

PROCEEDINGS AT THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING – DECEMBER 14, 2015

According to legal notice the voters of the Town of Berlin met at the Berlin Memorial School on Monday, December 14, 2015, at 7 PM. Assistants were Madeline P. McTague, James H. Wheeler and Richard S. Wheeler as checkers and the Officers on duty were Police Chief Thomas Galvin and Kevin Pond. Cable television coverage was provided by William and Patricia Anderson, Roger Bradley and Tara Tunis. Joseph S. Fair of Kopelman and Paige, P.C. served as Town Counsel. Barry W. Eager, Moderator, called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. There were approximately 85 voters present. The Moderator waived the reading of the articles in the warrant. The Town Clerk then read the call of the meeting and the Constable's return.

Selectmen Chairman Thomas Andrew read a Selectmen's proclamation recognizing Lorraine Cedar for fifty (50) years of Election service along with her culinary efforts for elections and the Meals on Wheels program. Rep. Harrold Naughton presented Lorraine Cedar with recognition from the House of Representatives for dedicated service. Then Bill Wheeler spoke about his being the Town Clerk back in 1965 and needing a Democrat for the check-in position. He had worked with Lorraine in Cub Scouts. It was a great choice and she has continued all this time. She received a standing ovation.

Article 1 – Voted unanimously to appropriate \$15,000.00 from available Highland Commons Public Safety Mitigation Funds to cover costs needed to compensate an Interim Fire Chief. The Finance Committee recommended this motion.

Article 2 – Voted unanimously to appropriate \$15,000.00 from available Highland Commons Public Safety Mitigation Funds to cover the costs associated with the search and hiring of a new Fire Chief. The Finance Committee recommended this motion.

Article 3 – Voted to amend the By-laws of the Town of Berlin, by deleting Article XV Rescue Squad in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

ARTICLE XV BERLIN FIRE AND EMS DEPARTMENT

Section 1 Establishment

This hereby establishes the Berlin Fire and EMS Department (hereinafter referred to as "Department")

Section 2 Function

It shall be the function of the Department to provide fire, rescue, and emergency medical services to the Town and carry out those functions as prescribed by general laws, state regulations, and these by-laws.

with such amendment to take effect on February 1, 2016, and after compliance with the provisions of G.L. C.40, §32.

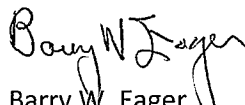
Article 4 - Voted unanimously to accept the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 48, Section 42, the so-called Strong Fire Chief statute, with such acceptance to take effect on February 1, 2016.

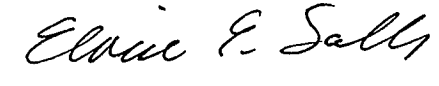
Article 5 – Voted unanimously to transfer all remaining monies in the FY 16 Rescue Squad Budget Rescue Chief Salary line item #55 as of February 1st 2016, to the FY 16 Fire Department Budget Fire Chief Salary line item #51 to allow said monies to be used to compensate the Interim/New Fire and EMS Department Chief. The Finance Committee recommended this motion.

Article 6 – Voted unanimously to transfer \$5,000.00 from line item 53, Fire Incentive, to line item 52, Fire Wages PT, in the FY16 budget. The Finance Committee recommended this motion.

Voted to dissolve the meeting at 7:38 PM.

Ninety-one voters took part in this meeting.


Barry W. Eager
MODERATOR


Eloise E. Salls
TOWN CLERK