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Meeting ID: 821 5001 2514

Passcode: 647353

+1-929-205-6099 (New York)

**TOWN OF BERLIN
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
Tuesday, September 5, 2023
Town Council Chambers (in person)
Remote Meeting
6:45 P.M.**

A special meeting of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in town meetings of the Town of Berlin, will be held at the Berlin Town Hall, Council Chambers, 240 Kensington Road, Berlin, CT on Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at 6:45 p.m. for the following purposes:

During the fiscal year 2024 budget process, staff submitted a capital budget request of \$2,686,000. After carefully considering the items on the list and considering staff prioritization of the list, the Board of Finance included \$1,070,000 (the first tier) in the budget they submitted to the Town Council. In advance of the second referendum, the Town Council removed all proposed capital funding from the budget. As a result, the adopted General Fund FY24 budget did not include any capital expenditures.

This proposal is to appropriate General Fund unassigned fund balance in fiscal year 2024, in anticipation of the fiscal year 2023 General Fund surplus, to fund:

- \$50,000 for computer equipment (Police modems)
- \$200,000 for Police vehicles
- \$140,000 for school vans
- \$195,000 for school cameras (districtwide)
- \$200,000 for block-slab on grade ground water at Berlin High School
- \$50,000 for ballast blocks
- \$275,000 for large dump truck body replacements
- \$65,000 for a pickup truck
- \$75,000 to resurface the basketball/tennis courts at Berlin High School
- \$80,000 for track snow machine
- \$200,000 to replace equipment at Little People's Playground
- \$50,000 for bridge replacements at Timberlin
- \$200,000 for Town Clerk/Assessor office renovations.

Approving a fiscal year 2024 non-budgeted appropriation of \$1,780,000 for capital items.

Mayor Kaczynski called the Special Town Meeting to order at 6:48 p.m.

Mayor Kaczynski asked if there were any nominations for Moderator.

Charles Paonessa moved to nominate Mayor Mark Kaczynski as moderator.

Mayor Kaczynski asked if there were any other nominations, there being none, he closed the nominations.

MOTION CARRIED.

Moderator Kaczynski explained the eligibility to vote at Town Meetings.

The Clerk of the Meeting read the following Legal Notice:

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Approving a fiscal year 2024 non-budgeted appropriation of \$1,780,000 for capital items.

Dated at Berlin, Connecticut this 26th day of July 2023.

Moderator Kaczynski asked if there were resolutions to come before the Town Meeting.

Charles Paonessa moved the following resolution:

RESOLVED: To move the resolution as read by the Town Clerk.

Seconded by Casey Foster.

Moderator Kaczynski asked if there were any comments or questions on the resolution.

Joan Veley, 1424 Orchard Road – Ms. Veley had concerns about the \$140,000 for school vans and stated that she believed that the purchase of school transportation would be handled by New Britain Transportation. She added that she did not understand spending \$200,000 for block-slab on grade ground water at Berlin High School when the building was recently renovated, \$50,000 for ballast blocks, \$80,000 for a track snow machine, or \$200,000 to replace equipment at Little People's Playground.

Ms. Veley stated that she was hoping that the town could spend less money and achieve the same goals.

William Richards, 811 Orchard Road – Mr. Richards stated that he supports the \$50,000 for bridge replacements at Timberlin adding that emergency vehicles would not be able to go over the bridges and added he believes the \$200,000 to replace equipment at Little People's Playground seems excessive.

Donna Bovee, 85 Steepleview Drive – Ms. Bovee stated that as Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission she urges the Town Council to include the \$200,000 for equipment at Little People's Playground as it has been approved by the Board of Finance and has been on the list for replacement for many years. Ms. Bovee added that the small playground to the left of Willard School also needs replacement as it is the oldest playground in town, and it is the last one needing to be replaced that was not approved by the Board of Finance.

Moderator Kaczynski asked for a vote on the resolution.

MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Submitted by,

Kathryn J. Wall
Clerk of the Meeting

Mark Kaczynski, Moderator

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
BERLIN TOWN CLERK

2023 SEP 11 AM 11:05

Kathryn J. Wall

BERLIN, CT.