

**TOWNSHIP OF BERN
BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

May 7, 2024

SUPERVISORS MEETING

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

STAFF PRESENT: Brian Potts, Township Manager
Diane DeJesus, Secretary/Treasurer
Brett Forry, Chief of Police
Timothy Dietrich, Esquire
Kent Morey, Engineer
Bradley Pflum, Codes Enforcement

CALL TO ORDER-PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Wagner moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented, which included the minutes of the April 2, 2024, Supervisors Meeting, and to accept the finance report, subject to audit and approval of payment of bills on the list, seconded by Mr. Thompson. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

FINANCE REPORT

Balances as of May 7, 2024: General Fund: \$3,656,985.79, State Account: \$615,163.73, PLGIT: \$73,150.03, Certificate of Deposits: \$569,506.17, Expenses: \$87,741.53. Treasurer's Report accepted subject to audit.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jane Brady spoke about a street sweeping issue that occurred in the Willows and wants the streets to be posted prior to street sweeping to allow residents to move their vehicles. Ms. Brady also informed the Board of a situation that occurred with a road crew employee. Mrs. Reed stated that the Township has hired a road crew foreman who will be addressing these situations and Mr. Potts provided an update on the status of the street sweeper.

PUBLIC HEARING

C&B Development Conditional Use Hearing

Mrs. Reed called a Conditional Use Hearing for C&B Development at 7:08 p.m., which was conducted by Atty. Josele Cleary. The minutes were taken by a court appointed stenographer. Mrs. Reed reconvened the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Discussion / Approval of C&B Conditional Use Application with Conditions-

Dr. Wagner made a motion to close the record and to take the matter under advisement until the next Supervisors' Meeting; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

ORDINANCES/ RESOLUTIONS

Discussion/Approval of ARP Expenditure Resolution for Police Department Addition/ Renovation- Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the ARP Expenditure Resolution for the Police Department building addition and renovation; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Mr. Potts provided his report to the Board and informed them the newsletter has been mailed. He also provided an update of the building construction progress.

PUBLIC SAFETY & SERVICES

Fire Company

A report was received from Greenfields Fire Company. Mr. Brent Wisniewski from Greenfields Fire Company also provided a verbal report to the Board. A report was also received from Mt. Pleasant.

Emergency Medical Services

Northern Berks provided their report.

Emergency Management

Mr. Hinkle provided his report to the Board.

Police Department

Chief Forry provided his report to the Board.

Discussion / Approval to Assign Fire Police to the National Night Out Event on August 6, 2024- Chief Forry requested a motion to approve Fire Police assistance for National Night Out on August 6, 2024. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve Fire Police assistance for National Night Out on August 6, 2024; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion / Approval to Assign Fire Police to the Fire Fighters Memorial Ride on June 22, 2024- Chief Forry requested a motion to approve Fire Police assistance for the Fire Fighters Memorial Ride on June 22, 2024. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve Fire Police assistance for the Fire Fighters Memorial Ride on June 22, 2024; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval to Send Officer to Commercial Vehicle Crash Training- Chief Forry requested a motion to send Officer Vincent Mazza to Commercial Vehicle Crash training on August 30, 2024. There is no cost for this training. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the training; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

PLANNING/ZONING/CODE ENFORCEMENT

Engineer

Mr. Kent Morey provided his report to the Board and informed them that there may be a change in his report concerning S&L Mechanical and the trip generation fee.

Planning Commission

Discussion/Approval of Penske District Services Facility (Hartman Farm) Municipal Improvements Agreement- Mr. Potts stated that the agreement is not ready yet.

Discussion / Approval of Greater Reading Chamber Alliance Stormwater Agreement- Mr. Potts stated the agreement is not ready yet.

Time Extensions

None required.

Code Enforcement

Mr. Pflum provided his report to the Board.

Discussion/Approval to Refund Commercial Building Project Residue to Nathan's

Exclusive Remodeling- Mr. Potts stated the amount left from a commercial building project for Suburban Testing Labs is \$2,779.32. Mr. Thompson made a motion to refund the residue to the applicant: Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

MS4 Stormwater Report

No report.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Mr. Potts stated that the 2024 Road Project is ready and a notice to proceed has been issued. Mr. Potts also gave an update on Bobby Turner's training progress.

Discussion/Approval to Initiate Hiring Process for Road Crew Member- Mr. Potts informed the board that \$3,300.00 of the \$8,500.00 budgeted amount to hire a road foreman had been expended. Mr. Potts requested a motion to approve using the remaining budgeted funds to utilize the same hiring service to hire a road crew member conditioned on the fee remaining \$100.00 per hour and to not exceed the total budgeted amount of \$8,500.00. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve using the remainder of the budgeted funds to use the hiring service to hire a road crew member contingent on the fee remaining \$100.00 per hour and not exceeding the remainder of the budgeted funds; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

SEWER/ WATER/ BERN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

Mrs. Reed announced that Mr. Charles Koch resigned from the BTMA Board.

Discussion/Approval to Accept Chuck Koch Resignation- Mr. Potts requested a motion to accept Mr. Koch's resignation from the BTMA Board. Dr. Wagner made a motion to accept Mr. Koch's resignation; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried. Mr. Potts will send Mr. Koch a thank you letter. BTMA will begin seeking a replacement to fill the vacant position.

Discussion/Approval to Refund Septic System Permit Application Fee to Richard Mulholland- Mr. Potts requested a motion to approve refunding the remaining \$1,470.00 septic permit fee to Mr. Mulholland because he is no longer purchasing the property. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the septic permit fee refund; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION

No report.

ADMINISTRATION

Discussion of CD Maturing on May 28, 2024- Mr. Potts stated that the large CD will mature on 5/28/24. Rates will be obtained and discussed at the next meeting.

Discussion/Approval of Ridge Support Quotation for Network Switch & Firewall- Mr. Potts informed the Board that a network switch and firewall are required for the VoIP phone and security system upgrades. Ridge Support quoted \$144.00 per month. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the Ridge Support quotation; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval to Purchase Furniture for Police Department- Mr. Potts stated that the cost to purchase office furniture for the Chief's Office, Detective's Office and the Patrol Sergeant Room is \$7,190.66. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the office furniture purchase; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval of Purcell Construction Change Order Request #5- Mr. Potts stated this change order request is for replacement of a storm drain that came out in pieces during excavation. The cost of a new precast storm drain is \$765.00. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the Purcell Construction Change Order Request #5; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval of M&M Facility Services Change Order Request #2- Mr. Potts stated this change order request is to re-pipe the baseboards in the primary office because they were not piped from the manager's office as originally suspected. He recommended approval based on time and materials not to exceed \$8,136.93. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the M&M Facility Services Change Order Request #2; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval of M&M Facility Change Order Request #3- Mr. Potts stated this change order is to combine phase 4 of the project to one and the credit amount is \$0. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the M&M Facility Change Order Request #3; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval of VoIP Phone Purchase- Mr. Potts went over the quotes from Frontier and Phone America and informed the Board that Frontier's pricing is lower with a total of \$325.84 per month. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the Frontier VoIP purchase; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 4, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Reed temporarily adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m. for an executive session to discuss appointing special council for a labor issue. The meeting reconvened at 8:50 p.m.

Discussion/Approval to Appoint Special Counsel for Labor Issue- Dr. Wagner made a motion to appoint Kozloff Stoudt as special counsel for a labor issue; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Reed adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane DeJesus
Secretary/ Treasurer