



June 1, 2005

Dear Town Meeting Members:

The enclosed Special Town Meeting Warrant contains the budget articles on which action was deferred at the April Annual Town Meeting. There is also one article proposing Zoning By-law Amendments. It is hoped that the business of this Special Town Meeting will be concluded in one evening. However, if it is necessary, Town Meeting will be continued to Wednesday, June 15.

The Town Meeting Warrant includes a descriptive paragraph after most articles explaining their purpose or intent. The packet also includes the Reports of the Warrant and Capital Budget Committees, a brief memo from Jeffrey Wheeler, Planning Coordinator, about the proposed Zoning By-law Amendments, a message from the Moderator and the Motions. The Planning Board will distribute its report at Town Meeting.

Both the Warrant and Capital Budget Committees have worked diligently with the Board, the School Department and department heads to prepare and recommend a balanced budget for FY06. One item that has complicated the work of these committees was the condition of Viglirolo Rink which requires critical repairs to make it operable for the next skating season and beyond. The scope and cost of necessary repairs is still under investigation.

By the time Town Meeting convenes on June 13, the Town will have the necessary information about rink repair work and costs upon which the Warrant and Capital Budget Committees can base their recommendations. Consequently, the motion under the Rink Article (#11) does not contain figures either for the cost of the repair work or borrowing. It is anticipated that the final figures for these items will be less than what had been originally allocated. If this is the case, both Warrant and Capital Budget Committees, at Town Meeting, will offer revisions to their recommended budgets to allocate any newly available funds.

The Board is keenly aware that the fiscal realities with which the Town has struggled to present a balanced budget for FY06 will persist into the future. The Selectmen, town department heads and the Warrant Committee have begun to discuss and devise strategies for achieving stability and predictability in future Town's budgets.. The Board has made long-term financial planning a priority and will continue to search for ways to rein in costs. The Board intends to report to Town Meeting on this topic to share the steps it is taking and the issues it has identified as critical to attaining its goal of maintaining Belmont on solid financial footing.

All of the information described above, along with a great deal of additional documentation, is included within the Town Meeting section of the Town's web page. Since it is a valuable source of information regarding this Special Town Meeting and town business generally, you are strongly encouraged to subscribe to the site. By subscribing, you will receive an e-mail each time a new document or notice is posted to the site. Please visit <http://www.town.belmont.ma.us/subscriber.shtml> to subscribe. The mail list is called Belmont Town Meeting.

We look forward to a productive Town Meeting.

Sincerely,
Paul Solomon, Chairman
Angelo R. Firenze, Vice Chairman
William N. Brownsberger
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

TOWN OF BELMONT
WARRANT FOR
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING



BELMONT HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
JUNE 13, 2005
7:30 P.M.

TOWN OF BELMONT
WARRANT FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
JUNE 13, 2005
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Middlesex, ss

To either of the Constables in said County:

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are required to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Belmont, qualified as the law requires to vote in Town Affairs, to meet at the Belmont High School Auditorium on Monday, June 13, 2005 at 7:30 p.m., and to notify and warn the Town Meeting Members to meet and act at said time and place on the following Articles, viz:

ARTICLE 1: Reports

To hear the report of the Selectmen and other Town Officers. To hear the report of any Committee heretofore appointed and to act thereon.

This article allows the Board of Selectmen and other town officers, boards and committees to report orally to the Town Meeting on appropriate matters not otherwise appearing on the Warrant. This article stays "on the table" throughout the Town Meeting to allow town officials and committees to report when necessary.

Majority vote required for passage Yes _____ No _____

No action is necessary by the Warrant Committee.

ARTICLE 2: Authorization to Transfer Balances

To see if the Town will authorize the transfer of certain balances on the Treasurer's books and Accountant's books.

This article authorizes the transfer of balances from various sources necessary to achieve the Town's financial plan for Fiscal Year 2006 (the Budget) as contained in Article 3.

Majority vote required for passage Yes _____ No _____

The Warrant Committee will report orally on this article.

ARTICLE 3: Budget Appropriation

To determine what sums of money shall be granted to pay Town expenses for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2005 and to make the necessary appropriations for the same for the support of schools and for other Town purposes, determine how the same shall be raised, or in any way act thereon.

This article is the appropriation of the Town's Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 budget, commencing on July 1, 2005. Typically, the Budget is broken down into several major categories of expenditures, each requiring a separate vote of Town Meeting. The budget summary and supporting information is incorporated in the

Warrant Committee and Capital Budget Committee reports which are contained in this Warrant Booklet.

Majority vote(s) required for passage Yes _____ No _____

The Warrant Committee will report orally on this article.

ARTICLE 4: Salaries of Elected Officials

To see if the Town will vote to fix the salary and compensation of each and all the elective officers of the Town, appropriate a sum of money for that purpose, determine how the same shall be raised, or in any way act thereon.

This article fulfills the state law requiring Town Meeting to set the compensation of a town's elected officers. This article also appropriates the funds necessary to meet these compensation levels. For FY 2006, the recommended compensation levels are listed below. Please note that the Town Meeting establishes the compensation of all other municipal employees under a separate article (Article 6).

Town Moderator	\$200
Chairman of the Board of Selectmen	\$5,000
Selectman (2)	\$4,500 each
Town Clerk	\$72,435
Town Treasurer	\$67,000
Chairman of the Board of Assessors	\$2,750
Assessor (2)	\$2,420 each

Majority vote required for passage Yes _____ No _____

The Warrant Committee will report orally on this Article.

ARTICLE 5: Appropriation of "Up Front" Funds for Highway Improvements

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from unappropriated available funds in the Treasury, sums of money for the repair, improvement and construction of highways, said money to be used in conjunction with any money which may be allotted by the Commonwealth for the said purposes, authorize the acceptance of such allotment, determine how the money raised and allotted as aforesaid shall be expended under the provisions of Chapter 90 of the General Laws, and acts in amendment thereof and in addition thereto, or in any way act thereon.

This article seeks an appropriation to provide "up front" money for state reimbursed highway aid. The state provides highway aid, referred to as Chapter 90, to all cities and towns on a reimbursement basis. This aid is authorized by the Legislature every two or three years through state transportation bond issues. The appropriation of \$324,429 for FY 2006 is the amount projected for Belmont. These funds, when supplemented with capital budget funds, shall be used to continue the Pavement Management Program designed to extend the useful life of our roadway system. In addition, the Town has used Chapter 90 funds for design

purposes in order to "leverage" substantial federal transportation funding for major road projects (i.e., Trapelo Road).

Majority vote required for passage Yes _____ No _____

The Warrant Committee and the Capital Budget Committee will report orally on this article.

ARTICLE 6: Position Classification and Compensation Plan

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Position Classification and Compensation Plan of the Town previously adopted under the provisions of Article 11 of the General By-Laws of the Town, or in any way act thereon.

This is a standard article appearing in the Warrant. Classification and compensation of all permanent Town (non-school) positions are included in a plan adopted by Town Meeting pursuant to section 108A of Chapter 41 of the Massachusetts General Laws. The classification and compensation of unionized employees is bargained collectively and inserted into the Plan. In 2000, the Town completed a study of the classification of all Town employees, except for civil service police officers and firefighters. The new Plan was bargained with affected Town unions and implemented. The new Plan is posted on the Town's web site and is provided with this Warrant Booklet. The compensation reflects current (FY 2005) rates unless otherwise noted. Funds necessary to implement changes associated with the Plan are included within the budget.

Majority vote required for passage Yes _____ No _____

The Warrant Committee will report orally on this article.

ARTICLE 7: Appropriation of Capital Expenditures

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate sums of money to purchase Public Safety Equipment, Computer Equipment (including consulting work), Public Works Equipment and Furnishings and Equipment for Town facilities, construct public ways, and for Building and facility and Public Works Construction, Major Maintenance and Alterations (including design work); to determine whether these appropriations shall be raised by borrowing or otherwise and by whom expended, or in any way act thereon.

This is a standard article appearing on the Warrant to appropriate funds to support capital expenditures. While the article is general as to the categories of capital expenditures, the motion shall be explicit. The recommendations of the Capital Budget Committee for FY 2006 capital expenditures are provided in this booklet. However, as a consequence of recent discussions between the Warrant and Capital Budget Committees regarding the scope and cost of the proposed Viglirolo Rink project, additional funding for non-rink-related capital projects became available subsequent to the booklet's printing deadline. Therefore, the Capital Budget Committee will make additions to the Article 7 recommendations contained in its report to Town Meeting provided herewith.

Majority vote required for passage (two-thirds if borrowing) Yes _____ No _____

The Warrant Committee and the Capital Budget Committee will report orally on this article.

ARTICLE 8: Appropriation for Water and Sewer and Stormwater Services

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from the accounts classified as an "Enterprise Fund", pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 53F½ of the General Laws for water service, and for sewer and stormwater service, determine by whom expended, or in any way act thereon.

This is a standard article appearing on the Warrant to appropriate funds to support the operations of the Town's water and sewer functions. Each of these functions has an enterprise fund that receives revenues from user fees. These funds then are used to fund the utility's operations. These operations are entirely self-supporting from user fees and do not receive any funding from property taxes.

Majority vote required for passage (two-thirds for borrowing) Yes _____ No _____

The Warrant Committee and the Capital Budget Committee will report orally on this article .

ARTICLE 9: Authorization of Creation of Revolving Fund

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 53E½, of the General Laws, to authorize the expenditure from revolving funds by various Town Departments, or in any way act thereon.

This article seeks authorization to establish a revolving fund for the Belmont Gallery of Art which the Town's Cultural Council will operate. A revolving fund allows the expenditure of user fees and other revenues for program expenses without further Town Meeting appropriation. However, the Town Meeting must annually renew the funds. At this time, the Council on Aging and Health Department each has a revolving fund for certain of their programs.

Majority vote required for passage Yes _____ No _____

The Board of Selectmen and the Warrant Committee will report orally on this Article.

ARTICLE 10: Authorization of Bond for construction or reconstruction of Surface Drains and Sewers

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money for the construction or reconstruction of surface drains and sewers, to determine whether such sums shall be raised by borrowing or otherwise, or in any way act thereon.

This article would authorize the Town to undertake significant improvements to the sanitary sewer system and to finance such work with a bond payable over a period of years. The article will accelerate the re-lining of sanitary sewers in areas where the Town has identified structural deficiencies in the existing system. Work that had

been scheduled over a period of 5 or more years will now be done in 2 years or less. Also, the proposed financing mechanism will amortize the expense and more closely align the cost to ratepayers with the life of the improvements.

Majority vote required for passage (two-thirds for borrowing) Yes _____ No _____

The Warrant Committee and the Capital Budget Committee will report orally on this article.

ARTICLE 11: Authorization for Repairs to Viglorolo Rink

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money for making repairs to the Skip Viglorolo Skating Rink, to determine whether such sums shall be raised by borrowing or otherwise, or in any way act thereon.

Majority vote required for passage (two-thirds for borrowing) Yes _____ No _____

The Warrant Committee and the Capital Budget Committee will report orally on this article.

ARTICLE 12: Authorization of a Building Committee for the Viglirolo Rink Repair Project

To see if the Town will vote to authorize and direct the Moderator to appoint a rink repair committee, which committee shall be authorized to enter into contracts and take all actions necessary to carry out the Viglirolo Rink repair project.

Majority vote required for passage (two-thirds for borrowing) Yes _____ No _____

ARTICLE 13: Amendment to Zoning By-law - Changes to Schedule of Dimensional Regulations

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Belmont Zoning By-law, Section 4.2, Schedule of Dimensional Regulations, as follows:

- (a) *In Footnote 2 relating to the Minimum Lot Area for the GR and AH Districts, delete the portion of text which states: "1,000 square feet per dwelling for multi-family dwellings in a GR District;" so that Footnote 2 reads as follows:*

"But not less than 1,200 square feet per dwelling unit."

- (b) *In the Section 4.2.1 table, under the Minimum Lot Area column for the GR Districts, change the footnote number from "2" to "3".*

- (c) *Add a new Footnote 3 relating to the Minimum Lot Area for the GR Districts to read as follows:*

"But not less than 3,500 square feet of lot area per dwelling unit for two-family dwellings."

article in the warrant. An article may not be amended but a motion may be amended by vote of the Town Meeting.

- Formal seconding will not be required on **main motions** under articles in the warrant. Seconding will be required on all other motions.
- All **main motions and proposed amendments** involving the expenditure of money must be in writing. All other motions and proposed amendments must also be in writing unless they are so brief and simple as to be easily understood when stated orally.
- All substantive amendments and motions to be offered under an Article in the Warrant must be submitted to the Town Clerk in writing not later than the close of business on the third (3rd) business day before the commencement of the session at which the Article is considered, in order to provide the sufficient time for review by Town Counsel and the Moderator and to be printed for distribution to the Town Meeting Members before the commencement of such session. The Moderator may allow exceptions to the advance filing requirement in case of motions that are easy to understand, but such exceptions are within the exclusive discretion of the Moderator.
- Except for motions involving the expenditure of money or by-law amendments, the Moderator will first recognize the maker of the motion, if he or she wishes to speak.
- Before commencing discussion on motions involving the expenditure of money or by-law amendments, the Moderator will first call for committee reports as follows:
 - **Expenditure of Money** – Warrant Committee,
 - **Capital Improvements** – Warrant Committee, then Capital Budget Committee,
 - **General By-Law amendments** – By-Law Review Committee,
 - **Zoning By-Law amendments** – Planning Board.

- Town Meeting Members wishing to speak should stand and request recognition by the Moderator. When recognized, a Town Meeting Member should come to a microphone and state his or her name and precinct number before commencing.
- Registered voters of the Town who are not Town Meeting Members may speak at the Town Meeting, but first must either arrange in advance with the Moderator for recognition or arrange to be introduced by a Town Meeting Member.
- Persons who are not Town Meeting Members may be admitted to the floor by invitation **but may not vote**.
- All discussion must be relevant to a motion before the town meeting. All speakers must address the Moderator; questions may be asked only through the Moderator. A Town Meeting Member who wishes to make a motion that is debatable must first make the motion and, after it is seconded, if required, the Moderator will recognize the maker of the motion to speak to it. The Moderator will not recognize a motion made at the

