

**TOWNSHIP OF BERN**  
**BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

March 4, 2025

**SUPERVISORS MEETING**

**SUPERVISORS PRESENT:** Irene Reed, Chairperson  
Brian Eveland, Supervisor  
Daniel Tobias, Supervisor  
Jeffrey Thompson, Supervisor  
Dr. Boyd Wagner, Supervisor

**STAFF PRESENT:** Brian Potts, Township Manager  
Diane DeJesus, Secretary/Treasurer  
Sgt. Steven Seidel, Police  
Bobby Turner, Road Foreman  
Keith Mooney, Esquire  
Kent Morey, Engineer  
Bradley Pflum, Code Enforcement

**CALL TO ORDER-PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mrs. Reed called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Mr. Tobias  
**YES:** Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, Dr. Wagner, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

**FINANCE REPORT**

Balances as of March 4, 2025, General Fund: \$2,207,507.31, State Account: \$769,152.81,  
PLGIT: \$76,011.53, Certificate of Deposits: \$597,313.37, Expenses: \$43,600.03

Treasurer's Report accepted subject to audit.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Alice Hinkle, 1032 Cathy Drive** – Ms. Hinkle commended the police department for the excellent job that they did when apprehending a resident on Cathy Drive who had federal warrants. Ms. Hinkle stated that at no time were the residents in harm's way and thanked them for their services.

**Pino Pugliano, 1015 Snyder Drive** – Mr. Pugliano questioned whether the Supervisors had a chance since the last meeting to discuss whether he could open up a store in his barn Mr. Potts stated two were okay, with some conditions, two were not in favor and one did not respond.

Dr. Wagner explained his concerns which were that this is a very residential/rural neighborhood and not conducive for business. Several years ago, a landscaper wanted to do a small retail nursery on Snyder Drive and the Supervisors turned it down for the same type of reasons. Last year on Cross Keys Road, someone wanted to put in a small business, and it was turned down because it was not conducive to the area.

Mr. Pugliano explained what they would like to do with their property.

After discussion, Dr. Wagner moved that if Pugliano's would apply for a variance, the Supervisors send the Attorney to the hearing, seconded by Mr. Thompson. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. **NO:** Mr. Eveland and Mr. Tobias. Motion carried.

### **ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS**

**Discussion/Approval of Salt Emergency Declaration Resolution** – Mr. Potts reported that Mr. Hinkle declared the emergency due to the region wide road salt shortage and also signed the declaration. This was done so that the township could continue to purchase salt outside the bid process. Mr. Thompson moved to approve the Salt Emergency Declaration Resolution, seconded by Mr. Tobias. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

### **TOWNSHIP MANAGER**

Mr. Potts reported that in order to facilitate the PennState Health Cath Lab Grant, that the township's Fidelity Bond coverage must be at an insured level of \$200,000.00 and we are only insured for \$100,000.00. The estimated cost for this would be around \$100.00 a month.

Mr. Thompson questioned if this additional coverage was just for the grant and the answer was yes. Mr. Tobias asked if PennState Health would be willing to reimburse the township for additional coverage from PennState Health. Mr. Potts will check with PennState Health to see if they are willing to pay for the additional coverage.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY & SERVICES**

**Greenfields Fire Company** – Dylan Heckman read the monthly report and noted it was sent to the township just before the meeting.

**Discussion of Greenfields Fire Company Performance** – Mrs. Reed provided information on the reports that the Fire Company sent to the Supervisors regarding calls that have been received for the past eight weeks.

Chief Royce stated it is the responsibility of the Chief to run all calls.

Mr. Potts also referred to the number of people who responded to calls and covering shifts who did not meet the four minimum training requirements and people that did not appear at 50% of the trainings.

Mrs. Reed also noted that back in October a letter was sent to Chief Royce asking for a list of equipment and volunteers. As of this date the township has not received the lists.

According to information posted on the IRS website a 990 form for the IRS Non-Profit has not been sent in for the last four (4) years to the IRS by the Social Quarters or the Fire Station, so neither place has a Non-Profit status. Mr. Potts reported that they do have forms from the Fire Station, but not the Social Quarters.

According to Section 5A of the Fire Service Agreement that has been signed, the Supervisors are required to give 30-day notice to discontinue the agreement. A letter was sent to the Fire Company giving them the 30-day notice that they were not going to continue with the agreement. Chief Royce expressed his feelings that the Fire Company has not really been given a chance since it has only been two months.

After lengthy discussion, Mrs. Reed asked if any member of the Supervisors Board want to continue with the agreement after April.

Kevin Hinkle, Emergency Management Coordinator, gave reports for the last nine (9) years regarding the Fire Company. Mr. Hinkle also expressed his concerns as Emergency Management Coordinator for Bern Township, but also as a resident of Bern Township in regard to the Fire Company.

Dr. Wagner thanked Mr. Hinkle for his report and he said it was time to move on.

Mrs. Reed stated that they wanted to make an informed decision on everything that has been turned in by the Fire Company. Chief Royce stated that they have been improving on things that the Supervisors wanted to see.

Mr. Eveland expressed his feelings on how the Fire Company is being run.

Mrs. Hinkle stated that the Manager sent out a letter to residents outlining the multiple attempts to resolve this since 2016. Mrs. Hinkle asked the Supervisors to make a definitive decision on this tonight.

Mr. Hinkle asked Atty. Mooney if the Fire Department works at the pleasure of the Township. The answer was yes, and, in the agreement, it states that the Supervisors have to give 30 days' notice that they are terminating the agreement and that was done.

Mr. Hill asked if the agreement is terminated what fire protection will the residents have.

Mr. Potts responded that the residents would have fire protection through Mutual Aid and there will be an agreement in the future with another fire company. Mrs. Reed stated that the Supervisors have talked to several people, including the people at the State level and their response is to decertify the Fire Company.

Mr. Chirstopher Becker, resident of the Township stated that he has been on a board that had to make the same decision, due to the same problem with their Volunteer Fire Company and they had to do the same thing as the Supervisors are discussing.

**Discussion/Approval of Fire Service Emergency Declaration Resolution** – Mr. Thompson moved that the Supervisors approve the Fire Service Emergency Resolution, seconded by Mr. Tobias. Dr. Wagner asked if this was for the decertification of the Greenfields Fire Company. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

**Discussion/Approval to Ratify Advertising Ordinance Amending & Restating Chapter 15 of the Bern Township Code** – This allows the board to ratify fire companies by resolution instead of ordinance. Mr. Thompson moved to ratify advertising the ordinance Amending & Reinstating Chapter 15 of the Bern Township Code, seconded by Mr. Tobias. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

**Discussion/Approval of Ordinance Amending & Restating Chapter 15 of the Bern Township Code** – Mr. Thompson moved to approve the Ordinance Amending & Restating Chapter 15 of the Bern Township Code, seconded by Mr. Tobias. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

**Discussion/Approval of Fire Protection Assignment Resolution** – This notes how we are going to take care of Fire Protection going forward. Mr. Thompson moved that the Supervisors approve the Fire Protection Assignment Resolution, seconded by Mr. Tobias. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

**Discussion/Approval of Fire Protection Services Agreement** – This is the agreement for the Fire Protection. Mr. Thompson moved to approve the Fire Protection Services Agreement, seconded by Mr. Tobias. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

#### **Emergency Medical Services**

Western Berks – Received report.

Northern Berks – No report

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#### **Emergency Management**

The Supervisors have a copy of the report.

Mr. Hinkle reported that he had a very good discussion with FirstNET, from AT&T. Will be using them for Emergency Management purposes, not only for Bern Township but for the Blue Marsh Regional EMA.

Someone in the audience asked who was going to respond to calls for fires and emergency medical services. Mr. Potts stated that right now it will be mutual aid. Atty. Mooney stated that right now it will still be Greenfields and after 30 days it will be Muhlenberg.

#### **Police Department**

Sgt. Seidel read the monthly report.

**Discussion/Approval to send Sergeant to “Acting in Rank” Training** – Mr. Thompson moved to sending Sergeant Seidel to Acting in Rank Training, seconded by Mr. Tobias. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

**Discussion/Approval to Monetary Donation from IM Able Foundation** – The Police Department received a \$500.00 donation from IM Able Foundation for police services provided back in November.

Mr. Thompson moved that the \$500.00 donation be put into the Police Equipment Fund, seconded by Mr. Tobias. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

**Discussion/Approval to Accept Wyncote Foundation Grant** – Mr. Potts stated that this is a \$60,000.00 plus grant from Wyncote Foundation for the purchase of a new police vehicle.

Mr. Eveland moved to accept the grant from Wyncote Foundation for the purchase of a new police vehicle, seconded by Mr. Thompson. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

#### **PLANNING/ZONING/CODE ENFORCEMENT**

**ENGINEER** – The Supervisors have a copy of the monthly report.

#### **PLANNING COMMISSION**

**Discussion/Approval of Building H Escrow Release** – Mr. Morey recommended that \$241,630.00 be released, leaving a \$0.00 balance. Mr. Thompson moved that the Supervisors approve the release of \$241,630.00 be released, leaving a \$0.00 balance in their account seconded by Mr. Tobias. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

#### **Time Extensions**

None

**CODE ENFORCEMENT** - The Supervisors have copies of the report.

**STORMWATER MANAGEMENT** – Nothing to report.

**ROADS** – The Supervisors have copies of the report.

**SEWER/WATER/BERN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY**

**BTMA Monthly Report** – Nothing to report.

**Discussion/Approval to Assign Bernville Business Center to BTMA** – This is located behind Dubble's Motors. Mr. Thompson moved to assign the Bernville Business Center project to BTMA, seconded by Mr. Tobias. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

**SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION** – Nothing to report.

**ADMINISTRATION**

**Next Meeting** – The next meeting of the Bern Township Board of Supervisors will be held on April 1, 2025, at 7:00 PM.

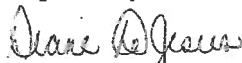
**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

An Executive Session will be held to discuss a personnel matter and there will be no vote taken.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Diane DeJesus, Secretary/Treasurer