

TOWNSHIP OF BERN
BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

November 4, 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
Keith Mooney, Esquire
Bobby Turner, Road Foreman
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

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

FINANCE REPORT

Balances as of November 4, 2024, General Fund: \$2,882,370.91 State Account: \$455,458.33
PLGIT: \$75,055.99, Certificate of Deposits: \$597,313.27, Expenses: \$79,638.80. Treasurer's Report accepted subject to audit.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Alice Hinkle, 1032 Cathy Drive, Leesport, PA commended the Police Department for their presence on Halloween night and also at Trunk or Treat Night at Reading Behavioral Health. Ms. Hinkle also thanked the Road Crew for the outstanding job they did collecting leaves.

Beth Burkovitch, 1076 West Leesport Road, had a question regarding the yard waste site and the hours that it would be open. Mr. Potts stated that the hours are or will be posted Dawn to Dusk.

Leslie Fessler, 105 Charming Forge Road, Womelsdorf, PA 19567 – Ms. Fessler, a member of the Berks County Fair Board regarding the agreement that they have with the Township and how many events that they may have throughout the year. Mr. Potts stated that the ordinance states that Special Events are 2 uses per month for a total of 24 per year. Six (6) family-oriented events with 350 people or less and Fifteen (15) for farm related events are also allowed.

Dr. Wagner stated that the issue was not how many days, but the type of events that they wanted to hold. Atty. Mooney stated that the ordinance says 2 uses per month or a total of 24 events annually.

Representatives from the Fair Board stated that 4 events per month would work and asked if the ordinance could be changed.

Mr. Thompson questioned what events were allowed and Mr. Potts read what was allowed.

Ms. Hinkle questioned the traffic impact to the area and her concerns about the traffic impact on the area.

The Supervisors stated they would have to discuss this further, as far as the types of events that they would like to have, they will have to discuss this and get back to them.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

Discussion/Approval of Organic Yard Waste Collection Facility Ordinance – Mr. Potts stated that this ordinance establishes the regulations and the processes for the new Collection Facility. Dr. Wagner moved to approve the Organic Yard Waste Collection Facility Ordinance, seconded by Mr. Thompson. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. **NO:** Mr. Tobias. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval of Organic Yard Waste Facility Fee Resolution – The initial issuance charge is \$20.00 and the annual fee is \$10.00, replacement of lost or damaged access card \$20.00, appeal fee is \$50.00, and a bad check fee is \$35.00. Dr. Wagner moved to approve the Organic Yard Waste Facility Resolution, seconded by Mr. Thompson. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. **NO:** Mr. Tobias. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval of Sewage Enforcement Officer Update Resolution – Systems Design Engineering has added Kevin Bryer as one of our Sewage Enforcement Officers. Dr. Wagner moved that the Supervisors approved the Sewage Enforcement Officer Update Resolution, seconded by Mr. Thompson. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Mr. Potts reported that the township will be getting new phones on November 12th and also on the building project.

PUBLIC SAFETY & SERVICES

Fire Company

Greenfields Fire Company – No Report

Mt. Pleasant – Supervisors have their report.

Union Fire Company – Supervisors have their report.

Emergency Medical Service

Received report from Western Berks.

No report from Northern Berks.

Emergency Management

Supervisors have a copy of the report.

Mr. Potts reported that Mr. Hinkle asked that the Supervisors approve a resolution to institute a Burn Ban.

Dr. Wagner moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Thompson. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Police Department

Supervisors have a copy of the report.

Discussion/Approval to Remove Officer from Probationary Status – The Supervisors received a memo from Chief Forry requesting Hector Santiago be removed from his twelve-month probationary status to regular status.

Dr. Wagner moved that Hector Santiago be removed from probationary status to regular status, seconded by Mr. Thompson. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval to Remove Sergeant from Probationary Status – The Supervisors received a memo from Chief Forry requesting Sergeant Edwin Noll be removed from his twelve-month probationary status to regular status.

Mr. Thomson moved the Sergeant Edwin Noll be removed from his twelve-month probationary status to regular status, seconded by Dr. Wagner. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval to Update MOU with Berks County Youth Center – Mr. Potts reported that this is something new that they started this year and explained.

Mr. Thompson moved that the Supervisors approve the MOU with the Berks County Youth Center, seconded by Mr. Eveland. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval to Dispose of Old Dell PowerEdge R320 Server – Mr. Thompson moved that the Supervisors approve the disposal of the Old Dell PowerEdge R320 Server, seconded by Dr. Wagner. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval of Glock Armorer Training for Sergeant & Officer – Chief Forry requested approval to send Sergeant Seidel and Office Lengel to the Glock Armorer Training. The cost is \$250.00 per person. This will be covered by training in the budget.

Mr. Thompson moved that the Supervisors approve sending Sergeant Seidel and Officer Lengel to the Glock Armorer Training, seconded by Mr. Tobias. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Planning/Zoning/Code Enforcement

Engineer -The Supervisors received a copy of the report.

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission did not meet in October.

Time Extensions

Penske Truck Collision & Repair – Dr. Wagner moved that if a time extension has not been granted by the applicant, prior to the expiration date of November 12, 2024, that the plan be rejected for the reasons set forth in the latest Engineering review letter, seconded by Mr. Thompson. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Code Enforcement

The Supervisors have a copy of the report.

Discussion/Approval of Trinity Solar Building Permit Escrow Release – This is not ready to be released.

Stormwater Management

MS4 Stormwater Report – No report.

Roads

The Supervisors have a copy of the report.

Sewer/Water/Bern Township Municipal Authority

Nothing to report.

Solid Waste Advisory Commission

Mr. Potts reported that the Security contractor has finished all of his work at the Yard Waste Facility and also reported what has to be done.

Administration

Discussion/Approval to Ratify Garden Spot Change Order #2 – This is for the water heater that did not fit through the door, and we did get a credit for \$1800.00 from the Architect on his bill.

This change order from Garden Spot for \$1800.00 for the new water heater and it was purchased through the project contractor so that we get the same benefits as we did with the one that did not fit.

Mr. Thompson moved to approve Change Order #2 from Garden Sport, seconded by Dr. Wagner. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Mr. Potts stated that when the contract was signed, there were allowance costs factored into the prices. The next three items are credits.

Discussion/Approval to Ratify Purcell Change Order #6 – Mr. Thompson moved that we approve the credit of \$26,934.00 to the Contract, seconded by Dr. Wagner. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval to Ratify Garden Spot Change Order #3 – This is also a credit, and their change order is in the amount of \$4,880.00. Mr. Thompson moved that we approve the credit of \$4,880.00 to the Contract, seconded by Dr. Wagner. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval to Ratify M&M Facilities Change Order #3 – This is also a credit, and their change order is in the amount of \$22,550.00. Mr. Thompson moved that we approve the credit of \$22,550.00 to the Contract, seconded by Dr. Wagner. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval to Ratify Small CD Reinvestment – Riverfront Credit Union was the highest at 4.75%. Mr. Thompson moved to reinvest the small CD with Riverfront Credit Union, seconded by Dr. Wagner. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval to Advertise 2025 Budget – Mr. Thompson moved to approve the advertisement of the 2025 Budget, seconded by Dr. Wagner. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval to Send Solicitor to Zoning Hearing – This is for the Prison Road Short Term Rental or Air B&B. Mr. Thompson moved that the Attorney be sent to the Zoning Hearing on behalf of the Supervisors, objecting this type of use, seconded by Dr. Wagner. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Next Meeting – The next meeting will be December 3, 2024, at 7:00 PM at the Bern Township Municipal Building. Mrs. Reed thanked Mr. Becker and his colleagues for the use of the building.

Oliver Graeff asked if they will still be voting at Victory Baptist Church tomorrow and was told they would be still voting there.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Reed adjourned the meeting at 7:31 PM.

Executive Session:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Diane DeJesus, Secretary/Treasurer