

**TOWNSHIP OF BERN
BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

July 2, 2024

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
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 June 4, 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 July 2, 2024: General Fund: \$3,584,097.71, State Account: \$620,080.66, PLGIT: \$73,484.81, Certificate of Deposits: \$595,929.45, Expenses: \$73,753.75. Treasurer's Report accepted subject to audit.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kyle Wennell, Cross Keys Road resident, spoke about the issues taking place at the bridge on Cross Keys Road. Mr. Wennell presented photos of signage at Jim Dietrich Park prohibiting

fires, cooking, coolers, and alcoholic beverages and suggested that posting the area with similar signs might solve some of the problems occurring there. Atty. Dietrich mentioned that signs like this could not be enforced by Bern Township because the Township does not own the land like Muhlenberg owns Jim Dietrich Park.

Mr. Potts spoke about Schuylkill River Greenways and potential future plans they have for the area. Mr. Potts stated he would like to see the area remain open as well. He also mentioned that police reports do not reflect noise issues.

Sgt. Seidel stated that the majority of the complaints coming in are noise complaints and they have either been managed or unfounded.

Deb Yeakley, Riverside Drive resident, stated that because she lives directly across from the area, and she can actually hear the music in her home. Mr. Potts asked her to provide a recording to the Township. Ms. Yeakley also expressed sanitation concerns because there are not any bathroom facilities, as well as concerns over increased traffic and a Facebook Page called Cross Keys Beach Leisure Area. She also stated that people have started creating a dam in the river with rocks. Mrs. Reed asked her to video the river being dammed.

Bill Callahan, owner of the building located at 6 Riverside Drive, asked questions about public gatherings. Mr. Callahan also mentioned he spoke with the state police, and they told him that the Township needed to contact them for involvement in the situation.

Dr. Wagner stated that a concrete plan needs to be developed.

Sgt. Seidel spoke about Mine Reclamation and PennDOT going back and forth upon who has authority.

Concerns over campfires and burning 200 acres of forest were expressed.

Alice Hinkle, Cathy Drive resident, would like to involve a state representative.

Mr. Eveland asked about the possibility of leasing the land and if that happened would the Township have control. Atty. Dietrich said yes. He said an ordinance could then be created, but it would still need to be enforced.

Sgt. Seidel spoke about the riparian buffer being considered an easement.

Mrs. Reed and Mr. Potts encouraged people to gather more evidence on the issues.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Mr. Potts provided an update on the building construction progress. He also mentioned people should avoid travel in the area on Aviation Road, Leisch's Bridge Road, Arnold Road, and Van Reed Road on September 21, 2024, because there will be lane closures for an event being held by the IM Able Foundation.

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 the Mt. Pleasant and Union Fire Companies.

Emergency Medical Services

Western Berks provided their report.

Emergency Management

Mr. Hinkle provided his report to the Board.

Police Department

Discussion / Approval to Ratify Memorandum of Understand with Berks Career and Technology Center- Sgt. Seidel requested a motion to ratify the MOU with BCTC. Mr. Thompson made a motion to ratify the MOU with BCTC; Mr. Eveland seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval to Assign Fire Police to the IM Able Event on September 21, 2024- Sgt. Seidel requested a motion to assign fire police to the IM Able Event on September 21,2024. Mr. Thompson made a motion to assign fire police for the IM Able Event on September 21,2024; Mr. Eveland seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Engineer

Mr. Kent Morey provided his report to the Board and informed them that he was collaborating directly with the engineers for the SunCap Landscaping Plan, Stinson LLC 2 Lot Subdivision, and the Penske District Services Facility(Hartman Farm) to resolve any issues.

Planning Commission

Discussion/Approval of Discussion / Approval of Cartway and Right-of-Way Widening Waiver, Section 154-24.A(12), for the Reitnauer Subdivision Plan- Mr. Potts stated that the Planning Commission recommended approval of the waiver. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the Cartway and Right-of-Way Widening Waiver, Section 154-24.A(12), for the Reitnauer Subdivision Plan; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval of Discussion / Approval of Road Curbing Waiver, Section 152-8.K and 154-32.C, for the Reitnauer Subdivision Plan- Mr. Potts stated that the Planning Commission recommended approval of the waiver. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the

Road Curbing Waiver, Section 152-8.K and 154-32.C, for the Reitnouer Subdivision Plan; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval of the Reading Behavioral Health Stormwater Agreement- Mr. Potts stated Atty. Mooney prepared the agreement. Mr. Morey asked if there was a final plan date in the agreement. Mr. Potts recommended the Board approve the agreement conditioned on the solicitor entering the appropriate missing information. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the Reading Behavioral Health Stormwater Agreement with conditions; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias and Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval of Penske District Services Facility (Hartman Farm) Municipal Improvements Agreement- Mr. Potts recommended approval subject to the solicitor and engineer's review and the developer entering missing information. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the Penske District Services Facility(Hartman Farm) Municipal Improvements Agreement with conditions YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. NO: Mr. Tobias. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval of Penske District Services Facility (Hartman Farm) Stormwater Agreement- Mr. Potts recommended approval subject to the solicitor and engineer's review and the developer entering missing information. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the Penske District Services Facility(Hartman Farm) Stormwater Agreement with conditions YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. NO: Mr. Tobias. Motion carried.

Time Extensions

None required.

Code Enforcement

Mr. Pflum provided his report to the Board.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

MS4 Stormwater Report

Mr. Potts stated a camera inspection of the stormwater line at Arnold Road has been completed, but the results are not finalized.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Mr. Turner provided his report to the Board.

Discussion/Approval to Close West Leesport Road for a Pipe Replacement Project- Mr. Potts requested a motion to approve closing West Leesport Road for a one-day pipe replacement project on July 23,2024 weather permitting. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the road

closure; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval to Close Rick Road for a Pipe Replacement Project- Mr. Potts requested a motion to approve closing Rick Road for a one-day pipe replacement project on July 9, 2024 weather permitting. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the road closure; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval to Hire Road Crew Member- Mr. Potts recommended hiring Kevin Gray for the road crew. Mr. Eveland made a motion to approve hiring Kevin Gray for the road crew; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

SEWER/ WATER/ BERN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

Discussion/Approval to Assign the Reitnouer Subdivision Project to BTMA- Mr. Potts requested a motion to assign the Reitnouer Subdivision Project to BTMA. Dr. Wagner made a motion to assign the Reitnouer Subdivision Project to BTMA; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION

No report.

ADMINISTRATION

Discussion/Approval of Purcell Construction Change Order Request #6- Mr. Potts stated the \$3,768 change order request is for relocating the sanitary sewer line. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the Purcell Construction Change Order Request #6; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval of Purcell Change Order Request #7- Mr. Potts stated the \$2,480.00 change order request is for remediation of the old septic tank. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the Purcell Construction Change Order Request #7; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval of Purcell Change Order Request #8- Mr. Potts stated the \$982.00 change order request is a credit. Mr. Eveland made a motion to approve the Purcell Construction Change Order Request #8; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval of Keystone Fire and Security Change Order Request #1- Mr. Potts stated the \$4,477.00 change order request is to capture more camera area, add an additional 25 key fobs and a camera in the road foreman's office. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the Keystone Fire and Security Change Order Request #1; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval to Accept Quotation for Window Treatment- Mr. Potts requested a motion to accept a \$4,300.00 quotation for blinds in the police department and administration office. Mr. Thompson made a motion to accept the quotation for window treatments; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval to Accept Electrical Bid for Yard Waste Expansion- Topic will be discussed at next month's meeting.

Discussion/Approval to Accept Fencing and Gate Bid for Yard Waste Expansion- Mr. Potts requested a motion to accept a \$33,983.00 bid for fencing and a gate at the yard waste facility. Mr. Thompson made a motion to accept the bid for the fencing and gate; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval to Accept Security System Bid for Yard Waste Expansion- Mr. Potts requested a motion to accept a \$31,312.06 bid for a security system at the yard waste facility. Mr. Thompson made a motion to accept the bid for the security system; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: Monday, August 5, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at Bern Evangelical Lutheran Church located at 820 W. Leesport Road.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Tobias made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m.; Mr. Eveland seconded.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An executive session was held after the meeting to discuss a personnel matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane DeJesus
Secretary/ Treasurer