

**BOROUGH OF BERLIN
BUDGET MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2011**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR ARMANO.

FLAG SALUTE LED BY THE MAYOR.

SUNSHINE NOTICE WAS GIVEN BY THE CLERK.

ROLL CALL: Mayor John J. Armano, Council President Scott Scelso, Council members Maccaroni, Chance, Bilella, and Pearce were all present during roll call. Council woman Kupchik arrived shortly after roll call.

PRESENT ALSO: Borough Auditor Joe Hoffmann.

The purpose of this budget workshop was to discuss the 2011 general, water and sewer budget. Auditor Hoffmann was present for questions and brought with a surplus projection (attached to minutes) projecting out appropriations, salaries, and debt services going on to show what taxes will be and what surplus would have to be used. All done without deferring school taxes. Old tax rate before re-evaluation was 1.04 and the new rate would be .56 on a two cent tax increase. Councilman Bilella would like to do a three year budget.

There was discussion on how much interest will be made on surplus, on deferred money not touched. Hoffmann states that budget of two cent tax increase keeps us below the 2% cap levy.

Councilwoman Kupchik makes a few suggestions to keep spending down such as managing professional services, and to shrink government.

Mayor Armano reminds council of all the increases that occurred.

Councilwoman Kupchik asked the auditor how many other towns are having a tax increase such as Berlin is proposing at this time.

Councilman Pearce asks when the budget has to be introduced. Hoffmann stated the Governor has changed his position and will allow anyone who missed his deadline of March 11 can wait until their next published council meeting to introduce. In this case the council would like to introduce at the April 2 meeting of council.

Hoffmann goes on to note the protocol on how much time and what has to be done to introduce a budget, have a hearing and adopt along with publication.

No action was taken at this meeting nor was any other meeting set up at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Charleen Santora, RMC