

BOROUGH OF BERLIN
RE-ORGANIZATION MINUTES
SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 2015
BERLIN COMMUNITY CENTER
SO. FRANKLIN AVENUE
BERLIN NJ
1:00 PM

The council meeting from December 22, 2014 will be resumed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council meeting minutes from December 22, 2014
Closed session minutes from December 22, 2014

Motion to approve made by Councilman Bilella, seconded by Councilwoman Kupchik. All members present were in favor with the exception of Councilman Pearce who abstained.

There was not any unfinished business from December 22, 2014.

Motion to adjourn the meeting of December 22, 2014 made by Councilman Bilella, seconded by Councilman Knight. All members present were in favor.

RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING OF JANUARY 3, 2015 CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR ARMANO.

FLAG SALUTE LED BY MAYOR ARMANO.

SUNSHINE NOTICE: Adequate notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act, Pursuant to Public Law 1975, Chapter 231. Said notice has been advertised in the Courier Post and posted on the Borough Hall Bulletin Board at the Berlin Hotel showing the date, place and time of said meeting.

INVOCATION:

Former Mayor Millard Wilkinson gave the invocation.

MAYOR ARMANO ACKNOWLEDGED DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

Former Mayor Millard Wilkinson, Former Mayor Adolf of Magnolia, Former Councilwoman Marie Knott, Former Councilman Richard Crain and Former Councilman Bill Casey were all present at the meeting.

OATHS OF OFFICE:

Councilman Elect Richard H. Miller, IV was sworn in by Attorney Lou Rubino from the firm of White & Williams. His wife Christina, daughters Ava and Brooke and son Blake held the Bible.

Councilman Elect Len Badolato was sworn in by Attorney Lou Rubino. His fiancée Diana DePetro, Sister Donna Cox and daughters Gina, Catherine and Mary held the Bible.

ROLL CALL:

Mayor John Armano, Council members Bilella, Kupchik, Pearce, Knight, Badolato and Miller.

Present also was Administrator Charleen Santora.

RESOLUTION R1-1; 2015, APPROVAL FROM BOROUGH COUNCIL TO APPOINT ATTORNEY GEORGE BOTCHEOS AS BOROUGH SOLICITOR FOR BERLIN BOROUGH YEAR 2015

Motion to approve made by Councilman Miller, seconded by Councilman Knight. Under a roll call vote all members voted no with the exception of Councilman Knight who voted yes.

Councilman Miller made a motion to appoint Howard Long, Esq. of Laurel Springs, NJ as Borough Solicitor for the Borough of Berlin Year 2015, seconded by Councilman Badolato. Under a roll call vote all members voted yes with the exception of Councilman Knight who voted no. Motion carried.

Solicitor Howard Long joined the governing body for the continuation of the re-organization meeting.

PRIVILEGE OF FLOOR:

There was no public comment.

APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Motion to appoint Councilwoman Lynn Kupchik as Council President Year 2015 made by Councilman Bilella, seconded by Councilman Pearce. All members present were in favor.

PLANNING BOARD (MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS)

NEW APPOINTMENTS:

- Rich Crain Class II 1/1/15 – 12/31/15

- Nick Maccaroni Class IV 1/1/15 – 12/31/18
- Dan Pomponio Class IV 1/1/15 – 12/31/18
- John McCall Alternate 1 1/1/15 – 12/31/16

PLANNING BOARD MEMBER'S RECOGNITIONS

- Mayor Armano Class I 12/31/15
- Jack Gangluff Class IV 12/31/15
- Ron Katkocin Class IV 12/31/16
- Jack Hall Class IV 12/31/16
- Carl Canfield Class IV Unexpired term of
Ken Class 12/31/15
- Nick Guerere Alternate II Unexpired term of John M
John McCall 12/31/15

PLANNING BOARD COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

- James Bilella

- Class I Mayor's term corresponds to time in office.
- Class II Official of Municipality other than a member of the Governing
Body, 1-year term
- Class III Member of the Governing Body. 1-year term
- Class IV Other citizens of Municipality appointed by the Mayor. 4-year
Term. N.J.S.A. 40A:55D-23

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR WITH CONFIRMATION FROM COUNCIL

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS	Chairman Badolato, Co-Chairmen Miller & Kupchik
STREETS & ROADS	Chairman Knight, Co- Chairmen Bilella & Pearce
WATER & SEWER	Chairman Kupchik, Co- Chairmen Badolato & Knight
HEALTH & RECREATION	Chairman Miller, Co- Chairmen Pearce & Bilella
PUBLIC SAFETY	Chairman Pearce, Co- Chairmen Knight & Badolato
FINANCE	Chairman Bilella, Co- Chairmen Kupchik & Miller

Motion to approve made by Councilman Pearce, seconded by Councilman Knight. Under a roll call vote all members with the exception of Councilman Knight voted no for Buildings and Grounds and Public Safety.

Councilman Pearce made a motion to change Councilman Knight to Building and Grounds Co-Chairman and to change Councilman Miller to Co-Chairman for Public Safety, seconded by Councilman Bilella. Under a roll call vote all members voted in favor. Motion carried.

AS PER CARRIED MOTION THE COMMITTEE'S FOR 2015 ARE AS FOLLOWS:

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS	Chairman Badolato, Co-Chairmen Knight & Kupchik
STREETS & ROADS	Chairman Knight, Co- Chairmen Bilella & Pearce
WATER & SEWER	Chairman Kupchik, Co- Chairmen Badolato & Knight
HEALTH & RECREATION	Chairman Miller, Co- Chairmen Pearce & Bilella
PUBLIC SAFETY	Chairman Pearce, Co- Chairmen Miller & Badolato
FINANCE	Chairman Bilella, Co- Chairmen Kupchik & Miller

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS OF OFFICIALS WITH THE CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL.

• Treasurer	Stacey DiVello	1/1/15 – 12/31/15
• Borough Historian	Beth Pomponio	1/1/15 – 12/31/15
• Fire Official	William Behnke	1/1/15 – 12/31/15
• Fire Safety Inspector	Joe Cornforth	1/1/15 – 12/31/15
• Plumbing Inspector	Michael DePalma	1/1/15 – 12/31/15
• Fire Chief	William Behnke	1/1/15 – 12/31/15
• Zoning Official	Craig Fallstick	1/1/15 – 12/31/15
• Deputy EMC	Craig Fallstick	1/1/15 – 12/31/15

Motion to approve made by Councilman Bilella, seconded by Councilman Badolato. Under a roll call vote all members with the exception of Councilman Knight voted aye to all of the appointments with the exception of Borough Historian, Zoning Official and Deputy EMC in which they voted no. Councilman Knight voted aye to all of the appointments as they are.

Councilman Badolato made a motion to appoint Bill Toy to Borough Historian, seconded by Councilwoman Kupchik. Under a roll call vote all members present were in favor with the exception of Councilman Knight who voted no.

Councilman Miller made a motion to table the appointment of Zoning Official, seconded by Councilman Badolato. Under a roll call vote all members present voted aye.

Councilman Pearce made a motion to appoint Mike Miller to the position of Deputy EMC, seconded by Councilman Miller. Under a roll call vote all members present voted aye with the exception of Councilman Knight who voted no.

DEPARTMENT HEAD RECOGNITIONS FOR OFFICIALS AND SUB-OFFICIALS FOR THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN 2015

• Administrator	Charleen Santora
• Registered Municipal Clerk	Charleen Santora
• Certified Municipal Registrar	Charleen Santora
• Deputy Municipal Clerk	Melissa Bovera 12/31/15 (3 yr)
• CFO	Andriane McKendry

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| • Tax Assessor | Theresa Stagliano |
| • Tax Collector | Lisa Eggert |
| • Chief of Police | Michael DeLorenzo |
| • Emergency Mgt. Coordinator | Richard Crain 12/31/15 (3yr) |
| • Ambulance Captain | Lou DeMarco |
| • Construction Official | Michael DePalma |
| • Fire Sub Code Inspector | Ronald Snyder |
| • Housing Inspector | Kyle Wagner |

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS WITH CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL

- | | | | |
|--------------------|---------|------|-------------------------------------|
| • Alan Blair | Class A | 4 yr | 1/1/15 – 12/31/18 |
| • Tina Hoffman | Class A | 4 yr | 1/1/15 – 12/31/18 |
| • Gail Mottershead | Class C | 4 yr | Fill unexpired term of Len Badolato |

Motion to approve made by Councilman Bilella, seconded by Councilman Badolato. All members present were in favor.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RECOGNITION OF MEMBERS:

- | | | | |
|---------------------|---------|------|----------|
| • Millard Wilkinson | Class B | 2 yr | 12/31/15 |
| • Micki Armano | Class C | 4 yr | 12/31/17 |
| • Jack Gangluff | Class C | 4 yr | 12/31/15 |
| • Dan Pomponio | Class C | 4 yr | 12/31/15 |
| • Betty Scelso | Alt 1 | 2 yr | 12/31/15 |
| • Dolores Motluck | Alt 2 | 2 yr | 12/31/15 |

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Class A | A person who is knowledgeable in building design and construction
Or architectural history who may reside in the borough. |
| Class B | A person who is knowledgeable or with a demonstrated interest in
Local history who may reside outside the borough. |
| Class C | Members who must be residents of the Municipality who hold no
Other Municipal position except they may be members of the
Planning or Zoning Boards. |

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS APPOINTMENTS WITH CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL

- | | | |
|---|------|-------------------|
| • Liaison, Council Representative Rick Miller | 1 yr | 1/1/15 – 12/31/15 |
| • Dan Molnar | 3 yr | 1/1/15 – 12/31/17 |
| • Selma Rose | 3 yr | 1/1/15 - 12/31/17 |

Motion to approve made by Councilman Bilella, seconded by Councilman Pearce. All members present were in favor.

BOARD OF HEALTH RECOGNITION OF MEMBERS

- Sharon VanDyke 3 yr 12/31/16
- Debbie Scelso 3 yr 12/31/16
- Mike Buchanan 3 yr 12/31/16
- Dan Cleary 3 yr 12/31/15
- Kelly Foster 3 yr 12/31/15

• **LIBRARY TRUSTEES, MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS**

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • John Armano | Mayor |
| • Tony Trongone | Community School Superintendent |
| • Millard Wilkinson, Jr. | 5 yr 1/1/15 – 12/31/19 |
| • Alan Nickerson | 4 yr 1/1/15 – 12/31/18 |
| • Tina Hoffmann | 5 yr 1/1/15 – 12/31/19 |
| • Nancy Grover | 3 yr 1/1/15 – 12/31/17 |
| • Janet Guerere | 2 yr 1/1/15 – 12/31/16 |
| • Bob Foster | 1 yr 1/1/15 – 12/31/15 |

COURT APPOINTMENTS WITH CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL

- Municipal Prosecutor** 1 yr George Singley from the Law Firm of Singley & Gindele 1/1/2015 – 12/31/2015

Motion to appoint made by Councilman Pearce, seconded by Councilman Bilella. Under a roll call all members present were in favor.

- **Municipal Public Defender** 1 yr Mark Rinaldi
1/1/2015 – 12/31/2015

Motion to appoint made by Councilman Pearce subject to a \$7,000.00 salary cap, seconded by Councilman Bilella. Under a roll call all members present were in favor.

- **Court Administrator** 1 yr Kelly Foster
1/1/2015 – 12/31/2015

Motion to appoint made by Councilwoman Kupchik, seconded by Councilman Pearce.
Under a roll call all members present were in favor.

APPOINTMENT OF PROPERTY MAINTENANCE OFFICIALS (MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT)

- Bob Monahan Property maintenance official

- | | | |
|---|-------------|----------|
| • Council Representative,
12/31/15 | Gary Knight | 1/1/15 – |
| • Planning Board Representative
12/31/15 | Jim Bilella | 1/1/15 – |
| • Board of Health
12/31/15 | Rick Miller | 1/1/15 – |
| • Community Representative
12/31/15 | Drew Straub | 1/1/15 – |

**ECONOMIC RE-DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS WITH
CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL**

Rick Miller	Council representative	1/1/15 – 12/31/15
Casey Buchman	Fill un-expired term of Nick Guerere	1/1/15 - 12/31/15
Jim Bilella	Fill un-expired term of Rick Miller	1/1/15 – 12/31/15
Roger Strong	3 yr	1/1/15 – 12/31/17
Carole Vitiello	Alternate #1 1 yr	1/1/15 – 12/31/15
Ken Kerno	Alternate # 2 2 yr	1/1/15 – 12/31/16
Stephanie Hasbrook	Alternate # 3 1 yr	1/1/15 – 12/31/15

Motion to approve made by Councilman Bilella, seconded by Councilwoman Kupchik. Under a roll call vote all members voted no with exception of Councilman Knight who voted yes. Councilman Bilella stated that at the next Economic Re-Development meeting with the current committee present, appointments will be decided for the year 2015.

ECONOMIC RE-DEV ELOPMENT COMMITTEE RECOGNITIONS

- | | | |
|--------------------|------|----------|
| • James Knight | 3 yr | 12/31/16 |
| • Drew Straub | 3 yr | 12/31/16 |
| • Bob Suchowierski | 3 yr | 12/31/16 |
| • Carl Canfield | 3 yr | 12/31/16 |
| • Kevin McHugh | 3 yr | 12/31/15 |

RESOLUTIONS

Meeting open to the public on Resolutions R1-2 through R1-13; 2015.

There was no public comment.

Meeting closed to the public

**R1-2; 2015, AUTHORIZATION TO ADOPT A TEMPORARY BUDGET FOR
YEAR 2015**

Motion to approve made by Councilman Miller, seconded by Councilwoman Kupchik. Under a roll call vote, all members present were in favor.

R1-3; 2015, APPOINTMENT OF BOWMAN & COMPANY FROM VOORHEES, NJ AS AUDITORS FOR THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN YEAR 2015

Motion to approve made by Councilman Pearce, seconded by Councilwoman Kupchik. All members present were in favor.

R1-4;2015, APPOINTMENT OF PENNONI ASSOCIATES OF HADDON HEIGHTS, NJ AS GENERAL ENGINEER'S AND TAX MAP OFFICIALS FOR THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN YEAR 2015

Motion to approve made by Councilman Bilella, seconded by Councilman Pearce. All members present were in favor.

R1-5; 2015, APPOINTMENT OF PENNONI ASSOCIATES OF HADDON HEIGHTS, NJ AS WATER & SEWER ENGINEERS FOR THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN YEAR 2015

Motion to approve made by Councilwoman Kupchik, seconded by Councilman Miller. All members present were in favor.

R1-6;2015, APPOINTMENT OF EDGEWOOD ASSOCIATES OF BERLIN, NJ AS RISK MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE MEL/JIF INSURANCE COMPANY FOR THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN YEAR 2015

Motion to approve made by Councilman Pearce, seconded by Councilman Knight. All members present were in favor.

R1-7; 2015, APPOINTMENT OF SAUL EWING FROM PRINCETON, NJ AS BOND COUNSEL FOR THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN YEAR 2015

Motion to approve made by Councilman Miller, seconded by Councilwoman Kupchik. All members present were in favor.

R1-8; 2015, APPOINTMENT OF STUART PLATT FROM THE LAW FIRM OF PLATT AND RISO, STRATFORD, NJ AS SPECIAL COAH COUNSEL FOR THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN YEAR 2015

Motion to approve made by Councilman Kupchik, seconded by Councilman Miller. All members present were in favor.

R1-9; 2015, A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT REPRESENTATIVES TO BE COUNCILMAN BILELLA AND ALTERNATE COUNCILMAN PEARCE FOR YEAR 2015

Motion to approve made by Councilman Badolato, seconded by Councilman Knight. All members present were in favor.

R1-10; 2015, A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE FUND COMMISSIONER TO BE MILLARD WILKINSON, JR. AND ALTERNATE FUND COMMISSIONER COUNCILMAN GARY KNIGHT FOR YEAR 2015

Motion to approve made by Councilman Pearce, seconded by Councilwoman Kupchik. All members present were in favor.

R1-11; 2015, A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE SAFETY COORDINATOR FOR THE CAMDEN COUNTY JIF TO BE MILLARD WILKINSON, JR YEAR 2015

Motion to approve made by Councilman Knight, seconded by Councilman Pearce. All members present were in favor.

R1-12; 2015, APPOINTMENT OF CHRIS NORMAN FROM THE LAW FIRM OF NORMAN & KINGSBURY, MOORESTOWN, NJ FOR WELL NO. 12 LITIGATION

Motion to approve made by Councilman Miller, seconded by Councilman Bilella. All members present were in favor.

R1-13;2015, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING CME ASSOCIATES FROM SOUTH HOWELL, NJ AS MUNICIPAL PLANNER FOR THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN YEAR 2015

Motion to approve made by Councilman Bilella, seconded by Councilman Pearce. All members present were in favor.

R1-14; 2015, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH CLERK/AND OR ADMINISTRATOR AND THE DEPUTY CLERK TO ADVERTISE, RECEIVE AND OPEN BIDS

R1-15; 2015, A RESOLUTION FIXING THE RATE OF INTEREST TO BE CHARGED FOR THE DELINQUENCIES OF TAXES, WATER, SEWER AND ALL OTHER APPLICABLE MUNICIPAL CHARGES

R1-16; 2015, A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE COURIER POST OF CHERRY HILL, NJ (CIRCULATES 7 DAYS A WEEK) AND CENTRAL RECORDS LANSDALE, PA (CIRCULATING 1 DAY A WEEK) AS OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS FOR BERLIN BOROUGH YEAR 2015

R1-17; 2015 A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR YEAR 2015

R1-18; 2015, A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE PUBLIC MEETING FORMAT AS FOLLOWS:

1. Meeting called to order
2. Salute to the flag
3. Roll call
4. Privilege of floor
5. Committee reports, depart head reports, discussion items
6. Ordinances
7. Public hearing on resolutions
8. Resolutions
9. Payment of the bills
10. Privilege of floor
11. Adjournment

R1-19; 2015, A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING MEETING DATES FOR THE CAUCUS/COUNCIL MEETINGS TO BE AS FOLLOWS:

7:00 PM
Caucus Meetings

February 3, 2015
March 3, 2015
April 7, 2015
May 5, 2015
June 2, 2015
July 7, 2015
August 4, 2015
September 1, 2015
October 6, 2015
November 4, 2015
December 1, 2015

7:00 PM
Council Meetings

January 3, 2015 Re-organization
January 20, 2015
February 12, 2015
March 12, 2015
April 16, 2015
May 14, 2015
June 11, 2015
July 16, 2015
August 13, 2015
September 10, 2015
October 15, 2015
November 12, 2015
December 10, 2015

R1-20;2015, AUTHORIZATION TO APPROVE CONTRACT AWARD FOR GASOLINE TO FLEET SERVICES, SUNOCO OIL CO./SUN TRACT, BOX 3440, BOSTON, MA. UNDER STATE CONTRACT NUMBER T0394 58886 (FUNDS CERTIFIED)

R1-21; 2015, AUTHORIZATION FROM COUNCIL TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH COUNTYWIDE ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL OF

NEWFIELD NJ FOR ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES FOR THE YEAR 2015
(CERTIFICATION OF FUNDS COMING FROM THE ANIMAL TRUST FUND)

R1-22;2015, AUTHORIZATION FROM COUNCIL TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH CUMBERLAND COUNTY SPCA OF VINELAND NJ AS NEEDED FOR AN ANIMAL SHELTER AT A SET FEE OF \$90.00 PER IMPOUNDED DOG AND \$70.00 FOR EACH IMPOUNDED CAT (FUNDS COMING FROM THE ANIMAL TRUST FUND)

Motion to approve Resolutions R1-14 through R1-22; 2015 made by Councilman Bilella, seconded by Councilman Knight.

Councilman Pearce made a motion to modify Resolution R1-18;2014 to add "Comments from the Mayor" after number 5 (Committee reports, department head reports, discussion items) and to add "Closed Session" after number 10 (Privilege of the Floor), seconded by Councilman Miller. All members present were in favor.

PRIVILEGE OF FLOOR:

Millard Wilkinson, Jr. thanked Mayor and council for appointing him to Safety Coordinator for the Borough of Berlin. He thanked the Mayor for his involvement and dedication as he attended all of the safety meetings. Berlin was named the best safety program in 2014 and Millard will continue to work hard and diligently to maintain the level of excellence. Millard spoke about how the Camden County Joint Insurance Fund was formed and how he was influential in getting the program started when he was the president of the Camden County Mayor's Association. He works closely with Mark VonderTann and Charleen Santora, Administrator in regard to JIF and is looking forward to the upcoming year. Also, Millard thanked the Mayor for his appointments of the Library Board of Trustees. The library is transitioning to a municipal library this year after a two year waiting period and Millard is looking forward to working with the Mayor, council and residents of the community. Additional services will become available for patrons while saving some tax dollars. He is open to suggestions and thanked everyone for their support.

GOVERNING BODY COMMENTS:

Councilman Miller thanked everyone for coming out and being a part of re-org. He thanked his wife for all of her support throughout this whole process; his children who are his inspiration; his mother and father; and brother and sisters. He thanked Len for his support during the campaign and is proud to call him a friend. He is looking forward to working with the mayor, governing body and residents of Berlin. He recognized Charleen and Melissa for all of their hard work and efforts as well as all of the employees and volunteers in town. He is always open to suggestions and will work hard to make the best decisions to benefit the residents and the town. He wished everyone a healthy and prosperous 2015.

Councilman Badolato said that he was grateful for the opportunity to serve the town and he thanked all of his friends and family for their support. He has lived in town for over 30 years and was instrumental in moving the hotel, he was involved in little league for over 12 years, has been part of the historical society. For this campaign he knocked about 1,000 doors with Rick and spoke to the residents about their concerns and learned about what is important to them. He and Rick have a lot of good ideas and it was a pleasure running with him. It's time for a fresh start and he thanked everyone for their support.

Council President Kupchik thanked everyone for being at the meeting and she welcomed the new members of council Rick and Len. She wanted to tell them that she, the mayor and council will all work together for the betterment of Berlin. Lynn said it's an exciting time and she looks forward to all of their input. She extended a great thank you to all of the employees who do a great job day in and day out and that starts with the Administrator, Charleen Santora who sets the tone. Again, she thanked everyone for their efforts and looks forward to 2015.

Councilman Bilella congratulated Rick and Len, welcomed them to the governing body and he looks forward to working with them as well as the Mayor and the rest of council. He thanked all of the employees who work for the borough including the administrative staff and the police. Next, he talked about the volunteers and those people who are on committees who work really hard for the town. Councilman Bilella said that council is looking to bring a new level of public engagement to Berlin and to keep the public informed on what is going on. He said that council is going to be doing more than the minimum to get residents involved in the future of Berlin. The committee format has changed this year which means you will see more council members on the committees and some of those meeting will be open to the public. As far as finance goes, the finance committee will be having two to three budget workshops where the department heads and administrator will present their budgets to council. This will be an open format so that you can see how resources are allocated. The borough needs this higher level of public engagement. There are a lot of people in town who have great ideas, talent and the willingness to help and the citizens and want to be part of the solution. All the borough has to do is ask for help. For example, Council President Kupchik requested that we post for volunteers on the borough website and people replied. Councilman Bilella looks forward to being on the planning and zoning board so that he can work with the board and council on improving some zoning ordinances to help maintain and improve the look and feel of the community. Soon, the new police station addition will be completed and the renovations on the municipal building will be complete allowing for the regular meetings to be back at their original home. This will also allow the library to have more space so that they can provide their new and improved services to the public. Finally, Councilman Bilella said that council is here to lead the borough into the future and not dwell on the past. Berlin is a great town with a lot of potential and with everyone's help and support that potential can be unlocked. He wished everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

Councilman Pearce congratulated the two newly elected council members and he pledged his support to help them in any way that he can. He thanked all of the borough

employees as well as all of the volunteers. From the 4th of July parade to the Senior Citizens Center there are so many great volunteers in Berlin that help make it the great town that it is. Councilman Pearce said that he and the rest of council are very excited about preserving the town's history. He thought it was really neat when he learned that Councilman Badolato was heavily involved in saving the hotel. He also said that council wants to preserve a lot of the town's traditions and in doing so, some change is necessary; a lot of times change brings really good things and you cannot grow without change. Elected officials do everything they do because they have such a strong attachment to Berlin and its wonderful residents. The public vote for the elected officials not because they are the smartest people, but because they expect the council to listen to them about their concerns and ideas. A lot of the changes that you saw today are about opening up the government even more. There were a couple of meetings where it was standing room only and Councilman Pearce heard each and every one of the public's concerns and he has tried since then to open up the government even more and hear all of their ideas. He said we have to open up Berlin for business and work together. Again, he thanked everyone for attending today.

Councilman Knight congratulated both Len and Rick for their nominations this year as new councilmen. He has known Rick for a very long time, he's a great young man who comes from a good family and Councilman Knight coached him in baseball. Also, Councilman Knight said that he can say "dido" to everything that has been said thus far, but he did point out that the public has seen a lot of change with this year's election and he thinks it's good that there is change. The public will also see as they did today, that not everyone on council will always agree on everything; Councilman Knight thinks that's a good thing because it allows for new ideas, new opportunities for the residents and members of council to help make Berlin a better community than what it already is. Councilman Knight has been in town for over 40 years and Berlin has a great school district, great administration, police department and public works. He is proud to be a resident of Berlin Borough and is also very proud to be a part of this council and is looking forward to working with everyone this year. He hopes that council continues to do what they are today which is making the best decisions possible for the community and welcoming new ideas. He thanked the Mayor, administration and council for their help, support and ideas and he thinks 2015 should be a stellar year.

Charleen Santora, Clerk/Administrator started off by wishing everyone that was in attendance a happy new year. Also, she welcomed and congratulated Councilman Rick Miller and Councilman Len Badolato. She pledged that she will work with them both and wanted to let them know that her door is always open if they should have any questions or concerns along the way; and that goes for the rest of council as well. She said she feels that she has very good working relationship with this governing body and she intends to keep it that way. She welcomed the new Solicitor, Howard Long; she has had the pleasure of working with Mr. Long in the past and she calls Howard a dear friend of hers. She welcomed back every professional that is in attendance today and she respects them all immensely. Lastly, Charleen said that she has the best employees working here with her and she is proud to be amongst all of them.

Melissa Bovera, Deputy Clerk wished everyone a happy and healthy new year. She congratulated and welcomed Rick and Len, the two new councilmen. Also, she said Berlin is great town to work for, it is a really nice community and she is looking forward to 2015.

Mayor Armano thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting and he wished everyone a happy and healthy new year. Also he thanked everyone for the privilege of serving as Mayor. He thanked his wife and his family for supporting him in his efforts. He congratulated Rick and Len on their election and he looks forward to working with them. He thanked council for their service to the community and the sacrifices they make to be away from their families as council puts in a lot of time doing their voluntary job. He thanked all the dedicated employees; Administrator Charleen and all the staff, Melissa, Lisa, Dawn, Stacey, Debbie, Sharon, Chief Michael DeLorenzo of the police department and all of the police officers for all that they do along with all the challenges that they face today. Also, he thanked Kelly Foster, Court Administrator for keeping the courts running smoothly even though she is temporarily in Waterford and doing a great job. He thanked Mark Mauger, DPW Superintendent and his awesome group of employees who do a fantastic job for the town. He thanked the library staff and friends who volunteer on a regular basis who also do a great job; they put a lot of hours in and have a true dedication to the library. All of the employees are continuing to find ways to do more with less and still getting the job done. The team here is always trying to do their best to get answers to the residents even if they aren't always the answers they want. Mayor Armano thanked the many volunteers for the time they serve on the boards and committees. Without volunteers as part of the municipal government the town could not operate. He thanked Fire Chief, Bill Behnke and the fire department and also Bill for heading up the Fire Marshall's office; they do a great job protecting everyone. He thanked Captain Lou DeMarco for heading up the EMS team who also does an outstanding job. Mayor Armano said in closing that he along with council will continue to hear new ideas and look at every line item in the budget to make Berlin a greater town than it already is. He wished everyone a happy new year.

The next council meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 7:00 pm in the Community Center located at 250 South Franklin Avenue.

Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Pearce, seconded by Councilman Knight.

Motion carried.

Charleen Santora
Charleen Santora
RMC