

BERN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting of Bern Township Municipal Authority

January 22, 2025

ATTENDEES: Jay Field, Treasurer; Fred Gurman, Chairman; Irene Reed, Secretary; Danielle Pappas, Asst. Secretary; Gloria Heffner, Asst. Treasurer; Solicitor, Dan Becker, Kozloff Stoudt; Kevin Conrad, Engineer, SSM Group

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Gurman, Chairman at 11:12 AM.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS: Ms. Reed made a motion to amend the agenda to authorize SSM's services to do the Chapter 94 Reports. Seconded by Ms. Pappas. **VOTE:** Yes – Mr. Field, Mr. Gurman, Ms. Heffner, Ms. Reed, Ms. Pappas. Motion Carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: William Bundy attended the meeting but did not speak. He was present to observe the process of the meeting.

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 18TH, 2024: Ms. Reed made a motion to approve the monthly minutes of the December 18th, 2024 Meeting. Seconded by Ms. Pappas. Motion Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Approval was needed for payment of application #4 for \$88,330.15 to Barrasso Excavation Inc. for the West Shore and Water District A pump station.

Ms. Reed made a motion to authorize the payment of application #4 in the amount of \$88,330.15 to Barrasso Excavation Inc. Seconded by Mr. Field. **VOTE:** Yes – Mr. Field, Mr. Gurman, Ms. Heffner, Ms. Reed, Ms. Pappas. Motion Carried

Mr. Field presented the water bill list for January in the amount of \$43,599.21 consisting of \$31,615.00 to WBWA; \$1,657.32 to Twiford Electrical for heater at the Stinson PS; and \$6,533.94 to RAWA.

Mr. Field made a motion to pay the January water bills as presented. Seconded by Ms. Reed. **VOTE:** Yes – Mr. Field, Mr. Gurman, Ms. Heffner, Ms. Reed, Ms. Pappas. Motion Carried.

Mr. Field presented the sewer bill list for January in the amount of \$179,390.84 consisting of \$40,349.40 to City of Reading for the quarterly T&T payment; \$88,330.15 to Barrasso for the payment application #4; \$5,148.32 to SSM of which \$961.00 will be reimbursed by developers; \$37,121.20 to Axiom Inc. for the BWR pump repairs; and \$1,822.06 to Miller Environmental for reg. billing and additional call outs.

Mr. Gurman made a motion to pay the January sewer bills as presented. Seconded by Ms. Pappas. **VOTE:** Yes – Mr. Field, Mr. Gurman, Ms. Heffner, Ms. Reed, Ms. Pappas. Motion Carried.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: BTMA has not received a grant reimbursement as of yet. Mr. Field is recommending purchasing a \$240,000 CD at the highest rate possible, funded from the ICS account until the grant money is received.

Mr. Field made a motion to purchase a \$240,000 Sewer CD at the highest rate possible for 12 mo.'s. Seconded by Ms. Reed. **VOTE:** Yes – Mr. Field, Mr. Gurman, Ms. Heffner, Ms. Reed, Ms. Pappas. Motion Carried.

A review of the actual vs. budget items for the water side for 2024 was presented by Mr. Field. An increase in income was mainly due to higher interest earned on several accounts and higher usage of some customers. There was also an increase in expenses mainly due to water main break repairs which are always hard to predict.

Mr. Field would like to close the PLGIT account since BTMA has very little funds deposited and they are not FDIC insured. BTMA will look into why the account was opened and if there is a reason why it should remain open.

PROJECT COMMITTEE: RRAA – Tenant Advisory Committee Report – Mr. Gurman reported that the Airport Authority is receiving the new flow numbers from the pump stations and the Engineer reported that the few numbers he has received, the flows are much lower and mirror the water usage totals. The BTMA bill to RRAA should come down significantly.

PERSONNEL: None

ENGINEER: Pump Stations Update – Change Order #4 for a change in sizing of the pipe from 8” to 10” and change order #5 for a change in the width of the driveway to 9 ft. need approval.

Ms. Reed made a motion to approve Change Orders #4 & #5. Seconded by Mr. Field. **VOTE:** Yes – Mr. Field, Mr. Gurman, Ms. Heffner, Ms. Reed, Ms. Pappas. Motion Carried.

There were some ragging issues at the 222 PS and some problems with pump failures due to the circuit breaker going out. The amperage could be the problem, next time the pump goes the amperage will be checked.

Barrasso has asked if BTMA would lower the percentage of retainage which is now at 5%. The retainage is around \$21,000. After some discussion, the Board agreed 5% retainage is fair and will not lower it.

C&B Development Warehouse – There is nothing new on the original C&B Project. C&B is looking at another project behind Dubble’s German Motors on Bernville Rd. The name of this project is the Bernville Business Center.

Penske District Services Facility (Hartman South) – Mr. Conrad recommends Kappe Assoc. do an inspection before BTMA takes over the Hospital’s pump station. There were several items that need to be addressed which are in the Engineer’s report and will be part of Kappe’s inspection.

Valve Vault for Bern West Ridge P.S. – The valve vault has been installed.

Penske Truck Collision and Repair Center – SSM was to do a fire flow test but due to the cold weather it has been pushed back to when the weather is above freezing.

Reitnouer Property on Stinson – Revised plans were received a day prior to the meeting. They will be reviewed before the February meeting.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT: LBA Agreement –The BTMA group met at the Kozloff Stoudt offices and started to review the agreement line by line. The next meeting will be Feb. 3rd at 8:30 AM.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: 1067 West Leesport was bought as part of a parcel by Reading One Three LLC which is Crossroads Bottling who plan to build a warehouse. There is both water and sewer at this location, a representative of the company wants to abandon the connection but they will need the connections if they want water and sewer service to the warehouse.

Mr. Gurman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:17 PM. Seconded by Ms. Pappas. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Irene Reed
Secretary