had questions or comments on this article.

Jeanne Beaudin, Town Administrator, spoke on this account and said 21 employees are eligible for retirement this year and they get to be paid all accrued vacation time and up to 225 hours of accrued sick at time. This is a savings account for funds available for those employees.

## Annual Meeting Warrant 2017

### Town of Belmont, New Hampshire

Moderator if anyone had any further questions or comments on this article. Noting no further questions or comments from the attendees, the Moderator declared Article #27 as read will be placed on ballot as written.

**Article #28.** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Hundred 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 supports this recommendation.)

Article #28 was read by Moderator. Moderator opened this article open for discussion and asked if anyone had questions or comments on this article.

Selectmen Pike explained that road projects were started eight years ago and have done well with them. The Ladd Hill Road project will be completed this year and we will begin the road project on Jamestown Road this year.

Moderator if anyone had any further questions or comments on this article. Noting no further questions or comments from the attendees, the Moderator declared Article #28 as read will be placed on ballot as written.

**Article #29.** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to be placed in the Town Bridge Repair and Maintenance Capital Reserve fund already established (Created 2003).

(The Budget Committee recommends **\$25,000** and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.)

Article #29 was read by Moderator. Moderator opened this article open for discussion and asked if anyone had questions or comments on this article.

Selectmen Pike commented that we have been on a campaign to repair bridges in Town and this account will ensure that the money is available when and if needed.

Linda Frawley, Cotton Hill Road, asked if we will be out seeking government or federal support for these community infrastructure projects. Selectmen Pike answered yes we will.

Moderator if anyone had any further questions or comments on this article. Noting no further questions or comments from the attendees, the Moderator declared Article #29 as read will be placed on ballot as written.

## Annual Meeting Warrant 2017

### Town of Belmont, New Hampshire

**Article #30.** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to be placed in the Property Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2005).

(The Budget Committee recommends **\$25,000** and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.)

Article #30 was read by Moderator. Moderator opened this article open for discussion and asked if anyone had questions or comments on this article.

Selectmen Cormier advised that, by law, towns are required to maintain a certain amount of assessments on properties every five years.

Jeanne Beaudin, Town Administrator, advised that the cost could range anywhere from \$110,000 to \$150,000 for a full Revaluation for the Town. This funds helps lessen the burden when the time comes for this to happen.

Moderator if anyone had any further questions or comments on this article. Noting no further questions or comments from the attendees, the Moderator declared Article #30 as read will be placed on ballot as written.

**Article #31.** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Ninety One Thousand Ninety Seven Dollars (\$191,097) 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 **\$191,097** and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.)

Article #31 was read by Moderator. Moderator opened this article open for discussion and asked if anyone had questions or comments on this article.

Patty Brace, Hunter Court, asked for clarification on the difference between this article and the funds requested in article 28.

Selectmen Cormier advised this article is to offset the Highway Block Grant funds provided by the State of New Hampshire. The funds requested in article 28 are from taxation and they both go into the same account for all road projects.

## Annual Meeting Warrant 2017

### Town of Belmont, New Hampshire

Moderator if anyone had any further questions or comments on this article. Noting no further questions or comments from the attendees, the Moderator declared Article #31 as read will be placed on ballot as written.

**Article #32.** Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) 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 **\$10,000** and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.)

Article #32 was read by Moderator. Moderator opened this article open for discussion and asked if anyone had questions or comments on this article.

Selectmen Mooney said this money if for the use by the Cemetery Trustees to maintain the safety at the older cemeteries located on the back roads in town. These older cemeteries are not used for burials any longer but are still visited by family and friends and are still a safety concern to the town and need to be maintained.

Robert Racette, Durrell Mountain Road, asked if they are no longer being used for burials then why can't we start phasing them out and relocate them.

Selectmen Mooney advised that by law we cannot relocate burial sites and are required to maintain these older cemeteries. The South Road Cemetery, although a private cemetery, is used as the Town's cemetery and maintained.

Tracey LeClair, Budget Committee Member, advised that we have heard from Cemetery Trustees and that the funds are used for making the grounds safe for the families and friends to visit the cemetery and take away liability for the Town.

Moderator if anyone had any further questions or comments on this article. Noting no further questions or comments from the attendees, the Moderator declared Article #32 as read will be placed on ballot as written.

**Article #33.** 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).

Annual Meeting Warrant 2017  
Town of Belmont, New Hampshire

(The Budget Committee recommends **\$2,500** and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.)

Article #33 was read by Moderator. Moderator opened this article open for discussion and asked if anyone had questions or comments on this article.

Selectmen Mooney explained that developers are required to install cisterns and this fund is used by the fire department to maintain the town's hydrants and cisterns when needed.

Moderator if anyone had any further questions or comments on this article. Noting no further questions or comments from the attendees, the Moderator declared Article #33 as read will be placed on ballot as written.

**Article #34.** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Thirty Two Thousand Seven Hundred Ten Dollars (\$232,710) 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. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Two Hundred Twenty Eight Thousand One Hundred Seventy Five Dollars (\$228,175) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law.

(The Budget Committee recommends **\$232,710** and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.)

Article #34 was read by Moderator. Moderator opened this article open for discussion and asked if anyone had questions or comments on this article.

Mark Ekberg, Bryant Road, asked what the user fee revenues are.

Jeanne Beaudin, Town Administrator, advised that the user fees and revenues zero each other out and no funds are used from taxation.

Moderator if anyone had any further questions or comments on this article. Noting no further questions or comments from the attendees, the Moderator declared Article #34 as read will be placed on ballot as written.

**Article #35.** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Twenty Eight Thousand Thirty Seven Dollars (\$528,037) 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. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Five Hundred Twenty Six Thousand



Annual Meeting Warrant 2017  
Town of Belmont, New Hampshire

Six Hundred Fifty Two Dollars (\$526,652) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law.

(The Budget Committee recommends **\$528,037** and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.)

Article #35 was read by Moderator. Moderator opened this article open for discussion and asked if anyone had questions or comments on this article.

Moderator if anyone had any further questions or comments on this article. Noting no further questions or comments from the attendees, the Moderator declared Article #35 as read will be placed on ballot as written.

**Article #36.** 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 established (2005).

(The Budget Committee recommends **\$4,500** and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.)

Article #36 was read by Moderator. Moderator opened this article open for discussion and asked if anyone had questions or comments on this article.

Linda Frawley, Cotton Hill Road, gave a brief summary on how the Heritage Committee has helped financially because of this fund with examples of the bandstand renovations, village lighting and the committee asks for the continued support.

Gretta Olson-Wilder, Forest Drive, asked for the fund balance on this account.  
Jeanne Beaudin, Town Administrator, advised that it is \$22,000.00

Moderator if anyone had any further questions or comments on this article. Noting no further questions or comments from the attendees, the Moderator declared Article #36 as read will be placed on ballot as written.

**Article #37.** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to be placed in the Village Rail Spur Trail Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2016).

(The Budget Committee recommends **\$5,000** and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.)

## Annual Meeting Warrant 2017

### Town of Belmont, New Hampshire

Article #37 was read by Moderator. Moderator opened this article open for discussion and asked if anyone had questions or comments on this article.

Ron Mitchell, Budget Committee Chairman, gave a brief summary of this article noting the covered bridge being placed across the river behind the Mill which goes along the old railroad bed all the way to South Road. There are two other sections of covered bridges that are currently being stored at the Public Works Garage and the plan is to place the next section this year. The railroad bed can be used for numerous activities such as walking, running, biking, snowshoeing and cross country skiing. He advised that the railroad bed was donated to the Town of Belmont's Conservation Committee by the prior owner Dick Persons.

Woodbury Fogg, Jamestown Road, wanted to thank Mark Roberts and his crew along with the numerous other volunteers who helped. We could not have done this without Mark's help because they did all the heavy work with the equipment and we appreciate all their time, equipment use. The next phase will be the placement of the second bridge that goes behind Great Brook Village behind the South Road Pump Station along the railroad to tie into the main trail off Route 140.

Moderator if anyone had any further questions or comments on this article. Noting no further questions or comments from the attendees, the Moderator declared Article #37 as read will be placed on ballot as written.

Moderator noted there are no further Warrant Articles to present today and asked if anyone had any further questions or comments on today's meeting?

Robert Racette, Durrell Mountain Road, apologized for arriving late to today's meeting but asked for clarification on Article 9, don't we have this credit already?

Jeanne Beaudin, Town Administrator, explained the new law allows for any veteran who served 90 days or had been honorably discharged is qualified to receive this veteran's credit. Previously it was allowed only for veterans who served in time of war.

Moderator if anyone had any further questions or comments? Noting no further questions or comments from the attendees, the Moderator asked if anyone would make a motion to adjourn today's meeting.

Motion made by Ken Knowlton and Seconded by Mark Ekberg.

Moderator declared that with no further Warrant Articles to read that the Meeting of the First (Deliberative) Session of the Annual Town Meeting adjourned at 12:34 PM

Annual Meeting Warrant 2017  
Town of Belmont, New Hampshire

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

  
Cynthia M. DeRoy, Town Clerk

  
Kari L. Smith, Deputy Town Clerk  
Recording Secretary

