

**TOWN OF BERLIN  
BOARD OF FINANCE BUDGET MEETING  
SPECIAL MEETING  
Tuesday, March 31, 2020  
Conference Call: 1-425-436-6260 (5329536)  
2:30 P.M.**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Lomaglio called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**C. ROLL CALL**

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present: Sal Bordonaro, Tim Grady, Mark Holmes, Sam Lomaglio, Gerald Paradis, John Richards

Members Absent:

Staff Present:

Kevin Delaney – Finance Director  
Aroscha Jayawickrema – Town Manager  
Jim Simons – Fire Administrator / Fleet Manager

**D. DISCUSSION ON DEPARTMENT BUDGETS:**

**1. Discuss Fiscal Year 2021 Proposed Budget.**

Mr. Paradis stated that the Board of Finance members spent a significant amount of time reviewing the budget. As presented, the budget reflects a 0% increase based on the current extraordinary situation. \$895,000 of capital expenditures were removed from the budget, not because they were unimportant, but only due to the current financial circumstances. The Board of Finance agrees that if Town Council votes to bring those expenditures forward throughout the year as additional appropriations, they will be funded from Fund Balance as available. The proposed budget also eliminated the actuarial determined contribution to the Defined Benefit Pension Fund solely because of the extraordinary circumstances. Any pension payouts will be honored out of Fund Balance.

Mr. Bordonaro supports a 0% budget but is unhappy with the Board of Education's lack of transparency and refusal to answer questions. He feels that the current Board of Education budget could be reduced further and will not vote in support of it. Mr. Bordonaro stated that the Town side took larger reductions the last couple of years, but since the proposed budget does not cut services, he is comfortable supporting it.

Mr. Grady is happy with a 0-mill rate increase, but is not happy with the Board of Education's failures to answer questions or provide promised follow-up information and will not vote to

support its budget. Mr. Grady stated that the Town side budget bears the brunt of reductions but feels that under the circumstances it has enough to keep the Town functioning.

Mr. Richards disagreed that the Town is being disproportionately reduced. He stated that the dashboard exhibit should be amended to include a chart similar to that of Page 5 of the Town Manager's budget presentation of March 2, 2020. That would show that the Town Operations were now at +3.9% (from +6.1%) to compare to the BOE being reduced to +3.2% (from +5.36%). His conclusion was that the Town Operations started, and finished, with a higher percentage increase. He said that the Town budget to be submitted included the long-term liabilities and capital, which were reduced by -13% over the prior year. This put the total General Government to the dashboard's reported -0.3% overall position. He noted that action may still be taken to fund Capital and the defined pension obligations of the Town. Mr. Richards also asked that other, video options be considered for future meetings. The quality and need to not speak over one another should be used only for simple actions pending clarification, that lead to a motion and vote. Teleconferencing is not the best way to conduct business with today's technology.

Mr. Lomaglio expressed his pride in the Board of Finance members who came together in a crisis, completed the review of the budget, and are forwarding it in a timely manner to the Town Council. While we may not agree on all of the elements of the budget, the result gives Berlin a 0% increase, in uncertain economic times.

**2. Move to send the Board of Education budget of \$46,416,504 to the Town Council.**

Mr. Paradis moved to send the Board of Education budget of \$46,416,504 to the Town Council.

Seconded by Mr. Richards.

Those voting in favor: Mr. Holmes, Mr. Lomaglio, Mr. Paradis, Mr. Richards

Those voting against: Mr. Bordonaro, Mr. Grady

Vote being 4-2. (MOTION CARRIED)

**3. Move to send the General Government budget of \$45,059,418 to the Town Council.**

Mr. Paradis moved to send the General Government budget of \$45,059,418 to the Town Council.

Seconded by Mr. Bordonaro.

Vote being 6-0. (MOTION CARRIED)

Assuming Town Council approves the budget, Board of Finance will meet via teleconference to vote to set the mill rate on Thursday, April 9, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. (The "regular" April 21, 2020 Board of Finance meeting will likely be held via Zoom.)

**E. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Paradis moved to adjourn at 2:45 p.m.

Seconded by Mr. Bordonaro.

Vote being 6-0. (MOTION CARRIED)

Submitted by,

Dana Borges

RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
BERLIN TOWN CLERK

2020 APR -6 AM 10:11

*Kathryn Wall*

BERLIN, CT.