

**TOWNSHIP OF BERN
BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

January 2, 2024

SUPERVISORS MEETING

SUPERVISORS PRESENT: Irene Reed, Chairman
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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An executive session was held prior to the meeting.

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 December 5, 2023, Supervisors Meeting, and to accept the finance report, subject to audit and approve 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 January 2, 2024: General Fund: \$2,287,989.54, State Account: \$299,259.25, PLGIT: \$71,506.67, Certificate of Deposits: \$569,506.17, Expenses: \$61,083.52. Treasurer's Report accepted subject to audit.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Thomas Meadows from Jessica Court spoke about an incident that occurred with his recycling can.

Mr. Jeff Thompson presented the Police Department with a \$300.00 donation from the Daniel Boone Coin Club.

ORDINANCES/ RESOLUTIONS

Discussion / Approval of 2024 Tax Resolution- Mr. Potts stated that the resolution is to reset the tax rate. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the 2024 Tax Resolution; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion / Approval of the Police Pension Resolution- Mr. Potts stated that the police contribution amount is 5%. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the Police Pension Resolution; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion / Approval of the Building Permit Fee Resolution- Mr. Potts stated that the Building Permit Fees have not been changed since 2021. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the Building Permit Fee Resolution; 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.

PUBLIC SAFETY & SERVICES

Fire Company

Mount Pleasant provided their report. Terry Royce, Greenfields Fire Chief, provided the report.

Emergency Medical Services

Western Berks provided their report.

Emergency Management

Mr. Hinkle provided his report to the Board.

Discussion / Approval of Run Card Changes- Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the Run Card changes; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Police Department

Chief Forry provided his report to the Board.

Discussion / Approval to Sell 2012 Dodge Charger Police Car- Chief Forry requested a motion to approve selling the 2012 Dodge Charger on Muncibid. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve selling the 2012 Dodge Charger on Muncibid; Mr. Thompson 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.

Planning Commission

Discussion of the Suncap Landscaping Plan- Mr. Thomas Ludgate informed the Board that an area of landscaping on the Suncap Final Plan cannot be landscaped as intended due to Met-Ed placing a pole in the location. Mr. Ludgate also stated that the plants were moved to a different location on the property and were not eliminated or reduced nor were the species changed as they had already been ordered and had arrived. Atty. Dietrich stated one sheet that showed the change with the Met-Ed line and trees needed to be added to the plan. Dr. Wagner made a motion to accept an amended sheet depicting the Met-Ed line and new landscaping plan for discussion; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion / Approval to Terminate White Oak Lane Stormwater Agreement- Mr. Potts stated that the agreement is no longer necessary since it was done prior to the Stormwater Ordinance change and because the resident delayed construction of their new home the regulations no longer apply. Mr. Thompson made a motion to terminate the White Oak Lane Stormwater Agreement; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion / Approval of Stormwater Escrow Residue Release for White Oak Lane- Dr. Wagner made a motion to refund the stormwater escrow residue contingent on all attorney and administration fees being deducted and a new building permit application being submitted without the stormwater facilities; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion of Eagle Metals Zoning Amendment Request- Mr. Potts stated that years ago the zoning of the property at Eagle Metals was changed to Rural Residential with a conditional use provision that would allow Eagle Metals to continue to operate since they were already there. It seems a typo may have occurred which did not allow for the open space requirement difference that Eagle Metals already has. Eagle Metals would like an amendment to the zoning ordinance to expand their facility in the future and will reimburse the Township for the costs incurred to update the ordinance. Dr. Wagner made a motion to amend the zoning ordinance; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion / Approval of S&L Mechanical Municipal Improvements Escrow- Mr. Potts stated Mr. Morey has reviewed the escrow and recommended a release in the amount of \$196,013.90 with a remaining balance of \$172,167.10. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the S&L Mechanical Improvements Escrow release; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Time Extensions

C&B Development Preliminary Plan (2/12/24)

The C&B Preliminary Land Development Plan expires February 12, 2024. Dr. Wagner moved that if an extension of time has not been granted by the applicant, prior to February 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.

Stinson Drive Subdivision Preliminary Plan (2/12/24)

The Stinson Drive Subdivision Preliminary Land Development Plan expires February 2, 2024. Dr. Wagner moved that if an extension of time has not been granted by the applicant, prior to February 2, 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 submitted his report to the Board.

Discussion / Approval to Refund Building Permit Application Fee to BCTC- Mr. Potts stated that the application was not for the Bern Township location. Dr. Wagner made a motion to refund the building permit application fee to BCTC; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

MS4 Stormwater Report

Mr. Potts stated there was nothing to report.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Discussion / Approval to Ratify DEP Recycling Program Grant Scope of Work Change #2-

Mr. Potts stated that this is required because the backhoe sold for more than expected, and the grapple bucket was less than expected and there is not enough value in the grapple bucket to pay back half of the backhoe value to DEP. Dr. Wagner made a motion to ratify the DEP Recycling Program Grant scope of work; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion / Approval of Radio Installation Quote for Loader and Backhoe-

Mr. Potts stated that the new loader and backhoe need radios and the quote is \$1,786.11. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the \$1,786.11 quote for the radio installation for the loader and the backhoe; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion of Grader Equipment- Mr. Potts stated he researched renting a grader, but that doesn't seem possible. He also informed the Board that Caterpillar has done an analysis, but the

results are not in yet. He has also researched grant options, but they do not seem viable as well as loan options. Mr. Potts will report his findings next month.

SEWER/ WATER/ BERN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

Mrs. Reed stated there was nothing to report.

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Mr. Thompson stated there was nothing to report.

Discussion/Approval to Levy Fines Against A.J. Blosenski- Mr. Potts stated the meeting with A.J. Blosenski that was originally scheduled for the 4th is rescheduled for next week due to an illness. Mr. Potts will be demanding a corrective action plan.

ADMINISTRATION

Discussion of At Will Employee 2024 Salaries-Mr. Potts recommended at 4% increase and an adjustment for the manager. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the 4% increase for the At-Will Employees and a salary adjustment for the Township Manager; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Ratify Agreement with Sergeant Wiley- Dr. Wagner made a motion to ratify the Agreement with Sergeant Wiley; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval to Advertise Hiring for Police Officer Position- Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve advertising to hire a police officer; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Reed adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane DeJesus
Secretary/ Treasurer

