

Annual Meeting Warrant 2019

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 2nd day of February 2019, 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.

Town Moderator Alvin Nix introduced himself and welcomed everyone in attendance. Moderator Nix introduced the Town officials at the head table as follows: Ruth Mooney, Chairman, Board of Selectman; Jonathan Pike, Vice-Chairman, Board of Selectman; Claude "Sonny" Patten, Board of Selectman; Ronald Mitchell, Chairman, Budget Committee; Jeanne Beaudin, Town Administrator; Cynthia DeRoy, Town Clerk/Tax Collector; Jennifer Cashman, Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector and Alicia Jipson, Assistant Town Administrator.

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

During this meeting the Moderator may ask a non-resident or Town Official to 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 Nix advised that we do not follow the Roberts Rules but we are going to follow common sense rules for today's meeting. Moderator Nix declared that amendment requests must be submitted in writing, be legible and signed by the resident. Some articles cannot be amended and voters will be advised if we cannot. No articles will be removed from the warrant. Residents discussing articles must come up to the microphone and announce their name and street address.

Moderator Nix opened the meeting and asked attendees to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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SECOND SESSION

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 12th 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), Supervisor of the Checklist six-year term (1), Planning Board three-year term (2), Zoning Board of Adjustment three-year term (2), Town Clerk/Tax Collector three-year term (1) and Treasurer three-year term (1).

Moderator Nix read the list of names of candidates for offices.

Upon no discussion article moved to ballot.

Article #2. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Million One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$3,100,000) for the purpose of construction of an Iron and Manganese Treatment Facility including engineering costs, acquisition of land or interests in land and all other costs reasonably associated with this project. This appropriation is to be funded by a grant in the amount of One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000) from the Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund, and further to authorize the issuance of a bond or note in the amount of up to One Million Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,600,000) from the Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. Future bond payments are anticipated to be funded through Water User Fees and Taxation by inclusion in the budget. **(3/5 Ballot Vote Required)**

(The Budget Committee recommends **\$3,100,000** and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.)

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Stacy Lemieux, 78 Rogers Road, questioned repayment options. Selectman Mooney explained the repayment burden would be too big to rest solely on the town water users and spreading it out to all taxpayers would be more feasible, also that the improved quality water would be enjoyed by all as it is used in schools, restaurants and local businesses. Jennifer Despres, 205 Middle Route, asked for clarification of the article. Selectman Mooney explained that the water treatment facility is to improve the water quality and to meet state and federal requirements. Kevin Sturgeon, 110 Depot Street, asked if the town would need to purchase land separately for the treatment facility. Selectman Mooney replied no. TA J. Beaudin explained that the amount in the article includes all costs associated with the treatment facility. K. Sturgeon, a budget committee member, reiterated the costs. Selectman Mooney explained that we are repairing the existing well. K. Sturgeon questioned the wording of the article. TA J. Beaudin explained the article is worded as such due to the wording of the RSA. She further explained that engineering is necessary for this project. Selectman Mooney stated that we cannot go over the dollar amount for each portion of the project stated in the article. J. Despres asked what happens if the article fails. TA J. Beaudin explained that the town would lose the grant funds and the project would not move forward. J. Despres asked if we would not be in compliance with state and federal regulations. Selectman Mooney said yes and explained that we may not be eligible for the grant funds in the future and that the burden of funding would then fall on the taxpayers. George Condodematraky, 194 Gilmanton Road, asked what the process is for removing manganese and iron from water. Craig Clairmont, Public Works Director, recited his qualifications that enable him to answer the question, which, he stated, is an aeration removal process. Selectman Mooney explained that the technical information is available at Town Hall. G. Condodematraky remarked that he feels it isn't right to spend so much money without public input. Selectman Mooney stated that there were public meetings on the matter. G. Condodematraky referenced the aquifer protection which he endorses. TA J. Beaudin answered that there is a protection zone around the aquifer. G. Condodematraky questioned the mining out of gravel pits which, he states, are a protective layer to the aquifer. He again stated that he felt there was not enough public input and presented an amendment that was not seconded. K. Sturgeon stated that he agrees there was limited public input due to poor attendance at the meetings but noted that there were public announcements about the public meetings. J. Despres reiterated that the grant money would be gone and we will eventually have to do this anyway. Selectman Mooney explained that there is a possibility that the Town would have to provide the water treatment plant without the grant money if this article doesn't pass because the funds may not be available for this improvement in the future. Ronald Mitchell, Budget Committee Chairman, explained that the budget committee endorses this article because half of the money is provided by the grant. He went on to say that he has seen the impact of the iron levels in the water as it effected the equipment at the schools. S. Lemieux stated that she is in favor of better quality water but questioned that this article should be put to taxation to fund it since not all residents use town water/sewer. G. Condodematraky stated there was no hurry to move forward with this article because we could always get a bond issued at a later date.

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Upon no further discussion, article moved to ballot.

Article #3. To see if the Town will vote to rescind the following bond authorizations approved but not issued, March 11, 2014 Town-wide Water Meter Replacement Project, \$76,145.46. A 3/5 majority vote is required.

(The Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen recommend this article.)

Upon no discussion article moved to ballot.

Article #4. To see if the Town will 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 \$131,000 of revenues from ambulance billings received during the 2019 budgetary year to be deposited in the Special Revenue fund known as the Fire/Ambulance Equipment and Apparatus Fund. The first \$131,000 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 2019 budgetary year **(A 2/3 Ballot Vote Required)**.

Training Expenses	\$3,000
Medical & Supply Expenses	\$28,000
Ambulance Billing Fees	\$25,000
Overtime	\$40,000
Telephone	\$2,000
Conferences & Dues	\$1,000
Office Expense	\$12,000
Vehicle Repair & Parts	\$8,000
Fuel	\$12,000

Kevin sturgeon questioned about seconding motions to move articles to the ballot. Moderator Nix explained it is not necessary

Upon no discussion article moved to ballot.

Article #5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$400,000) for the cost of an Ambulance for the Fire Department and further to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of Four Hundred Thousand dollars (\$400,000) from the Fire/Ambulance Equipment and Apparatus Special Revenue Fund previously established in accordance with RSA 31:95, c. (Majority ballot vote required.)

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(The Board of Selectmen recommends **\$400,000** and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

Barbara Binette, 171 Main Street, asked if this is replacing an ambulance or buying another. Kirk Beattie, Fire Chief, explained that yes it will replace and stock a new ambulance.

Upon no further discussion, article moved to ballot.

Article #6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty-Two Thousand One Hundred Seventeen Dollars (\$62,117) for the fourth 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 **\$62,117** and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.)

Ron Mitchell stated that there is 670,000 in this fund and that it will not affect tax rate.

Upon no discussion article moved to ballot.

Article #7. To see if the Town will 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 Fair Association	\$1,000
Belmont Baseball Organization	\$1,200
Belmont Early Learning Center	\$500
Belmont Girl Scouts Troop 10972	\$75
Belmont Girl Scouts Troop 12117	\$275
Belmont Girl Scouts Troop 20431	\$125
Belmont Girl Scouts Troop 21532	\$150
Belmont Heritage Commission	\$200
Lake Region Girls Softball	\$500
Belmont Cub Scouts Pack 65	\$275
Belmont Boy Scouts Troop 65	\$400
Belmont High School PTO	\$400

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Belmont Historical Society	\$290
Belmont Middle School Nature's Classroom	\$3,000
Belmont Middle School PTO	\$400
Belmont 150 th Celebration	\$5,000
Belmont Parks & Recreation Scholarship	\$1,500
Belmont Public Library	\$869
Charles Kilborn American Legion Post 58	\$200
First Baptist Church of Belmont Mission	\$2,000
St. Joseph's Food Pantry	\$3,000.88
Friends of Belmont Football	\$500
Save Our Gale School	\$200
Total Funds to be distributed	\$22,059.88

Denise Naiva, 27 Swallow Road, questioned why no funds were allocated to the Jeff Marden scholarship fund. Selectman Mooney stated there were less funds due to the stock market and that many applications were not funded.

Upon no discussion article moved to ballot.

Article #8. To see if the Town will 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 Six Hundred Ninety-Six Thousand Four Hundred Fifty-Six Dollars (\$7,696,456)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Seven Million Six Hundred Twenty-Two Thousand Six Hundred Seventy-Eight Dollars (\$7,622,678) 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 **\$7,696,456** and the Board of Selectmen recommend \$7,694,456.)

R. Mitchell thanked the Town's department heads, committees and Selectman for working so hard on the budget this year. Department heads did a great job. He mentioned strains on the Police Department and the Department of Public Works. He also thanked the dedicated employees and volunteers that make Belmont a great place to live. He mentioned that the

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highway department's budget is up 2.8% and the general budget is up 1% and that maintaining the budget year after year is a lot of hard work. He stated that the total appropriation to operate town at 15 million dollars and the amount to be raised by taxes is just over 5 million dollars. He congratulated the town administration for a great job keeping the tax rate down.

Upon no further discussion, article moved to ballot.

Article #9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000) to be placed in the Highway Department Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2002).

(The Board of Selectmen recommends **\$60,000** and the Budget Committee support this recommendation.)

Moderator Nix stated that as of 12/31/2018 the balance in the fund was \$54,166.79.

Upon no discussion article moved to ballot.

Article #10. To see if the Town will 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, 2018.

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

Kerry Bergeron, 85 Hoadley Rd asked for an explanation of what fund is? TA J. Beaudin explained that this fund is to cover retirement of employees.

Upon no discussion article moved to ballot.

Article #11. To see if the Town will 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 Board of Selectmen recommends **\$750,000** and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

Moderator Nix read the supplement as follows: As of 12/31/18 the reserve balance is \$1,089,425.99. In 2018, the Town entered into a contract with Busby Construction for road

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improvements on the entire length of Hurricane Road. The total contract amount is \$1,313,514. Funds encumbered from the Highway Block Grant program 2017 and 2018 total \$349,531.

K. Sturgeon thanked taxpayers for voting for infrastructure improvement and asked for an explanation for how roads are picked for improvement. Selectman Pike explained it started in 2006 when engineering studies were done to pick roads and explained that block money will also carry part of the weight. K. Sturgeon asked if the study done years ago is still handy. Selectman Pike stated that it has been updated last year.

Upon no further discussion, article moved to ballot.

Article #12. To see if the Town will 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 previously established (2003).

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

Upon no discussion article moved to ballot.

Article #13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$85,000) to be placed in the Property Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2005).

(The Board of Selectmen recommends **\$85,000** and the Budget Committee support this recommendation.)

Upon no discussion article moved to ballot.

Article #14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Ninety-Eight Thousand Two Hundred Forty-Eight Dollars (\$198,248) for the reconstruction of highways, said appropriation to be offset by Highway Block Grant funds provided by the State of New Hampshire?

(The Board of Selectmen recommends **\$198,248** and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

Upon no discussion article moved to ballot.

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Article #15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Seven Thousand Eighty-One Dollars (\$27,081) 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), and further to fund said appropriation by authorizing the transfer of \$2,081 from the unexpended fund balance as of December 31, 2018.

(The Board of Selectmen recommends **\$27,081** and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

Upon no discussion article moved to ballot.

Article #16. To see if the Town will 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 Board of Selectmen recommends **\$2,500** and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

Upon no discussion article moved to ballot.

Article #17. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Thirty-Nine Thousand Four Hundred Eighteen Dollars (\$239,418) 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 Thirty-Five Thousand Ninety-One Dollars (\$235,091) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law.

(The Budget Committee recommends **\$239,418** and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.)

Woody Fogg, 433 Jamestown Rd asked if this for operation and maintenance now and if other article passes will this be covered? Selectman Mooney stated that running of system is always funded by user fees.

Upon no further discussion, article moved to ballot.

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Article #18. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Four Thousand Five Hundred Eighty-Five Dollars (\$504,585) 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 Five Thousand Four Hundred Eighty-Two Dollars (\$505,482) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law.

(The Budget Committee recommends **\$504,585** and the Board of Selectmen supports this recommendation.)

Upon no discussion article moved to ballot.

Article #19. To see if the Town will 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 Board of Selectmen recommends **\$4,500** and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

Upon no discussion article moved to ballot.

Article #20. To see if the Town will 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 Board of Selectmen recommends **\$5,000** and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

R. Mitchell recommended using trail and explained the track of the trail he then thanked volunteers who made this trail possible as well as the inmates who helped out. He commended C. Clairmont for using inmates to help with projects. J. Despres asked how much is in the fund and where to park to access trail. R. Mitchell stated that parking was available at the pavilion by the mill, in the area off Rte. 140 and along South Rd., but recommended parking downtown and explained that the trail is about 2 miles, and that middle school cross country team uses the trail. He called the trail a great asset to the Town. He stated that the bridges came from Dover. Barbara Binette, 171 Main St. asked why we aren't plowing the Rte. 140 parking lot for cross country skiers. R. Mitchell explained that there is other parking at the pavilion. B. Binette asked why it isn't plowed and thanked R. Mitchell for all his hard work. TA J. Beaudin stated that it will be plowed going forward. Kevin Sturgeon mentioned danger of trail being glare ice and also called it one of the best additions to the town. R. Mitchell mentioned trails at Agway and the town beach. C. Clairmont stated the reason the lot off Rte. 140 hasn't been plowed due to it being a gravel lot and a concern for public safety.

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Upon no further discussion, article moved to ballot.

Article #21. To see if the Town vote to discontinue completely, with ownership reverting to the abutting land owner(s), a portion of Hicks Road, so-called. The portion to be discontinued, currently a Class VI public highway, is described as follows:

Beginning at a point at the centerline of Hicks Road, so-called, 90' northwesterly of an iron pipe at the northwesterly corner of Lot 2, now or formerly owned by Marjorie Wooley, as depicted on a Subdivision of Land Owned by Robert P. & Shirley Coyne, Marsh Hill, Belmont, New Hampshire, by Ronald M. Mitchell Associates, dated March 11, 1977, and recorded at the Belknap County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 62 Plan 21, said point being near the existing gate;

Thence running along the centerline of said Hicks Road in a generally northwesterly direction, 1230'± to a point on the property line of land now or formerly of James T. Lynch and James Lynch at the end of said Hicks Road as it was discontinued by vote of Town Meeting, March 15, 2003. (Article 24).

J. Despres stated that she was curious of the reasoning behind this article and asked if it would become a shared driveway for owners who would be responsible to care for it. Amendment made to discontinue part of Hicks road made by Selectman Ruth Mooney. Article amended to read as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to discontinue completely a portion of Hicks Road, s-called, formerly known as Old Province Road. The portion to be discontinued, currently a part of a Class VI public highway, is described as follows:

Beginning at a point at the centerline of Hicks Road, so-called, 90' northwesterly of an iron pipe at the northwesterly corner of Lot 2, now or formerly owned by Marjorie Wooley, as depicted on a Subdivision of Land owned by Robert P. & Shirley Coyne, Marsh Hill, Belmont, New Hampshire, by Ronald M. Mitchell Associates, dated March 11, 1977, and recorded at the Belknap County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 62 Plan 21, said point near the existing gate;

Thence running along the centerline of said Hicks Road in a generally northwesterly direction, 1230' ± to a point on the property line of land now or formerly of James T. Lynch and James Lynch at the end of said Hicks Road as it was discontinued by vote of Town Meeting, March 15, 2003 (Article 24).

TA J. Beaudin stated this portion of the road has not been maintained by town presently and landowner is maintaining it. Robert Despres, 205 Middle Route asked why this discontinuance would benefit residents. Selectman Pike explained that the road is landlocked and that GPS takes

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people down there to drive. R. Despres asked what the benefit is for discontinuance, Selectman Pike explained that the town has liability at this point TA J. Beaudin stated that this came about at the landowner's request. Alfred Fecteau, 28 Main Street questioned what happens to the property after discontinuance. TA J. Beaudin stated, typically ownership reverts back to abutters but the Town makes no promises. A. Fecteau seconded motion to amend. Motion carried.

Article moved to ballot as amended.

Moderator Nix explained that there were 2 other matters to discuss. Denise Naiva, 27 Swallow Road spoke about the covered bridges for the town and that they are great. She stated that the engineering process was done by Woody Fogg and presented him with tokens of gratitude for his efforts. W. Fogg stated it was a privilege to work on the project and that he owed the Town's "mothers and fathers" commendations for keeping the Town's budget on point and that it is great to live in Belmont.

Selectman Mooney thanked everyone for coming. She especially thanked TA J. Beaudin for keeping the Select board out of trouble. She commended Police Chief Mark Lewandoski for his fully staffed department. She spoke about the excellence of the Police Department. Selectman Mooney went on to commend Fire Chief Kirk Beattie and Deputy Chief Michael Newhall for fine a department and dedication to residents. She gave a special thanks to Public Works Director Craig Clairmont for stepping up to the plate and for a job well done, especially with road upkeep. She then thanked Vicki Donovan, 4 Johnson Street for taking up for the Heritage Commission.

At 11:20 AM, Moderator Nix concluded the session, declaring the meeting dissolved until the March 12, 2019 election.