



TOWN OF BELMONT
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TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
PATRICE GARVIN

ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
JENNIFER HEWITT

TO: Patrice Garvin, Town Administrator
FROM: Jennifer Hewitt, ATA/Finance Director
DATE: April 30, 2025
RE: Background Information on Three Warrant Articles

In advance of the start of 2025 Annual Town Meeting, the following information should provide some helpful context to inform the discussion on Articles 6, 14, and 12.

ARTICLE 6 – ESTABLISH TWO NEW REVOLVING FUNDS

Revolving funds can retain specified revenues and spend them up to the ceiling established by Town Meeting. If there is no available balance, spending cannot occur. The FY2026 municipal budget relies on two new revolving funds to remain within the 2.5% allocation.

MUNICIPAL RINK REVOLVING FUND

Planning for Rink Operations is beginning in earnest now that a full-time Rink Manager has been hired. (\$82,000 salary, single HMO at 75%) The FY2026 budget includes \$304,000 to operate the facility; but the plan all along has been to use the revenues generated by the facility to offset remaining expenses. The initial mechanism to do that is a revolving fund – as the facility gets up and running, staff will be able to refine projections and bring a more comprehensive solution to future Town Meetings.

Summary of Rink Operating Budget Sources

Source	FY2025	FY2026
Operating Expenses (TA Budget)	\$50,000	\$304,000
Rink Revolving Fund		\$300,000
Combined Budget	\$50,000	\$604,000

SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING REVOLVING FUND

Trash and recycling pickup and disposal costs have grown more than \$200,000 per year recently, claiming ~25% of the Municipal budget's allowable growth of 2.5%. All communities are facing these increases, as the state establishes new recycling mandates in response to landfill closures, and as prevailing wages continue to increase. Many communities have responded by revisiting their trash policies. Belmont does not currently charge for scheduled pickup of bulky items (furniture, mattresses, etc.) Appliances are currently \$25 each.

The FY2026 DPW budget reflects savings of \$142,000 from charging a fee for each bulky item – Waste Management will collect the fee on our behalf for everything but mattresses, and will reduce our contract total by \$92,000 to reflect the change. Mattresses are mandated to be recycled, and Belmont contracts with a different vendor for the recycling for \$50,000. The proposed revolving fund will collect fees for mattress pickup and recycling. Fees will likely be \$40-\$50 per item, which is comparable to what neighboring communities charge.

In addition, revenue from Trash Overflow Bags is proposed for inclusion in the fund; the DPW Collection and Disposal budget has been reduced by \$35,000 to reflect the shift to the revolving fund where the revenue collected will be used for disposal costs.

Revenue Stream	Projected
Mattress Recycling Fees	\$50,000
Overflow Bags	\$35,000
Combined Budget	\$85,000

ARTICLE 14 – ESTABLISH EXPENDITURE LIMITATION FOR REVOLVING FUNDS

Belmont’s bylaws authorize 9 revolving funds. Those funds can retain specified revenues and spend them up to the ceiling established by Town Meeting via this article. If there is no available balance, spending cannot occur. The table below shows the FY2025 activity for the FY2025 revolving funds. Note that the Non-School Property Maintenance Fund (Fields Revolving Fund) is at its limit; staff will be requesting that the Select Board and Warrant Committee vote to increase the spending limit in an upcoming meeting, and the ceiling for FY2026 will be recommended at a higher limit to reflect more recent revenues and activity.

Revolving Fund	Commission	FY25 Ceiling - Art. 14	6/30/2024 Beginning Balance	FY25, as of 3/31/25			Available to Spend Under Ceiling
				Receipts	Spending	Balance Available	
Senior Programs	Council on Aging	\$150,000	\$56,813	\$103,909	\$89,061	\$71,660	\$60,939
Art Gallery	Belmont Cultural Council	\$15,000	\$4,847	\$ -	\$ -	\$4,847	\$15,000
Rock Meadow Maint	Conservation Commission	\$15,000	\$19,626	\$10,295	\$4,261	\$25,660	\$10,739
Copying/Lost Books	Board of Library Trustees	\$15,000	\$1,425	\$2,811	\$1,908	\$2,327	\$13,092
Stormwater Improvements	Community Development	\$100,000	\$15,200	\$ -	\$ -	\$15,200	\$100,000
MLK Day Breakfast	Human Rights Commission	\$5,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Non-School Prop. Maint. Fund	Recreation	\$60,000	\$50,491	\$62,969	\$69,804	\$43,655	\$(9,804)
Stormwater Consulting	Community Development	\$50,000	\$109	\$ -	\$ -	\$109	\$50,000
Recreation	Recreation	\$1,280,000	\$ -	\$1,077,277	\$784,723	\$292,554	\$495,277
Combined Totals		\$1,690,000	\$148,511	\$1,257,261	\$949,757	\$456,012	\$740,243

ARTICLE 12 – MWRA LOCAL WATER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PHASE IV

The DPW Water Division strives to replace 5,000 linear feet of pipe each year. This is funded from a combination of cash capital, and zero-interest loans from the MWRA, which are repaid over 10 years via the Water Division's debt service budget. In 2024, the MWRA extended this program and awarded Belmont up to \$3,133,000 in loan authorizations. Town Meeting needs to authorize the borrowing so the Town can participate in the program, which is the purpose of this article. Once approval is received, the Town will issue debt in coordination with the MWRA, which is capped at \$500,000 per year. Therefore, this authorization will support water main replacements over the next 6 years.