The voting session of Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 from 7 am to 7 pm in the Belmont High School Gym. All registered voters are eligible to participate in the process.

- Voters will be deciding on the annual budget for the Town.
- Voters will also make decision as to an amendment to the zoning ordinance for the Town which was submitted by Petition.
- The annual Town warrant and other informational documents have been posted to the Town’s website along with the Voter’s Guide to assist voters in their decision making process.
- This guide is intended to provide information to voters in regards to the process and matters under consideration before the Town Meeting. The Town website is the primary source of updated information in regards to the budget and Town Meeting. See the main page at www.belmontnh.org.

The proposed Town operating budget for 2016 represents an increase in spending of 2.49%. The 2016 budget is a level service budget, no new positions and a minimal increase in staff hours are proposed (Land Use). The budget includes a 1% COLA and 2% Step for employees covered under a Collective Bargaining Unit and the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee did support the same adjustment for non-union staff. The Town’s health insurance rates increased this year by 11.6% following a decrease in 2015 of 9.3%; overall a 2.3% change over the two year period. NH Retirement rates remained the same for 2016 however were factored for a full 12-month period. The Board would like to thank all of the department heads, board chairpersons and members of the Budget Committee for their commitment to minimizing the impact on the tax rate.

The impact on the tax rate will be determined by the change in the assessed valuation, revenues, tax credits and exemptions as well as overlay. Estimating the change in these items is just that, an estimate which is estimated conservatively. These factors are likely to change between now and the time the tax rate is set in October 2016.
HOW DO I PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCESS

First you must be registered to vote. How Do I Register To Vote?

1. You may apply to your Town Clerk’s office. You will be required to fill out a standard voter registration form.

2. You may also register with your community’s Supervisors of the Checklist. By law, the supervisors are required to meet on the Saturday 10 days prior to each election (Saturday, February 27, 2016, 11 a.m., Belmont Town Hall). Check the local newspaper(s) or call your clerk’s office for the date and time of such meeting.

3. Qualified individuals may register to vote at the polling place on Election Day at all elections.

No matter when or where you register to vote, you will be required to fill out a standard voter registration form, and you will be asked to show proof of identity, age, citizenship, and domicile. These qualifications may be established by signing affidavit(s). Proof of identification is needed.

Further questions may be answered at SOS.NH.GOV or by contacting your local Town Clerk, Cynthia De-Roy at 267-8300 ext. 122.

Second, you may attend the Deliberative Session of Town Meeting. All of the warrant articles will be open for discussion (except zoning ordinance changes). The Moderator will recognize voters who may speak on the articles. Voters may ask questions, make statements and/or make motions to amend the warrant articles.

The NH Legislature has placed limitations on amending warrant articles. Voters may amend some warrant articles however they cannot change the underlying purpose of the warrant article. For example voters change the dollar amount of a warrant article to purchase a building however they cannot change its purpose to purchase a vehicle. Voters cannot change the default budget amounts in operating budgets. Some articles require specific language which cannot be modified.

Warrant articles cannot be removed from consideration at the Deliberative Session. Warrant articles which are amended will reflect the changes made at the Deliberative Session and will be on the ballot for the Voting Session of Town Meeting in March. Warrant articles can be amended by a simple majority vote at the Deliberative Session.

Third, at the Voting Session of Town Meeting on March 8, 2016 voters can come to the polls anytime between 7 am and 7 pm to vote on the articles as amended from the Deliberative Session. Voters cannot make any changes to the articles at this session. Voters only have the option to vote YES to be in favor of an article or NO to be opposed to an article. Proof of identification is needed on voting day.

The votes are tallied by computer and reported the same day as the polls are open. Most articles require a simple majority for passage. Some articles have special requirements such as bond articles and changing the purpose of a capital reserve fund. These articles require a supermajority for passage. They require a 3/5 majority or 60% to pass.
To choose all necessary town Officers for the ensuing year as follows:

Selectman three-year term (vote for one):
James Spiller
George Condodemetraky
Jonathan W. Pike

Town Clerk/Tax Collector three-year term (vote for one):
Cynthia DeRoy

Treasurer three-year term (vote for one):
Alicia Segalini

Moderator two-year term (vote for one):
Alvin E. Nix Jr.

Budget Committee three-year term (vote for four):
Eric W. Shirley
Albert Akerstrom
Tracey LeClair
Donald McCelland Sr.
Ronald Mitchell

Trustee of Trust Funds three-year term (vote for one):
Gregg L. MacPherson

Library Trustee three-year term (vote for one):
Diana M. Johnson

Cemetery Trustee three-year term (vote for one):
Diane Marden

Planning Board three-year term (vote for two):
James Spiller
Michael LeClair
Ward Peterson

Zoning Board of Adjustment three-year term (vote for one):
Mark Mastenbrook

*Candidate order on the ballot is in accordance with the Secretary of States last random selection list in effect June 2014 through June 2016.
WARRANT ARTICLE—ZONING

ARTICLE 2
Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #1 as proposed by PETITION for the town Zoning Ordinance as summarized below?

Prohibit all Industrial uses in the Aquifer and Groundwater Protection District.

THE PLANNING BOARD DOES NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION.

Full-text Petition Amendment

PETITION TO AMEND THE BELMONT ZONING ORDINANCE

NH RSA 675:4

The protection of the aquifer in Belmont is of vital importance to all the citizens of Belmont. Allowing industrial development over the aquifer creates greater risk of potential pollution of the aquifer. For this reason, we the undersigned, duly registered voters of the Town of Belmont, do:

1. Petition the Selectman of the Town of Belmont, pursuant to NH RSA 675:4, to amend the Belmont Zoning Ordinance in the manner set forth below.

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No.1 as presented by petition for the Belmont Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amend Section 7. H. PROHIBITED USES, by adding the following paragraph:

16. Industrial Uses as set forth in Article 5, Table 1.

PLANNING BOARD DELIBERATION AND ACTION ON PETITION

Excerpt from 1/6/16 Planning Board approved minutes: S. Paquin stated he hasn't heard any scientific facts to support the petition. P. Harris stated that there is not enough information to make the decision to support the petition. We have safeguards in place, even more than some other communities. J. Pike stated that we use Best Management Practices and staff is doing a good job safeguarding the aquifer. W. Peterson stated that a tri-town aquifer study was done and we followed those recommendations. We have an ordinance and an aquifer overlay district. J. Pike stated the petition is based on speculation. A business will not pollute their own investment. W. Peterson stated that businesses don’t pollute as much as homeowners who dump things down the drain not knowing that they are polluting. They don't deliberately pollute they just don’t understand.

MOTION: C. Patten moved not to support the petition amendment: The motion was seconded by R. Segalini and carried. (6-0)

Full minutes available at www.belmontnh.org/docs/Minutes/PB/PBMinutes160106.pdf
WARRANT ARTICLES—BUDGET, SPECIAL ETC.

ARTICLE 3

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred and Seventy Five Thousand Dollars ($375,000) for the purpose of reconstructing the Hoadley Road Bridge/Box culvert, and to authorize the issuance of not more than $375,000 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. (A 3/5 ballot vote required.) (The Board of Selectmen recommends $375,000 and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

EXPLANATION: There is a large culvert located on Hoadley Road which needs replacement; it is proposed to replace it with a large box culvert (now required by DES in lieu of standard culverts). The engineer’s estimated cost for the project is $323,000;

ARTICLE 4 (This article does not impact the tax rate.)

Shall the Town vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a long-term lease/purchase agreement in an amount up to Five Hundred and Sixty Thousand Dollars ($560,000) payable over a term of 120 (One Hundred and Twenty) months for a new Pumper Truck for the Fire Department and to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty Three Thousand Five Hundred and Seven Dollars ($63,507) for the first year’s payment for that purpose and further 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). This agreement does not contain an escape clause. (A 3/5 ballot vote required.) (The Board of Selectmen recommends $63,507 and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

EXPLANATION: Special Revenue Fund Balance (income received from Ambulance Service) as of 1/25/2016 $580,752.33, interest rate on the proposed lease is 2.99% fixed for 10-years. The existing pumper purchased in 1997 due to body rust and other mechanical issues needs to be replaced.
WARRANT ARTICLES—BUDGET, SPECIAL ETC.

ARTICLE 5

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 $45,500 of revenues from ambulance billings received during the 2016 budgetary year to be deposited in the Special Revenue fund known as the Fire/Ambulance Equipment and Apparatus Fund. The first $45,500 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 2016 budgetary year (A 2/3 ballot vote required).

- Training Expenses $12,000
- Medical & Supply Expenses $22,000
- Ambulance Billing Fees $11,500

ARTICLE 6 (This article does not impact the tax rate.)

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars ($40,000) for the purpose of purchasing a Command 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) for that purpose. (The Board of Selectmen recommends $40,000 and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

ARTICLE 7 (This article does not impact the tax rate.)

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

- Belmont Conservation Commission $500
- Belmont Early Learning Center $2,000
- Girl Scouts Troup 10972 $500
- Girl Scouts Troup 12117 $500
- Girl Scouts Troup 20431 $500
- Girl Scouts Troup 20532/21532 $500
- Girl Scouts Community Account $385.54
- Lakes Region Girls Softball $1,300
- Boy Scouts Troup 65 $600
- Belmont Heritage Commission $650
- Belmont High School Drama $1,000
- Belmont High School PTO $600
- Belmont Historical Society $1,800
- Belmont Middle School Nature’s Classroom $3,250
- Belmont Old Home Day Committee $1,000
- Belmont Parks & Recreation Scholarships $2,000
- Penstock Park Volunteers $600
- Belmont Police Explorers $2,000
- Belmont Public Library $1,163
- LRGH Healthcare $500
- St. Joseph’s Food Pantry $2,400
WARRANT ARTICLES—BUDGET, SPECIAL ETC.

ARTICLE 8

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 Three Hundred Forty Five Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Nine Dollars ($7,345,399)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Dollars $7,371,158 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 Board of Selectmen recommends $7,345,399 and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

EXPLANATION—This article represents the proposed operating budget of the Town. The amount proposed for 2016 represents a 2.49% increase in spending over the 2015 approved budget. Included in this budget is a 1% COLA and 2% step increase for both Union (under a Collective Bargaining Agreement) and non-union staff. Health Insurance rates did increase this year by 11.3% increase with no change in Dental, Life or Disability insurance rates. The Town will be entering into negotiations with its Unions in 2016 and will be looking closely at the cost of health insurance. NH Retirement rates remained the same with an increase that went into effect in July 2015. The cost impact of a full year at the 2015 rate is $198,072. Adjustments were made throughout the Town’s budget to minimize the impacts.

The default budget amount was amended by the Board of Selectmen and filed accordingly with DRA on Saturday, January 30th at a duly posted meeting. Should this vote fail the default operating budget would be $7,371,158 for the 2016 calendar year. This would be an increase of $25,759 over the proposed budget or .35%.

ARTICLE 9 (This article does not impact the tax rate.)

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, 2015. (The Board of Selectmen recommends $30,000 and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

EXPLANATION: This article proposes to transfer funds from the unreserved fund balance as of December 31, 2015 to this Expendable Trust Fund. As this is a transfer from one account to another no funds will be raised resulting in no impact to the tax rate. The balance in the Accrued Liability Expendable Trust Fund as of December 31, 2015 was $102,092.79. Employee accrued benefits are paid from this account upon retirement.
WARRANT ARTICLES—BUDGET, SPECIAL ETC.

ARTICLE 10
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 Board of Selectmen recommends $750,000 and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

EXPLANATION: The Highway Reconstruction & Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund balance as of December 31, 2015 was $826,722.90; proposed 2016 projects to be funded from this account are Phase 2 of Ladd Hill Road which represents drainage work, the engineer’s estimate is $795,000 including construction oversight. Also proposed in 2016 are plans to reconstruct and pave a portion of Wareing Road from Route 106 to just beyond the entrance to Parent Sand & Gravel; the engineer’s estimated cost is $385,000.

ARTICLE 11 (This article does not impact the tax rate.)
Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Eighty Six thousand Six Hundred Fifty Two Dollars ($186,652) 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 $186,652 and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

ARTICLE 12
Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand Dollars ($4,000) 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 Board of Selectmen recommends $4,000 and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

EXPLANATION: The Cemetery Maintenance Fund balance as of 12/31/2015 was $15,154.53.

ARTICLE 13
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 Board of Selectmen recommends $2,500 and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

EXPLANATION: The Dry Hydrant & Cistern Repair Capital Reserve Fund balance as of 12/31/2015 was $6,417.19.
WARRANT ARTICLES—BUDGET, SPECIAL ETC.

ARTICLE 14 (This article does not impact the tax rate.)

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Fifty Eight Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Dollars ($258,450) 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 Fifty Two Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Two Dollars ($252,252) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law. (The Board of Selectmen recommends $258,450 and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

EXPLANATION: The water budget is funded through user fees and does not affect the tax rate. Should the vote fail the Water Department’s default budget would be $252,252. The budget requested represents general operations of the department and $85,607 in debt service.

ARTICLE 15 (This article does not impact the tax rate.)

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Forty Three Thousand Thirty four Dollars ($543,034) 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 Forty Two Thousand Two Hundred Forty Seven Dollars ($542,247) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law. (The Board of Selectmen recommends $543,034 and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

EXPLANATION: The sewer budget is funded through user fees and does not affect the tax rate. Should the vote fail the Sewer Department’s default budget would be $542,247. The budget requested represents general sewer department operations, debt service of ($172,102) and payments to the Winnipesaukee River Basin Program ($239,044).

ARTICLE 16

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy Five Thousand Dollars ($75,000) to be placed in the Water System Repair and Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund previously established (2006). (The Board of Selectmen recommends $75,000 and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

EXPLANATION: The Water System Repair & Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund balance as of December 31, 2015 was $61,008.49. The Town continues to explore siting a new well; this appropriation will be used for additional testing and engineering. It is proposed to be funded by taxpayer dollars.
ARTICLE 17

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars ($5,000) to be placed in the Heritage Fund previously established (2005). (The Board of Selectmen recommends $5,000 and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

EXPLANATION: The Heritage Fund balance as of December 31, 2015 was $22,558.35.

ARTICLE 18

Shall the Town vote to establish an ADA Compliance Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of complying with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act and to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars ($5,000) to be placed in this fund, and further to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. (Majority Vote Required.) (The Board of Selectmen recommends $5,000 and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

EXPLANATION: The Town drafted an ADA Survey and Transition plan in 2015 which identified specific items and areas that need to be renovated or retrofitted to meet ADA; this request will establish a Capital Reserve Fund for this purpose and will allow us to begin the work needed to meet ADA guidelines where applicable.

ARTICLE 19

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000) to be placed in the Digital Radio Equipment Capital Reserve fund established in 2005? (The Board of Selectmen recommends $50,000 and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

EXPLANATION: The Fire Department replaced its radios several years ago through a grant from the State of NH; the requirement was that future replacements be the responsibility of the Town. This is a multi-year request for funds. The Digital Radio Equipment Capital Reserve Fund balance as of December 31, 2015 was $1,941.29.

ARTICLE 20

Shall the Town vote to establish a Village Rail Spur Trail Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of all phases of the Village Rail Spur Trail and to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000) to be placed in this fund, and further to name the board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. (Majority Vote Required.) (The Board of Selectmen recommends $25,000 and the Budget Committee supports this recommendation.)

EXPLANATION: This request will establish a Capital Reserve Fund to offset grant funding and volunteer efforts on the Village Rail Spur Trail which will run from the Village to the Coke plant on Depot Street.
BUDGET PROCESS

The budget process is less of a beginning and ending process than it is a cycle. In early summer, the Board of Selectmen issue guidance to department heads and the various boards. The guidance has varied from year to year but usually sets the amount of annual salary increase and other criteria. During this same timeframe department heads are asked to update and submit their Capital Improvement Plan requests.

Budgets are usually required to be submitted to the Board no later than the end of August. The submitted budgets are generally in two forms, an excel spreadsheet and a narrative explanation. The excel spreadsheets are integrated into one master budget spreadsheet. The Board reviews the proposed budgets and meets with department heads during late September through October. The Board makes adjustments and submits a recommended budget to the Budget Committee. The Board’s budget also includes items which will be the basis for individual or special warrant articles.

The Budget Committee reviews the proposed budgets submitted by the Town during November and December. The Budget Committee votes to recommend a budget to the Voters of the Town and holds a public hearing in early January prior to the Deliberative Session. This is an informational session for voters to learn more about the budget and ask questions.

The Deliberative Session of Town Meeting is the next step in the process and is held between the last Saturday in January and the first Saturday in February. At this meeting voters in attendance have the power to amend some warrant articles including the amounts of the proposed appropriations. The changes made at this session will be included on the ballot to be voted on at the Voting Session of Town Meeting which is held the second Tuesday in March, this year’s Voting Session will be March 8, 2016 from 7 am to 7 pm in the Belmont High School Gymnasium. Voters cannot amend the articles at this session they can only vote yes or no on each ballot question.

The Town has a calendar year budget which begins each year on January 1st, and ends on December 31st. Voters in March are voting on a budget which actually began in January.

Additional town meetings can be held to address budget issues. The Selectmen may call one additional town meeting if the budget is not approved by the voters. The Selectmen can also request additional meetings through the Superior Court to address budget crises which arise between town meetings. These rarely occur however they are permissible under those circumstances.
PURPOSE OF THE CIP

A Capital Improvements Program is a decision making tool used to plan and schedule town improvements over a period of six years or more. It is a statement of a town’s intended schedule for the construction, expansion or replacement of public facilities and equipment that have an appreciable life expectancy such as schools, libraries, and highway equipment. For Belmont, a capital improvement has been defined as an item costing at least $25,000 and having a useful life expectancy of at least one year. Operating expenditures are not included in this definition.

It is recommended that a CIP should be updated on an annual basis and this is accomplished yearly by the Planning Board. The first year of the CIP is typically referred to as the capital budget and includes all capital projects to be appropriated by the governing body. While the CIP should be used as a guide for the municipal budget process, it is an advisory document only and not a strict set of guidelines. The responsibility for preparing the annual town budget remains with the Selectmen and the Budget Committee, with the final approval for appropriations made by the voters at Town Meeting.

Using the CIP to make annual expenditures for public improvements is one of the best ways to implement the town’s Master Plan. For example, the Community Facilities Chapter of the Belmont Master Plan identifies several recommendations for improvements to public facilities. The ideals and recommendations represented in the Master Plan should be consistent with capital improvement requests made by individual community departments. It has been the case in several Lakes Region communities that a Master Plan update is followed by the development of a CIP. In fact, a stated goal in the Belmont Master Plan is the development of a CIP.

A leading purpose for a CIP is to show the financial impact caused by major expenditures for larger projects. Funding for capital improvements can come from a variety of sources including town appropriations, bonds, and state and federal programs. An understanding of project funding sources aids in determining the impact of capital improvements on the municipal portion of the local tax rate. By planning, fluctuations in the municipal portion of the tax rate can be minimized.

Another purpose of the CIP is that it allows for the coordination of planned capital expenditures of the various departments within a town government. Often school capital expenditures are not included in the municipal CIP because the focus of a CIP is the impact capital projects have on the town tax rate. However, annual updates on anticipated capital projects from the school district may aid the CIP Committee in understanding and coordinating these expenditures with their own work on the municipal capital improvements program.
HOW IS THE PROPERTY TAX RATE SET?

The property tax rate is set every year usually in October but sometimes as late as November by DRA. The tax rate has four components:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015 Town</td>
<td>$9.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015 Local School</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015 State Education</td>
<td>$2.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015 County</td>
<td>$1.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$28.27</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This rate is assessed for every $1,000 of property valuation. In other words if you own property such as a house valued at $200,000 the rate is calculated $200 x $28.27 = a tax bill for $5,654.

When the voters approve the budgets those appropriations are factored into determining the annual tax levy. In the case of the 2015 budget the voters approved the following:

- Town Appropriations: $9,056,330
- School Appropriations: $14,787,543

The total of all appropriations for the Town, School and County represent the amount of revenue needed to pay for the appropriations for the respective budgets. In 2015 that amount was $26,100,773. This is the total amount of anticipated spending for the year for the town, School and County. This amount is offset by other anticipated revenues from various sources other than property taxes as well as credits. After those adjustments were made the amount to be raised in property taxes in 2015 was as follows:

- Town amount: $5,560,890
- School amount: $8,871,060

The county and State Education amounts to be raised through property taxes are added to these amounts. In the case of 2015 the following amounts were assessed:

- County Assessment: $819,906
- School Education Assessment: $1,436,994

The total property tax levy for 2015 was: $16,688,850

This amount is assessed over the tax base of the town which was valued at $591,248,261. In the case of the Town portion of the tax levy the tax rate is determined by the following formula:

\[
\text{Tax Rate} = \frac{\text{Tax Levy}}{\text{Assessed Value}} = \frac{5,560,890}{591,248} \approx 9.41\, \text{Town Tax Rate}
\]
CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS AND UNRESERVED FUND BALANCE

Why are we proposing to place money into capital reserve funds? Capital reserve funds are in essence savings accounts for a particular purpose. Capital reserve funds are generally used for big ticket items. Without capital reserve funds, vehicles, equipment, new facilities or renovation of existing facilities would need to be funded through leases or the sale of municipal bonds. Borrowing money for these purposes can add additional costs in the form of interest payments over the period of the lease or bond until those instruments are paid off.

Both capital reserve funds and borrowing money spread the cost of what is being purchased over multiple years. This minimizes spikes in the tax rate. Capital reserve funds make those payments in advance of the purchase while borrowing spreads out the cost in the future. Appropriations to capital reserve funds are invested and earn interest. The Trustees of the Trust Funds invest and manage these funds.

What is the unreserved fund balance? The unreserved fund balance also known as the unassigned fund balance, is composed of two sources. The first is the surplus funds or unused funds in the Town budget for each year. Unexpended funds from the budget are transferred to the unreserved fund balance. The second source is additional revenues above that which was anticipated for any particular year. These funds are also transferred to the unreserved fund balance. The NH Department of Revenue Administration along with guidance from the Government Finance Officers Association recommends the unreserved fund balance should be between 5% as a minimum and a maximum of 17% of general fund operating revenues. The fund balance retained in 2015 was $1,469,264 or 7.58%. It is important to remember that the unreserved fund balance is not actually cash.
2016 Proposed Tax Rate

- Proposed Budget: $9,758,542
- Projected Revenue: $(3,728,520)
- Reserved for Abatements: $25,500
- War Service Credits: $225,500
- Unexpended Fund Balance Applied: $(430,000)

- Estimated Assessed Value Used to Calculate: $596,000,000/$1000 = $596,000

- Estimated Tax Rate Town Portion: $9.82
- 2015 Tax Rate Town Portion: $9.41
HOW DO I VOLUNTEER FOR THE TOWN?

The Town relies upon volunteers to serve on the various boards, committees and commissions as members and alternate members. Some of these positions are elected however some are appointed by the members of the sitting board. The positions which are appointed are as follows: Conservation Commission, BRATT, Alternate members of the Zoning Board and Planning Board and Heritage Commission. Check the website for available opportunities.

There are other community volunteer opportunities and highlighted to the right are just a few of the projects that have been organized by dedicated volunteers. If you have questions about volunteering or wish to volunteer for the Town, please contact the Town Administrator at Town Hall. Volunteers are critical to making the various functions of the Town operate effectively.

Town Meeting
Belmont High School Gymnasium
Tuesday, March 8, 2016
7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Town Reports will be available approximately one week before the Voting Session of Town Meeting in March. The Town Report will be placed on the Town’s Website and paper copies will be available at Town Hall and at the polls. The Town Report contains reports from the various departments, boards and officials of the Town.
February 2016

Belmont Public Library
146 Main Street PO Box 308 Belmont NH 03220
www.belmontpubliclibrary.org T: 267-8331

Progress on the downstairs renovations has been complicated by the discovery of lead paint. Fortunately this is confined to a small area, but it must still be dealt with before renovations can progress. Thank you for your patience!

2/2/16 5:30PM
Genealogy Research Library Resources Workshop

to discuss recent and favorite romance reads in elegant surroundings

High Tea
February 9 at 4pm

Upcoming Events
February 2 5:30pm
Using Ancestry Library Edition

February 9 4pm
High Tea and Romance

February 13 10am
Valentine’s Day Activity

February 23 1pm
Vacation Movie and Snack

February 24 1pm
Teen Game Afternoon

Regular Programs
Color
Monday 4-6pm
Story Time
Wednesday 10:30am
Adult/Teen Craft Night
Thursday 5:30pm
Adult Craftnoon
Friday 1pm
LEGO Club
February 6 10am
Book Group
February 16 6pm
February 19 10:30am
Closed Presidents’ Day
February 15
Trustees’ Meeting
February 9 6pm
Peony in Love  
by Lisa See  
February 16 6pm  
February 19 10:30am

“I finally understand what the poets have written. In spring, moved to passion; in autumn only regret.”

For young Peony, betrothed to a suitor she has never met, these lyrics from The Peony Pavilion mirror her own longings. In the garden of the Chen Family Villa, a small theatrical troupe is performing scenes from this epic opera, a live spectacle few females have ever seen. Though raised to be obedient, Peony has dreams of her own.

Steeped in traditions and ritual, this story brings to life another time and place—even the intricate realm of the afterworld, with its protocols, pathways, and stages of existence, a vividly imagined place where one’s soul is divided into three, ancestors offer guidance, misdeeds are punished, and hungry ghosts wander the earth. Immersed in the richness and magic of the Chinese vision of the afterlife, transcending even death, Peony in Love explores beautifully, the many manifestations of love.
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<td>4pm High Tea and Romance</td>
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<td>1pm Vacation Movie and Snack</td>
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NEW TITLES

Audio
Blueprints Barbara Delinsky
The Hexed Heather Graham
The Rosie Effect Graeme Simsion

DVDs
The Martian
The Maze Runner
Pan
The Paradise Season 2
Sherlock: the Abominable Bride
A Walk in the Woods

Fiction
The Guest Room Chris Bohjalian
After the Crash Michel Bussi
Ornaments of Death (Josie Prescott Antiques Mystery, #10) Jane K. Cleland
The Lady of Misrule: A Novel Suzannah Dunn
The Girls She Left Behind (Lizzie Snow, #2)
Sarah Graves
The Bitter Season (Kovac and Liska, #5) Tami Hoag
Twenties Girl Sophie Kinsella
The Children’s Home Charles Lambert
Summer Days (Fool’s Gold, #7) Susan Mallery
My Name Is Lucy Barton Elizabeth Strout
The Wonder of You (Christiansen Family, #5)
Susan May Warren
Scandalous Behavior (Stone Barrington, #36)
Stuart Woods

Non Fiction
Hillary Rodham Clinton: A Woman Living History Karen Blumenthal
The Road to Little Dribbling: Adventures of an American in Britain Bill Bryson
America the Beautiful: Rediscovering What Made This Nation Great Ben Carson
In a Different Key: The Story of Autism John Donvan
How to Make Your Money Last: The Indispensable Retirement Guide Jane Bryant Quinn
Rachael Ray’s Look + Cook Rachael Ray
Large Print
Scandalous Behavior (Stone Barrington, #36) Stuart Woods

Teen
See How They Run (Embassy Row, #2) Ally Carter

J Audio
Judy Moody and the Bad Luck Charm Megan McDonald

J Fiction
Mr. Lemoncello’s Library Olympics Chris Grabenstein
Under Their Skin (Under Their Skin, #1) Margaret Peterson Haddix
Balto of the Blue Dawn (Magic Tree House, #54) Mary Pope Osborne
The Frozen Menace (Dragonbreath, #11) Ursula Vernon

J Non Fiction
Star Wars: The Force Awakens Visual
Dictionary Pablo Hidalgo
What If You Had Animal Ears? Sandra Markle
DK Eyewitness Books: American Revolution Stuart Murray

Picture Books
Picture Day Perfection Deborah Diesen
The Midnight Library Kazuno Kohara
The Chicken Problem Jennifer Oxley

J DVDs
Hotel Transylvania 2
The Muppet Show Season 2
Applications
Planning Board

Casella Waste Mgmt of MA, Inc: Boundary Line Adjustment approval to transfer 36,013sf from tax lot 235/49 Jamestown Road to 239/47 Depot Street.

Trash Lady NH, LLC: Boundary Line Adjustment approval to transfer 29,088sf from tax lot 235/49 Jamestown Road to 235/43 Industrial Drive.

Other Land Use News – Proposed Zoning Amendment

Full-text Petition Amendment

PETITION TO AMEND THE BELMONT ZONING ORDINANCE
NH RSA 675:4

The protection of the aquifer in Belmont is of vital importance to all the citizens of Belmont. Allowing industrial development over the aquifer creates greater risk of potential pollution of the aquifer. For this reason, we the undersigned, duly registered voters of the Town of Belmont, do:

1. Petition the Selectman of the Town of Belmont, pursuant to NH RSA 675:4, to amend the Belmont Zoning Ordinance in the manner set forth below.

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No.1 as presented by petition for the Belmont Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amend Section 7. H. PROHIBITED USES, by adding the following paragraph:

16. Industrial Uses as set forth in Article 5, Table 1.

PLANNING BOARD DELIBERATION AND ACTION ON PETITION

Excerpt from 1/6/16 Planning Board approved minutes: S. Paquin stated he hasn't heard any scientific facts to support the petition. P. Harris stated that there is not enough information to make the decision to support the petition. We have safeguards in place, even more than some other communities. J. Pike stated that we use Best Management Practices and staff is doing a good job safeguarding the aquifer. W. Peterson stated that a tri-town aquifer study was done and we followed those recommendations. We have an ordinance and an aquifer overlay district. J. Pike stated the petition is based on speculation. A business will not pollute their own investment. W. Peterson stated that businesses don't pollute as much as homeowners who dump things down the drain not knowing that they are polluting. They don't deliberately pollute they just don't understand.

MOTION: C. Patten moved not to support the petition amendment: The motion was seconded by R. Segalini and carried. (6-0)

Full minutes available at www.belmontnh.org/docs/Minutes/PB/PBMinutes160106.pdf

BALLOT QUESTION

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #1 as proposed by PETITION for the town Zoning Ordinance as summarized below?

Prohibit all Industrial uses in the Aquifer and Groundwater Protection District.

THE PLANNING BOARD DOES NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION

☐ YES  ☐ NO
SRSD Budget Hearings and Annual District Meeting: The Budget Hearings will be held February 2nd at Canterbury Elementary School and February 3rd at Belmont Middle School. Both meetings will begin at 6 p.m. The Annual District Meeting will take place on March 4th at Belmont High School. The polls will be open from 11:00 am to 7:15pm. The Business Meeting will begin at 7:00pm.

SRSD Official Ballot Referenda SB2 Hearing: A public hearing will be held on the proposed official ballot referenda (SB-2) for the SRSD, to be voted on at the annual meeting. The public hearing will be held on Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at BMS, and on Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at CES. The hearings will begin at 6:00pm.
Greetings and salutations fellow residents of Belmont! Welcome to February!

As I’m sure you all know, the Presidential Primary has been set for Tuesday February 9, 2016. It is a very exciting election year. 2016 marks the 100th anniversary of New Hampshire being the first in the nation primary! Quite an exciting occurrence! Just a few dates and times to remember:

- Wednesday February 3, 2016, we will be testing ballots at 4:30 pm at Town Hall in Belmont
- The election polls are open from 7AM – 7PM on Tuesday February 9, 2016 at Belmont High School
- Absentee Ballots will be opened on February 9, 2016 at 10 AM at Belmont High School.
- Belmont’s Town Clerk’s Office will be open, past normal business hours, until 5 PM on Monday February 8, 2016 for the sole purpose of collecting absentee ballots

Please be sure to bring your picture identification to the polls when voting. Some examples of acceptable identification are a NH state issued Driver’s license, or Identification card, a passport, military ID, etc.. If you have any questions on if your ID is acceptable, you can give us a call.

The Deliberative session was held Saturday January 30th 2016, and we are looking forward to the Town Election coming up March 8th 2016. Look for the voter guides at Town Hall. The following are the candidates running in this election:

**Selectman (Vote for 1)**
- 3 year term:
  - George Condodemetraky
  - Jonathan W. Pike
  - James Spiller

**Town Moderator (Vote for 1)**
- 2 year Term:
  - Alvin E. Nix Jr.

**Budget Committee (Vote for 4)**
- 3 year term:
  - Albert Akerstrom
  - Tracey LeClair
  - Donald McLelland Sr.
  - Ronald Mitchell
  - Eric W. Shirley

**Town Clerk/Tax Collector (Vote for 1)**
- 3 year term:
  - Cynthia M. DeRoy

**Trustee of Trust Funds ( Vote for 1)**
- 3 year term:
  - Gregg L. MacPherson

**Library Trustee ( Vote for 1)**
- 3 year term:
  - Diana M. Johnson

**Planning Board (Vote for 2)**
- 3 year term:
  - Michael LeClair
  - Ward Peterson
  - James Spiller

**Zoning Board ( Vote for 1)**
- 3 year term:
  - Mark Mastenbrook

If you are going to be absent for the Town election, you may stop in any time now, and fill out a request for an absentee ballot. You can also mail in a request, email, or fax a request, just be sure that any form of request you submit includes your signature and where you would like your ballot mailed.

We are entering dog licensing season!! As long as your dog’s rabies information is up to date, you can renew your dog license in our office, or on our town website, www.belmontnh.org, or by mail (be sure to include a self-addressed stamped envelope so we can mail you your tags). If your dog’s rabies vaccination needs to be updated just bring the new rabies certificate to town hall with you and we will update our records.
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<td>Conservation Comm 6:00p @CMH Storytime 10:30a @Library</td>
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<td>Lego Club 10a @Library</td>
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<td>Color 4-6pm @Library</td>
<td>Presidential Primary 7a-7p BHS Library Trustees Mtg 6p</td>
<td>Storytime 10:30a @Library</td>
<td>Adult/Teen Craft Night 5:30p @Library</td>
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<td>Valentines Day</td>
<td>Presidents Day Town Hall Closed</td>
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<td>Zoning Board Mtg 7p @CMH Storytime 10:30a @Library</td>
<td>ARC Mtg 8a @CMH Adult/Teen Craft Night 5:30p @Library</td>
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