

In accordance with the Governor's Executive Order 7I, the Town of Berlin's Annual Budget Hearing (previously scheduled for March 31st) and Referendum(s) for April 28, 2020 and May 26, 2020 are cancelled. The Governor's Executive Order expressly requires municipalities to adopt budgets for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 without holding votes required by charter and without complying with any in-person budget adoption requirements. This is to protect our citizens by eliminating large gatherings of people/violation of social distancing requirements and potential exposure to the COVID-19 virus.

Under the Governor's Executive Orders 7B(1) and 7I, in adopting the budget, the "budget-making authority" "shall thereby take all reasonable steps to publicize the draft municipal budget" and "receive public comment thereon, including but not limited to publishing draft budgets on the website and providing an email address or other means for the public to submit timely comments on the budget." Information on the budgets are available on the town's website: www.town.berlin.ct.us or click here "[Important Budget Information](#)".

The Board of Finance will meet on Tuesday, March 31, 2020 at 2:30 pm. The actions scheduled during for this meeting include sending the Board of Education and General Government budgets to the Town Council for action by the Council. The public can call into the March 31st Board of Finance meeting and listen to the discussion. Any comments on the proposed budget can be emailed to: townbudget@town.berlin.ct.us. To listen to the Board of Finance meeting, residents can call 1-425-436-6260, you will be asked to punch in the access code followed by the pound sign – 5329536#.

The proposed Board of Finance and General Government budgets for FY 2021 are:

Overall: \$91,475,922 – Increase of 1.4% from the FY20 budget

Board of Education: \$46,416,504 - Increase of 3.2% from the FY20 budget

General Government: \$45,059,418 – Decrease of 0.3% from the FY20 budget

THERE IS NO MILL INCREASE.

The Town Council will meet on Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at 7:00 pm. The public can call into this meeting. The public will be allowed to address the Town Council during the "Audience of Citizens" portion of the meeting on any item of interest to the public including the budget. The Town Council will vote on the proposed budgets during the "New Business" portion of the meeting. The public will be able to listen to the entire Town Council meeting but not participate after the "Audience of Citizens" on the matter of the budgets. Written comments can also be submitted to the Town Council by email: townbudget@town.berlin.ct.us. To listen to the Town Council meeting please call: 1-563-999-2090, you will be asked to punch in the access code followed by the pound sign -269573#.

If the Town Council approves the budgets as presented by the Board of Finance, the budgets will return to the Board of Finance with authorization from the Town Council to adopt the budgets and to set the mill rate. If the Town Council rejects the budget(s) as presented, the Board of Finance and Town Council

will proceed to a Joint Meeting of the Council and Board pursuant to the Town Charter and following such joint board meeting, the Town Council will authorize the Board of Finance to set the budget(s) and mill rate.