

**TOWNSHIP OF BERN
BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

August 5, 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
Chief Brett Forry, Police
Keith Mooney, Esquire
Kent Morey, Engineer

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 July 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 August 5, 2024: General Fund: \$3,452,063.32, State Account: \$449,952.25, PLGIT: \$73,810.21, Certificate of Deposits: \$595,929.45, Expenses: \$132,057.19. Treasurer's Report accepted subject to audit.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gerik Bensing, 1411 Cross Keys Road, asked if the Township could reopen the "Cross Keys Beach" area of riverfront access for people kayaking and tubing. Mr. Potts explained that

government needs to be consistent to be fair. Mr. Potts also stated that next year different options will be looked into, but the situation had become difficult with Blue Marsh being located on the opposite side of the Township and the police department having to deal with both areas. Gerik Bensing mentioned that Jim Dietrich Park only allows boats. He also expressed his opinion on the signage and yellow caution tape placed in the area. Chief Forry mentioned that the caution tape will eventually be removed, but that the state had put up the signs.

Heather Hanna, PA State House candidate from Legislative District 5, introduced herself.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Mr. Potts provided an update on 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 the Mt. Pleasant.

Emergency Medical Services

Western Berks provided their report.

Emergency Management

Mr. Hinkle provided his report to the Board.

Police Department

Chief Forry recognized Officer Peter O'Brien for his heroic efforts during a structure fire on Penn-Bern Road. Officer O'Brien kicked in a door and saved a sleeping resident from the structure.

Discussion / Approval to Remove Detective from Probation- Chief Forry requested a motion to approve removing Det. Joshua Santos from probation. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve removing Det. Santos from probation; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval to Send Assistant Fire Marshall to Training- Chief Forry requested a motion to approve Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve sending the Assistant Fire Marshall to training; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval to Ratify Hiring Process for a Police Officer- Chief Forry requested a motion to approve ratifying the hiring process of a police officer. Dr. Wagner made a motion to

ratify the hiring process of a police officer; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval to Purchase a 2024 Dodge Durango- Chief Forry requested a motion to approve the purchase of a leftover 2024 Dodge Durango for the Police Department. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve purchasing a leftover 2024 Dodge Durango; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval to Purchase Armory Room Equipment- Chief Forry requested a motion to approve purchasing armory room equipment for \$1,945.96. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve purchasing armory room equipment; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval of Subscription to Camera Service- Chief Forry requested a motion to approve subscribing to a camera service for \$1,680.00. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the camera subscription service; Mr. Tobias seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval to Accept BCIDA Request for Traffic Enforcement on Aviation Road- Chief Forry requested a motion to approve accepting BCIDA's request for traffic enforcement on Aviation Road. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve accepting BCIDA's request for traffic enforcement on Aviation Road; Mr. Tobias 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.

Planning Commission

Discussion/Approval of Discussion / Approval of Plan Scale Waiver, Section 154-19.A(2), for the Lookout Subdivision Plan- Mr. Potts stated that the Planning Commission recommended approval of the waiver. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the Plan Scale Waiver, Section 154-19.A(2), for the Lookout Subdivision Plan; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion / Approval of the Lookout Subdivision Preliminary Plan- Mr. Potts stated that the Planning Commission recommended approval of the plan subject to the July 3, 2020, SSM review letter. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the Lookout Subdivision Preliminary Plan subject to the July 3, 2024, SSM review letter; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion / Approval of the Building H Escrow Release- Mr. Potts stated Mr. Morey's analysis recommends \$1,152,650.00 be released leaving a balance of \$385,130.00. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the Building H Escrow Release; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion / Approval of the S&L Mechanical Escrow Release- Mr. Potts stated Mr. Morey's analysis recommends \$133,196.10 be released leaving a balance of \$38,971.00. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the S&L Escrow Release Escrow Release; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Time Extensions

Penske Truck Collision & Repair Preliminary Land Development Plan (8/12/24)- The Penske Truck Collision & Repair Preliminary Land Development Plan expires August 12, 2024. Dr. Wagner moved that if an extension of time has not been granted by the applicant, prior to August 12, 2024, that the plan be rejected for the reasons set forth in the latest Engineering review letter; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

C&B Development Preliminary Land Development Plan (8/12/24)- The C&B Preliminary Land Development Plan expires August 12, 2024. Dr. Wagner moved that if an extension of time has not been granted by the applicant, prior to May 13, 2024, that the plan be rejected for the reasons set forth in the latest Engineering review letter; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Code Enforcement

Mr. Pflum provided his report to the Board. A representative from LTL Consultants was in attendance.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

MS4 Stormwater Report

Mr. Potts informed the Board that the person who is reviewing the grant application for the Mayo Drive stormwater facilities has been asking a lot of questions, which he sees as an encouraging sign that the grant may be approved.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Mr. Turner provided his report to the Board.

Discussion/Approval to Purchase Road Saw- Mr. Turner requested a motion to approve the purchase of a road saw. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the road saw purchase; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval to Purchase Jumping Jack Compactor- Mr. Turner requested a motion to approve the purchase of a jumping jack compactor. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the jumping jack compactor purchase; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

SEWER/ WATER/ BERN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

Discussion/Approval of 1458 Blessing Lane Well Waiver- Mr. Potts requested a motion to approve a well waiver request for 1458 Blessing Lane. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the well waiver for 1458 Blessing Lane; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Mr. Potts stated that contracts for the yard waste facility are still being arranged.

ADMINISTRATION

Discussion/Approval of Purcell Construction Change Order Request #9- Mr. Potts stated the \$500.00 change order request is a credit for line painting. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the Purcell Construction Change Order Request #9; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval of Hirneisen Change Order Request #3- Mr. Potts stated the \$2,055.00 change order request is because the garage overhead door motors were fed through the disconnected emergency generation. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the Hirneisen Change Order Request #3; Mr. Thompson 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- Mr. Potts requested a motion to accept a \$13,320.00 electrical bid from Hirneisen Electric for the yard waste facility. Mr. Potts also informed the Board that the grant will cover all but \$720.00 of the expense. Dr. Wagner made a motion to accept the bid from Hirneisen Electric; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval to Accept Billing Software Program Bid- Mr. Potts requested a motion to accept a \$8,550.00 bid for billing software to activate and deactivate access cards to residents for the yard waste facility. Mr. Potts stated that the grant will cover all but \$900.00 and that the initial access card cost will be \$20.00 and then \$10.00 yearly. Dr. Wagner made a motion to accept the billing software program bid; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval to Accept IT Bid for Computer & Monitor- This will be discussed at next month's meeting.

Discussion/Approval of Health Insurance Policy with Respect to Act 59- Mr. Potts explained this is legally required to pass a policy and resolution. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the health insurance policy with respect to Act 59; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Ag Security Applications are Being Accepted in August.

Discussion of October Meeting Location-Mr. Potts informed the Board that the Bern Evangelical Lutheran Church has a conflict that results in the location being unavailable for the October Supervisors Meeting. Mr. Potts also stated that the Reading Airport has offered their Boarding Lounge for no cost. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve changing the location to the Reading Airport for the October meeting; Mr. Tobias seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Deb Yeakley, Ontelaunee Township resident, thanked the police department and the Township for their help in resolving the issues at Cross Keys Beach.

Robert Beissel from Ontelaunee Township expressed his opinion on Cross Keys Beach.

Alice Hinkle, Bern Township resident, stated since the location is state owned Bern Township and Ontelaunee residents need to engage State Representatives. Ms. Hinkle also thanked the Supervisors and police department.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 3, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at Bern Evangelical Lutheran Church located at 820 W. Leesport Road.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Thompson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.; Dr. Wagner seconded. seconded.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An executive session was held after the meeting to discuss a personnel matter. No action was taken.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane DeJesus
Secretary/ Treasurer