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TIME CHANGE – THE TOWN MEETING WILL BE AT 7:15 PM AND THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING WILL START IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE TOWN MEETING.

**TOWN OF BERLIN
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, September 19, 2023
Town Council Chambers (in person)
Remote Meeting
7:15 P.M.**

A. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Kaczynski called the Town Council Meeting to order at 7:26 p.m.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. ROLL CALL:

Those in attendance were:	Councilor Sandra Coppola Councilor Casey Foster Mayor Mark Kaczynski Councilor Charles Paonessa Councilor Peter Rosso Councilor Donna Veach – <i>left meeting at 8:25 p.m.</i>
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Absent:	Councilor Donna Risolo
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Also in attendance:	Town Manager Arosha Jayawickrema Corporation Counsel Jeffrey Donofrio
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D. PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION:

KAREN AND CLIFF COTE – VOLUNTEERISM

Mayor Kaczynski read the following proclamation, adding that he read and presented the proclamation to the Cotes earlier this evening at a Boxes to Boots event.

The Town of Berlin hereby recognizes **Karen and Cliff Cote** for their long-standing volunteerism within the community.

Karen and Cliff Cote have supported many Berlin organizations over the years. Organizations such as the Ryan T. Lee Foundation, the American Legion Post 68 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10732 have benefited from the kindness of Karen and Cliff. In 2015, when their son was deployed to Kuwait, they began sending care packages overseas every Thanksgiving. This became an annual event and is known as Boxes to Boots. The Cotes organized a group of volunteers who participate in the Giving Thanks to our Troops Night where they come together to assemble the outbound care packages. Thus far, Boxes to Boots has distributed over 2600 packages to soldiers who cannot be home with their families for Christmas.

The selfless service of Karen and Cliff and their unending desire to help others has left a lasting mark within Berlin and beyond.

In acknowledgement of their volunteerism, and the critical role they have played as a hallmark of the American character, the Berlin Town Council hereby recognizes **Karen and Cliff Cote** for their positive impact in service to our country, community and citizens of Berlin and extends best wishes to them for many years to come.

Dated this 19th day of September 2023.

Mark H. Kaczynski, Mayor

FIRST RESPONDERS' DAY PROCLAMATION

Mayor Kaczynski stated that on Saturday September 30th a breakfast will be held at the Kensington Fire Department for Berlin's First Responders to honor and recognize them for their service to the Town of Berlin. The following proclamation will be presented to Police, Fire, and EMS personnel.

WHEREAS: First Responders, both career and volunteer, include law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, 911 dispatchers, and search and rescue personnel who bravely and selflessly risk their lives every day to protect families, visitors, and businesses; and

WHEREAS: First Responders do not hesitate to risk their own lives in order to save the lives of others, and their commitment to continued training, skill enhancement, and interagency cooperation make them prepared to serve, protect, and rescue other citizens 24 hours per day, 365 days a year; and

WHEREAS: First Responders are a vital part of every community, maintaining safety and order in times of crisis, and volunteering in our schools and community organizations; and

WHEREAS: Acts of kindness and appreciation from citizens provide first responders needed encouragement and support to confront the dangerous and uncertain situations they face every day.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, I, Mark H. Kaczynski, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of Berlin, Connecticut, do hereby thank and applaud all First Responders for all their selfless acts of honor and bravery.

Dated this 30th day of September 2023

Mark H. Kaczynski, Mayor

E. AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:

Richard Choma, 90 Sawmill Drive – Mr. Choma stated that on two occasions in July both he and his wife attempted to pay their taxes to the Town of Berlin Revenue Collector using older \$100 bills. The Revenue Collector refused to take the cash and stated that the only way it would be accepted is if Mr. Choma exchanged the bills for newer currency at the bank. He added that the \$100 bills were less than 22.9 years old (the average life of a \$100 bill according to the Federal Reserve).

Mr. Choma stated that the Revenue Collector was very rude to Mr. Choma and his wife, and he is requesting a written apology from the Revenue Collector, and he expects that in the future they are not turned away when presenting cash for payment of taxes.

Town Manager Jayawickrema explained that when Mr. Choma's wife first attempted to pay the taxes with the older currency the counting machine rejected a number of the bills. When Mr. Choma returned to try and pay the taxes again with those older bills the Town Manager brought Mr. Choma to the bank to exchange some of the older bills for newer bills. The bank informed both that the counting machine used by the Revenue Collector has built in features to recognize the newest safety features of currency and therefore rejected the older bills.

Mayor Kaczynski apologized to Mr. Choma on behalf of the Town Council and added that it does appear that new cash counting machines, as well as counterfeit marking pens, are needed in the Revenue Collector's office.

David Dill, Attorney for Joanne Angelico-Stetson – Attorney Dill stated that as the full Town Council is not present this evening, he is requesting to continue tonight's item on the Ethics Policy violation (Agenda Item #1) to a future meeting.

Donna Bovee, 85 Steepleview Drive – Ms. Bovee, Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission, stated that the Town Council previously requested more information on the splash pad before moving forward with approving the \$200,000 in funds for improvements to Little People's Playground. Ms. Bovee is asking that funding be approved tonight as the Board of Finance approved the item and many residents are becoming frustrated with the lack of progress.

Mayor Kaczynski suggested adding approval of that funding to tonight's agenda.

F. MAYOR'S UPDATE:

Mayor Kaczynski stated that the Town Council and Berlin residents are frustrated with the lack of progress with the Senior Housing project. The project encountered numerous roadblocks along the way with the most recent being the expected funding not coming through for the Housing Authority at the end of July. As the funds have still not been received and there has been no contact from Wells Fargo the project is once again stalled. Mayor Kaczynski added that he believes that the Town will move forward looking for a private developer for the project with the possibility of transferring it to the Housing Authority for management in the future.

G. MEETING AGENDA – Immediately Following the Mayor’s Update

H. CONSENT AGENDA:

- 1. Topic re: Approve waiving the Police Traffic Control fees in the estimated amount of \$5,302.00 for the Powerhouse Gym Thanksgiving Day 5K that will take place on Thursday, November 23, 2023. – Police Department**
- 2. Topic re: Accept monetary donations totaling \$967.38 and deposit \$457.91 into the friends of the library miscellaneous account for the purchase of programs, summer reading supplies and coffee supplies and deposit \$509.47 into the friends of the library credit card account for the purchase of program supplies, a prize for library sign up month and an annual database subscription. Also accept the donation of books with an approximate value of \$29.00 to be added to the appropriate department collection. – Berlin-Peck Memorial Library**
- 3. Topic re: Accept donations to the Berlin Animal Control Donation Account for \$ 155.00 for Animal Care. – Animal Control**

Councilor Paonessa moved to accept the Consent Agenda as presented.

Seconded by Councilor Veach.

Those voting in favor: Councilor Coppola, Councilor Foster, Councilor Paonessa, Councilor Rosso, Councilor Veach, Mayor Kaczynski.

Vote being 6-0 (MOTION CARRIED)

I. NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Topic re: Pursuant to Sections 1-4(a)(1) and 1-6 of the Berlin Ethics Policy and Section 9-5 of the Town Charter, consideration and action in response to the Board of Ethics’ December 21, 2021, finding of a violation of the Ethics Policy and Code of Ethics relative to Complaint #2021-001. – Town Manager**

Mayor Kaczynski stated that during the Audience of Citizens Attorney Dill requested to continue this item to a future meeting due to the absence of a Town Council member at tonight’s meeting and he then asked Attorney Fishbein, Councilor Veach’s attorney, if he wished to speak. Councilor Veach stated that she would reclude herself from discussion on this item.

Attorney Fishbein stated that on behalf of his client they oppose the continuation of this matter as this case has been delayed numerous times.

Councilor Rosso stated that as Councilor Risolo had an unexpected death occur, he suggests setting a date tonight to hold a meeting on this item.

Councilor Paonessa stated that he would like to put this item behind us as the residents of Berlin are the ones that have paid for this matter in legal fees and the decision has already been made by the Board of Ethics.

Councilor Coppola agreed with moving forward with this item this evening as there is always future potential for other delays to exist.

Councilor Foster stated that she is impartial.

Mayor Kaczynski stated that he is inclined to continue this item to either the next Town Council meeting or to a special meeting as this decision is important.

After discussion between the Town Council and both attorneys the date of Wednesday September 27th at 7:00 p.m. was selected for a Special Town Council meeting on the matter.

NO ACTION TAKEN

2. **Topic re: Approve the Berlin Peck Memorial Library to enter into a four-year lease with The Office Works, Inc. for two Kyocera 6230cdn color printers to be used for public printing. The total cost for both printers per month is \$137.90 (68.95 ea.) or \$1,654.80 per year and that includes 1,500 black and white prints and 500 color prints each. The overage rate is .0138 for black and white prints and .062 for color prints. – Berlin-Peck Memorial Library**

Town Manager Jayawickrema stated that this item was the subject of tonight's Special Town Meeting.

Councilor Paonessa moved to approve the Berlin Peck Memorial Library to enter into a four-year lease with The Office Works, Inc. for two Kyocera 6230cdn color printers to be used for public printing. The total cost for both printers per month is \$137.90 (68.95 ea.) or \$1,654.80 per year and that includes 1,500 black and white prints and 500 color prints each. The overage rate is .0138 for black and white prints and .062 for color prints.

Seconded by Councilor Veach.

Those voting in favor: Councilor Coppola, Councilor Foster, Councilor Paonessa, Councilor Rosso, Councilor Veach, Mayor Kaczynski.

Vote being 6-0 (MOTION CARRIED)

3. **Topic re: Approve the acceptance of the annually renewable one-year contract with Prism Academy to provide outside nursing services, totaling \$13,500 for the year. Anticipated cost not to exceed \$8,100. – VNA**

Berlin VNA Administrator Alea Piatek explained that Prism Academy is located in the Mooreland School building in town and focuses on working with students with autism. The Academy reached out to the Berlin VNA requesting nursing assistance to look over health records and make sure they are in compliance with the students' requirements to be in school.

The Berlin VNA will receive \$13,500 from the Academy and the cost of the per diem nurse should not exceed \$8,100.

Councilor Paonessa moved to approve the acceptance of the annually renewable one-year contract with Prism Academy to provide outside nursing services, totaling \$13,500 for the year. Anticipated cost not to exceed \$8,100.

Seconded by Councilor Veach.

Those voting in favor: Councilor Coppola, Councilor Foster, Councilor Paonessa, Councilor Rosso, Councilor Veach, Mayor Kaczynski.

Vote being 6-0 (MOTION CARRIED)

- 4. Topic re: Approve non-budgeted appropriation of \$80,000 from fiscal year 2024 General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance into Snow Equipment pending Board of Finance approval and approve the purchase one Toro Polar-Trac plus accessories not to exceed \$83,000 utilizing Sourcewell Pricing contract # 0311121-TTC from Turf Products pending approval of the FY24 non-budgeted appropriation by the Board of Finance. - Public Grounds**

Superintendent of Parks and Grounds Steve Wood stated that this equipment is a vital part of his department's operation and being able to keep schools, Town Buildings and sidewalks plowed and open during inclement weather. The broom on the equipment will be extremely helpful with small snow events, cleaning sidewalks at Veterans Park and other areas where there are problems with geese, removal of lips on baseball fields, thatching of athletic fields and cleaning ponds for skating in the winter.

The current equipment is thirteen years old which is at the end of its' life cycle, but the plan is to keep it in service at Berlin High School, McGee, and Willard while using the new equipment at the Town Hall complex.

Councilor Paonessa moved to approve a non-budgeted appropriation of \$80,000 from fiscal year 2024 General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance into Snow Equipment pending Board of Finance approval.

Seconded by Councilor Coppola.

Those voting in favor: Councilor Coppola, Councilor Foster, Councilor Paonessa, Councilor Rosso, Councilor Veach, Mayor Kaczynski.

Vote being 6-0 (MOTION CARRIED)

Councilor Paonessa moved to approve the purchase of one Toro Polar-Trac plus accessories not to exceed \$83,000 utilizing Sourcewell Pricing contract # 0311121-TTC from Turf Products pending approval of the FY24 non-budgeted appropriation by the Board of Finance.

Seconded by Councilor Veach.

Those voting in favor: Councilor Coppola, Councilor Foster, Councilor Paonessa, Councilor Rosso, Councilor Veach, Mayor Kaczynski.

Vote being 6-0 (MOTION CARRIED)

5. Topic re: Approve spending up to \$55,000.00 with Winslow Technology of Waltham, Massachusetts on computer equipment needed for the Town. – IT

Director of Information Technology Brian Freeman stated that Winslow Technology Group (WTG) is our Solution Provider for Dell equipment, such as PCs, laptops and server equipment. A Dell customer can choose any reseller they like but the reseller cannot get special pricing from Dell until the customer commits to one of them.

WTG is listed as a Platinum Partner with Dell, which allows them to give better pricing to customers. All pricing from WTG has been on state contract except for one computer that was not eligible. Computer purchases will typically exceed \$25,000 in a fiscal year which requires Town Council approval.

Councilor Paonessa moved to approve spending up to \$55,000.00 with Winslow Technology of Waltham, Massachusetts on computer equipment needed for the Town.

Seconded by Councilor Veach.

Those voting in favor: Councilor Coppola, Councilor Foster, Councilor Paonessa, Councilor Rosso, Councilor Veach, Mayor Kaczynski.

Vote being 6-0 (MOTION CARRIED)

6. Topic re: Approve the purchase of modems and related equipment from AT&T using state contract not to exceed \$50,000.00. – IT

Director of Information Technology Freeman stated that these modems are installed in police cruisers and allow communication between the officers and police headquarters. Information transmitted includes calls for service, continuous location monitoring, DMV queries, warrant checks, and various other functions incorporated into the NexGen police software system.

The current modems are over ten years old and have been discontinued by the manufacturer and need constant resetting. Three years of support is included with the new modems.

Councilor Paonessa moved to approve the purchase of modems and related equipment from AT&T using state contract not to exceed \$50,000.00.

Seconded by Councilor Veach.

Those voting in favor: Councilor Coppola, Councilor Foster, Councilor Paonessa, Councilor Rosso, Councilor Veach, Mayor Kaczynski.

Vote being 6-0 (MOTION CARRIED)

Mayor Kaczynski inquired about the possible lightning strike that took out the phone system at the Police Department and Town Hall this past weekend.

Mr. Freeman explained that after the event a meeting was held with representatives from the Town, New Era, and Frontier to determine a timeline of what happened to cause the outage. As some equipment was New Era's and some was Frontier's it was difficult to diagnose the issue as each depended on the other to be working to test the equipment.

The meeting provided things that can be done to prevent such an outage in the future, and they will be discussed in the coming weeks. Town Manager Jayawickrema stated that both New Era and Frontier provided prompt service.

Police Chief McNally added that when the event occurred his department started keeping notes to provide a comprehensive report and to help make recommendations, so the failure does not happen again.

7. Topic re: Approve the purchase of one Ford F-350 pickup truck from Tasca Ford utilizing CT DAS Contract #19PSX0161 for an amount not to exceed \$53,996. – Fleet Maintenance

Town Manager Jayawickrema stated that funding for this item was approved by Town Council at the last meeting. The cost of the new pickup truck is \$49,097 and Fleet Manager Jim Simons recommends a 10% contingency.

Councilor Paonessa moved to approve the purchase of one Ford F-350 pickup truck from Tasca Ford utilizing CT DAS Contract #19PSX0161 for an amount not to exceed \$53,996.

Seconded by Councilor Coppola.

Those voting in favor: Councilor Coppola, Councilor Foster, Councilor Paonessa, Councilor Rosso, Mayor Kaczynski.

Vote being 5-0 (MOTION CARRIED)

8. Topic re: Waive of the Town of Berlin's purchasing requirements for the purchase of OEM parts and services from W.I. Clark of Wallingford CT. for an amount not to exceed \$ 37,000 as this is in the town's best interest. – Fleet Maintenance

Fleet Manager Jim Simons stated that over the summer the Highway department's large payload developed a transmission issue. The unit was repaired at a cost of just under \$21,000. This put the department in a bind for the remainder of fiscal year 2024 for the purchasing of OEM parts, fluids,

and services for John Deere construction equipment from W.I. Clark for the remainder of the fiscal year.

The Fleet department's budget history for W.I. Clark shows spending \$13,333 during the last fiscal year therefore Mr. Simons is requesting an additional \$16,000 which includes a 20% inflationary increase over last year bringing the total purchase order for W.I. Clark to \$37,000 allowing the Fleet department to purchase, when needed, these items from W.I. Clark of Wallingford CT.

Councilor Paonessa moved to waive the Town of Berlin's purchasing requirements for the purchase of OEM parts and services from W.I. Clark of Wallingford CT. for an amount not to exceed \$ 37,000 as this is in the town's best interest.

Seconded by Councilor Coppola.

Those voting in favor: Councilor Coppola, Councilor Foster, Councilor Paonessa, Councilor Rosso, Mayor Kaczynski.

Vote being 5-0 (MOTION CARRIED)

9. Topic re: Waive the Town's purchasing requirements to purchase the noted equipment and service for the Town of Berlin Fire department from "Municipal Equipment Specialist" of Waterford CT. for an amount not to exceed \$62,100 as this is in the best interest of the Town. – Fire Administration

Fire Administrator Jim Simons stated that in July 2023 Town Council approved four expenditures for the Fire Department totaling \$42,100 of MES services and equipment for fiscal year 2024. Unfortunately, those expenditures caused the Town's fire service to exceed the \$42,100 level. The Fire department is now requesting to use MES for additional services and materials for the remainder of the fiscal year.

The inspection and servicing of hydraulic rescue equipment revealed that some parts and hoses needed to be replaced. The original requested amount of \$10,000 will not cover parts and materials needed to place these units back in service. Additionally, other equipment such as ladders and hoses still need to be purchased.

Councilor Paonessa moved to waive the Town's purchasing requirements to purchase the noted equipment and service for the Town of Berlin Fire department from "Municipal Equipment Specialist" of Waterford CT. for an amount not to exceed \$62,100 as this is in the best interest of the Town.

Seconded by Councilor Coppola.

Those voting in favor: Councilor Coppola, Councilor Foster, Councilor Paonessa, Councilor Rosso, Mayor Kaczynski.

Vote being 5-0 (MOTION CARRIED)

- 10. Topic re: Accept the FY24 Legislative Grant awarded to the Town of Berlin by the Connecticut General Assembly in the amount of \$254,000 and appropriate the funds to the FY24 Legislative Grant expenditure account in the Public Buildings Department (\$185,000), Police Department (\$44,000) and Schools Department (\$25,000) all in the Capital Non-Recurring fund, pending approval by the Board of Finance. – Town Manager**

Town Manager Jayawickrema stated that the Town's State Representatives submitted a grant request to the Connecticut General Assembly in the Spring of 2023. The fiscal year 2024 Legislative Grant was awarded to the Town of Berlin by the Connecticut General Assembly in the amount of \$254,000. The grant will be administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD).

The \$254,000 will be used for the following projects: \$100,000 for the Berlin Senior Center Roof Replacement, \$75,000 for South Kensington Fire Department Fire Station Improvements, \$44,000 for the Berlin Police Department Supervisor SUV, \$25,000 for the McGee Middle School Band Room Renovation, and \$10,000 for the Berlin Historical Society Worthington Meeting House Cupola Restoration Project.

Councilor Paonessa moved to accept the FY24 Legislative Grant awarded to the Town of Berlin by the Connecticut General Assembly in the amount of \$254,000 and appropriate the funds to the FY24 Legislative Grant expenditure account in the Public Buildings Department (\$185,000), Police Department (\$44,000) and Schools Department (\$25,000) all in the Capital Non-Recurring fund, pending approval by the Board of Finance.

Seconded by Councilor Coppola.

Those voting in favor: Councilor Coppola, Councilor Foster, Councilor Paonessa, Councilor Rosso, Mayor Kaczynski.

Vote being 5-0 (MOTION CARRIED)

- 11. Topic re: Authorize the Town Manager to retain the services of Pullman & Comley to prepare bond authorization documents in the amount of \$3,700,000 for the addition and renovations of the Berlin Police Station, and to authorize the Town Manager to schedule and advertise for a Public Hearing to be held Tuesday, October 3, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. on an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$3,700,000 FOR ADDITION AND RENOVATIONS TO THE BERLIN POLICE STATION, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$3,700,000 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION, AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF, THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWING FOR SUCH PURPOSE".**

Call a Town Meeting at 6:45 p.m. on October 3, 2023, to approve a non-budgeted appropriation of \$1,000,000 from the FY24 General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance to the Buildings & Renovations account in the Police Station Construction Fund. – Finance

Finance Director Kevin Delaney stated that the Police Department renovation project is preparing to go out to bid. In order to have the funding available to award the bid and to be able to issue purchases orders an appropriation must be in place.

This agenda item includes two requests. The first is to call a Public Hearing to discuss a bond ordinance which would give the authority to borrow, and included in every bond ordinance is an appropriations to make the funds available to appropriate but it could be determined at a later date exactly how that funding might occur as the Town's Legislators are actively working to secure State funding for the project and if there were to be a grant that would reduce some of that authorization.

The second request is in regard to Mayor Kaczynski's request at the last Town Council meeting to appropriate \$1 million in non-budgeted appropriation from the General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance which requires a Town Meeting.

Mr. Delaney added that because of the timing of the Town Council meeting and the necessity for the Board of Finance to approve this item he is requesting that the bond item be approved at the October 3rd Town Council meeting when traditionally a Public Hearing is held for a bond and then approval is given at the next Town Council meeting. This will allow the Board of Finance to give approval at their October 19th meeting and the money would be available otherwise there is potential risk that bids could be opened and without Board of Finance approval the appropriation would not be in place.

Town Manager Jayawickrema stated that authorizing the \$3.7 million does not mean necessarily borrowing that amount but it gives the Town the ability to without another bond ordinance. He added that if the Town Council agreed he would like to have the architect at the October 3rd meeting to go over the plans.

Councilor Paonessa moved to authorize the Town Manager to retain the services of Pullman & Comley to prepare bond authorization documents in the amount of \$3,700,000 for the addition and renovations of the Berlin Police Station, and to authorize the Town Manager to schedule and advertise for a Public Hearing to be held Tuesday, October 3, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. on an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$3,700,000 FOR ADDITION AND RENOVATIONS TO THE BERLIN POLICE STATION, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$3,700,000 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION, AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF, THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWING FOR SUCH PURPOSE".

Seconded by Councilor Coppola.

Those voting in favor: Councilor Coppola, Councilor Foster, Councilor Paonessa, Councilor Rosso, Mayor Kaczynski.

Vote being 5-0 (MOTION CARRIED)

Councilor Paonessa moved to call a Town Meeting at 6:45 p.m. on October 3, 2023, to approve a non-budgeted appropriation of \$1,000,000 from the FY24 General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance to the Buildings & Renovations account in the Police Station Construction Fund.

Seconded by Councilor Coppola.

Those voting in favor: Councilor Coppola, Councilor Foster, Councilor Paonessa, Councilor Rosso, Mayor Kaczynski.

Vote being 5-0 (MOTION CARRIED)

Add Agenda item #12

Councilor Paonessa moved to add agenda item #12 to appropriate \$200,000 to upgrade Little People's Playground.

Seconded by Councilor Coppola.

Those voting in favor: Councilor Coppola, Councilor Foster, Councilor Paonessa, Councilor Rosso, Mayor Kaczynski.

Vote being 5-0 (MOTION CARRIED)

12. Topic re: Move to appropriate \$200,000 to upgrade Little People's Playground. – Public Grounds

Superintendent of Parks and Grounds Steve Wood provided the Town Council with a conceptual design of what Little People's Playground could look like moving forward. Items requested for the playground include ADA compliant equipment and a rubber mat which would provide a smooth transition between the parking lot and play area.

Mr. Wood added that at the last Town Council meeting some people questioned spending \$200,000 on playground equipment so he provided a conceptual design of what \$150,000 would get versus spending \$200,000. He then provided a breakdown of the different types of equipment available, and the age ranges they are intended for. Mr. Wood added that the only difference between Little People's and Community Playgrounds is that Community has a full designated smaller playscape for ages two to five. Between the two Little People's is used more when school playgrounds are not available due to school being in session.

Regarding the splash pad that was discussed at the previous Town Council meeting Mr. Wood explained that the vendor would base their design on what the customer wants to spend. He added that the area in East Berlin provides 21 parking spaces as well as handicap parking and the splash pad could sit between the tennis courts and the current pool. The area is flat and contains all the necessary utilities. The area that was considered for a splash pad below Community Playground on Worthington Ridge contains no sewer or electricity, although there is water.

Mr. Wood explained that there are two types of water systems used in splash pads, dump water or recycled water. If water is recycled, then patrons must shower before using and the water needs to be tested and chlorinated. Several towns have found this to be cost prohibitive, so they go with the dump water option which dumps the water into the sewer system. As far as the cost is concerned, at

this time he is estimating about \$250,000 for the splash pad and \$50,000 for the connection to the water and sewer.

Mr. Wood added that down the road he believes that the East Berlin pool complex could become a facility that provides a splash pad, pickleball courts, a playground, and the current pavilion.

Councilor Paonessa moved to appropriate \$200,000 to upgrade Little People's Playground from fiscal year 2024 unassigned fund balance.

Seconded by Councilor Coppola.

Those voting in favor: Councilor Coppola, Councilor Foster, Councilor Paonessa, Councilor Rosso, Mayor Kaczynski.

Vote being 5-0 (MOTION CARRIED)

J. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

- The Town Manager reminded the Town Council that they need to nominate a Town Council member for the POCD Implementation Committee as well as the Police Pension Plan Investment Committee. An agenda item will be added to the next agenda.
- Discussion was held regarding the date for a joint meeting of the Board of Finance and Town Council. The Council determined that Monday September 25th at 6:00 p.m. would work for them. The Town Manager will discuss that date with the Board of Finance.
- The Town Manager requested direction on working with Town staff and Planning and Zoning on a text amendment if the Town will be going in another direction with the Knights of Columbus property. The Town Council agreed that the Town Manager should direct those involved to move forward with that amendment.
- Mobile Home Park – There is an opportunity now to work on deed restrictions for the 16 units at the mobile home park. The Town Manager believes this will add to the affordable housing. He will begin moving forward with that process.
- A reminder to those running for office, election signs can not be placed on Town or State right of ways. Larger signs can only be placed beginning 30 days before the election.
- Brandegee Lane – concrete bases will be installed in about two weeks and the light fixtures are on backorder.
- Historic District – a guided bus tour of historic buildings for new teachers will be leaving from the Board of Education Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. Town Council members have also been invited.

K. SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

None

L. COUNCILORS' COMMUNICATION:

Councilor Rosso inquired about what happened with the issue with the Mattabassett District that was brought up during Audience of Citizens at past meetings. Corporation Counsel Donofrio stated that was one resident's public comment about his perspective on things and added that he will be meeting with Mike Ahern, Jim Horbal, and Ray Jarema on Thursday.

Mayor Kaczynski stated that he attended last night's Commission on Aging meeting and talked about Senior Housing and the Community Center. The Mayor will be attending the next Housing Authority Board of Directors' meeting as there was discussion that the Housing Authority used a lottery for placement in vacant units while there is a waiting list in place.

Regarding the new Senior/Community Center discussion that took place during the Commission on Aging meeting members requested that a forum be held to rehash the discussion with a few members of the Senior/Community Advisory Committee. Mayor Kaczynski asked the Town Manager to reach out to Senior Center Director Tina Doyle to discuss holding that forum at the Senior Center possibly in mid-October to obtain additional feedback.

Mayor Kaczynski added that there is still the possibility of discussion with the YMCA for them to build a facility and possibly have the Town pay for the Silver Sneaker memberships of seniors which would be far less expensive than building and maintaining a new Town building.

M. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

September 5, 2023

Councilor Paonessa moved to accept the Town Council Meeting Minutes of September 5, 2023 as presented.

Seconded by Councilor Coppola.

Those voting in favor: Councilor Coppola, Councilor Foster, Councilor Paonessa, Councilor Rosso, Mayor Kaczynski.

Vote being 5-0 (MOTION CARRIED)

N. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

1. Real Estate – C.G.S.S. Sec. 1-200 (6) (D) discussion of the selection of a site, sale or purchase of real estate by the Town – Chamberlain Highway

Councilor Paonessa moved to go into Executive Session: Real Estate – C.G.S.S. Sec. 1-200 (6) (D) discussion of the selection of a site, sale or purchase of real estate by the Town – Chamberlain Highway at 9:33 p.m. Invited in: Town Manager Jayawickrema, Corporation Counsel Jeffrey Donofrio, Economic Development Coordinator Jim Mahoney.

Seconded by Councilor Coppola.

Those voting in favor: Councilor Coppola, Councilor Foster, Councilor Paonessa, Councilor Rosso, Mayor Kaczynski.

Vote being 5-0 (MOTION CARRIED)

Executive Session ended at 9:47 p.m.

O. ADJOURNMENT:

Councilor Paonessa moved to adjourn at 9:47 p.m.

Seconded by Councilor Coppola.

Those voting in favor: Councilor Coppola, Councilor Foster, Councilor Paonessa, Councilor Rosso, Mayor Kaczynski.

Vote being 5-0 (MOTION CARRIED)

Submitted by,

Kathryn J. Wall
Clerk of the Meeting

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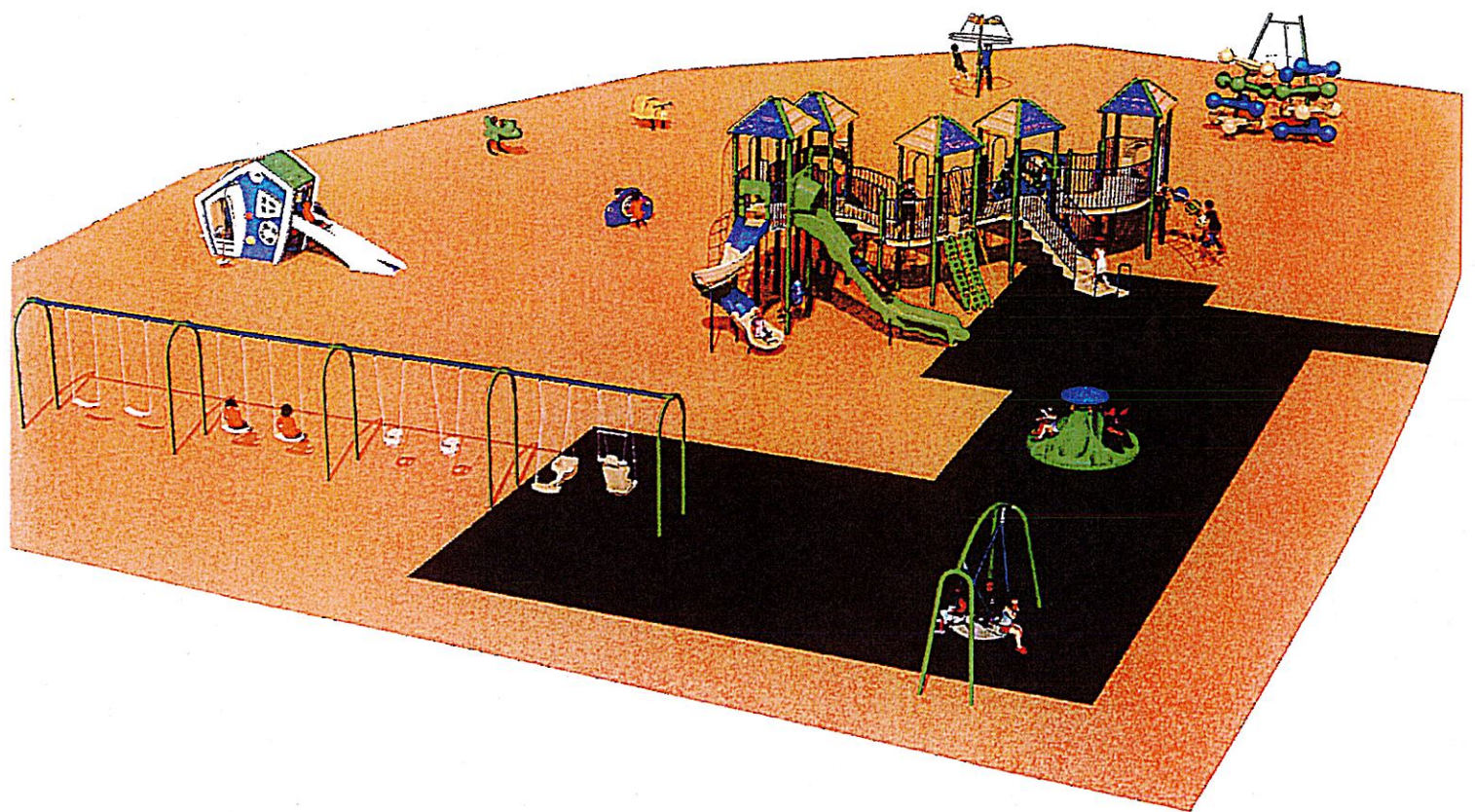
2023 SEP 22 AM 11:04

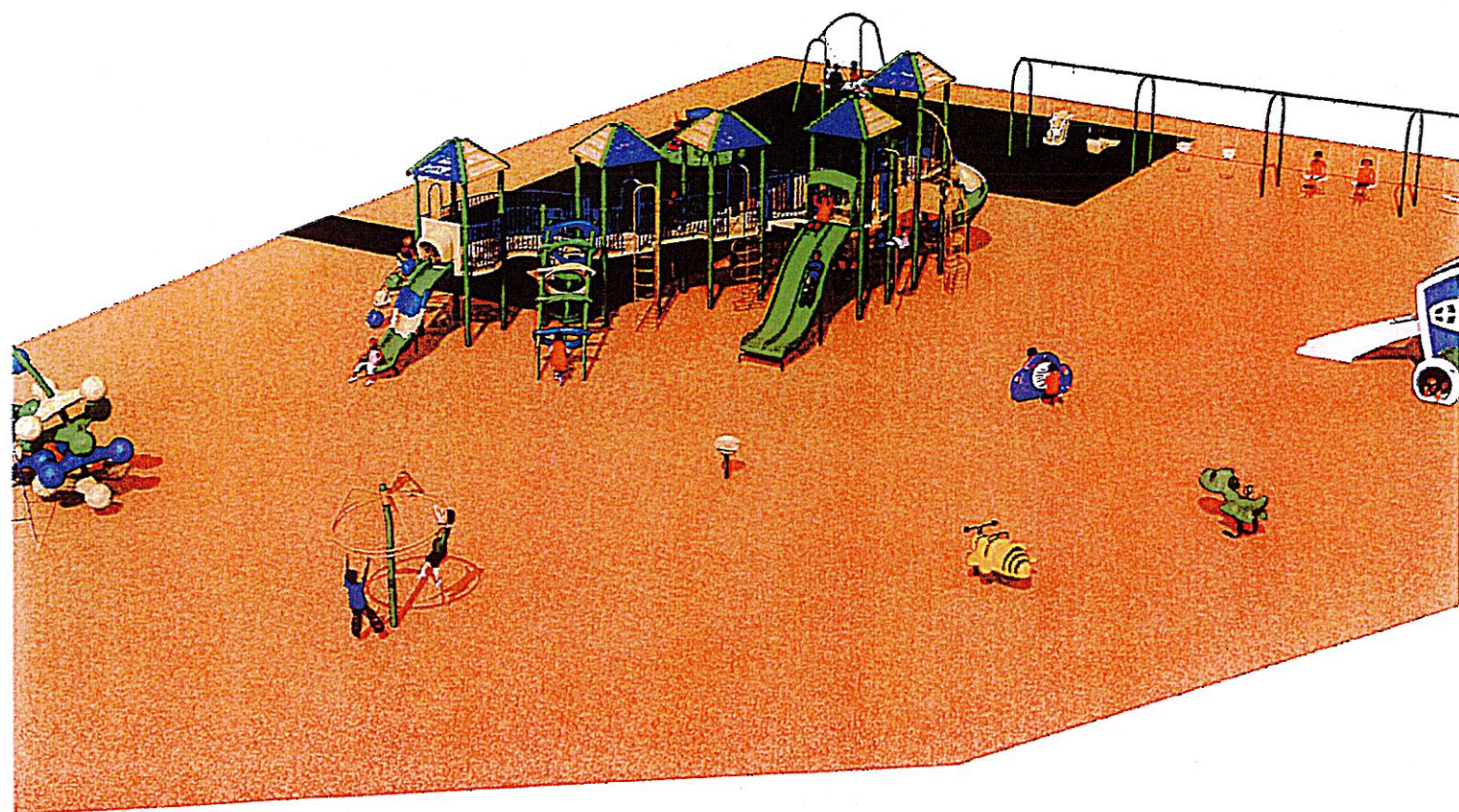
Kathryn J. Wall

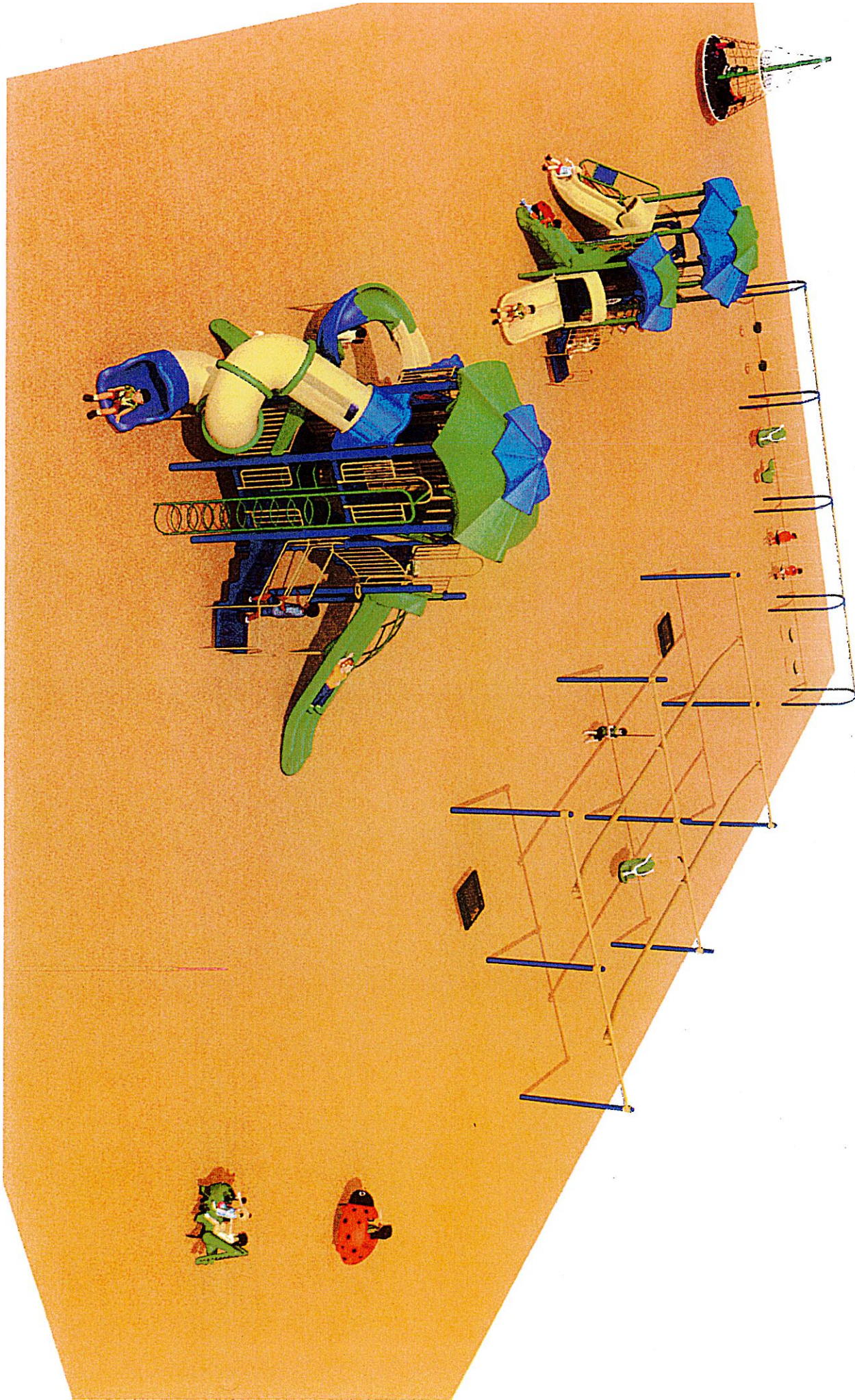
BERLIN, CT.

Item #12

Added to Agenda







East Berlin







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ID36534
Version A -Phase 02

Splashpad
View 3