

**TOWNSHIP OF BERN  
BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

February 6, 2024

**SUPERVISORS MEETING**

**SUPERVISORS PRESENT:** Irene Reed, Chairman  
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**

Mr. Thompson moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented, which included the minutes of the January 2, 2024, Reorganization and Supervisors Meetings, and to accept the finance report, subject to audit and approve payment of bills on the list, seconded by Mr. Tobias. YES: Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

**FINANCE REPORT**

Balances as of February 6, 2024: General Fund: \$2,167,748.02, State Account: \$300,537.96, PLGIT: \$72,180.06, Certificate of Deposits: \$569,506.17, Expenses: \$87,650.44. Treasurer's Report accepted subject to audit.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kathy Lavanga spoke about possibly relocating her business, Happily Ever After, to 1400 Cross Keys Road and wanted to see if the Board had any reservations prior to her applying for a variance because the address where the house is located is in the Rural Residential Zoning District. The Supervisors and Atty. Detrich asked several questions and expressed their concerns. Mr. Steve Tricarico and Mr. Brett Wisneski, Greenfields Fire Company Assistant Chief,

expressed concerns pertaining to increased traffic on Cross Keys Road and the number of motor vehicle accidents that already occur near the entrance to the property. Ms. Reed asked about parking at the location and Ms. Lavagna stated she has hired Mr. Gregg Bogia from Bogia Engineering to design the parking area. Atty. Dietrich advised Ms. Lavagna that use variances are the most difficult variance to obtain from the Zoning Hearing Board, which operates independently from the Board of Supervisors. Atty. Dietrich also mentioned that Dr. Wagner was not present to hear Ms. Lavagna and provide his opinion.

## **ORDINANCES/ RESOLUTIONS**

**Discussion/Approval to Advertise Rural Residential Conditional Use Zoning Amendment-** Mr. Potts stated that this allows a conditional use for a minimum of 35% of a property to be maintained as open area in the Rural Residential Zoning District. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve advertising the Rural Residential Conditional Use Zoning Amendment; Mr. Eveland seconded. YES: Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

**Discussion/Approval of Sewage Enforcement Officer List Resolution-** Mr. Potts informed the Board that Systems Design has hired another staff member who needs to be added to the Township SEO list. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the Sewage Enforcement Officer List Resolution; Mr. Eveland seconded. YES: Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

## **TOWNSHIP MANAGER**

Mr. Potts provided his report to the Board and informed them that gas service for the Township building has been applied for and an agreement with UGI for service has been signed.

**Discussion of Eagle Scout Project-** Mr. Potts introduced Boy Scout Cameron Becker who wants to provide two benches on the Schuylkill River Trail as part of his Eagle Scout project. Mr. Becker provided some details of his project to the Board.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY & SERVICES**

### **Fire Company**

Reports were received from Greenfields, Mount 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**

Chief Forry provided his report to the Board.

**Discussion/Approval to Accept Bid for 2012 Dodge Charger Police Car-** Chief Forry requested a motion to approve accepting a \$7,700.00 bid for the 2012 Dodge Charger on

Municipal. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve accepting the bid for the 2012 Dodge Charger; Mr. Eveland seconded. YES: Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

**Discussion/Approval to Recycle (4) Old/Outdated Panasonic in Car Mobile Computers-** Chief Forry requested a motion to approve recycling (4) old/outdated Panasonic in car mobile computers Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve selling old/ outdated Panasonic in car mobile computers; Mr. Eveland seconded. YES: Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

**Discussion/Approval to Sell Old Tasers, Types XP (26) & X (26)-** Chief Forry requested a motion to approve selling old tasers, types XP (26) & X (26). Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve selling the old tasers; Mr. Eveland seconded. YES: Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

**Discussion/Approval to Send Detective to the Intelligence Liaison Officer Training-** Chief Forry requested a motion to approve sending Detective Josh Santos to the PaCIC Intelligence Liaison Officer Training in Williamsport, PA May 21, 2024, through May 23, 2024. The Pennsylvania State Police will pay for lodging, parking, breakfasts, and lunches. There is no cost for the training. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve sending Detective Santos to the PaCIC Intelligence Liaison Officer Training in Williamsport, PA May 21, 2024, through May 23, 2024; Mr. Eveland seconded. YES: Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

**Discussion/Approval to Send Sergeant to the National Rifle Association Re-Certification Training-** Chief Forry requested a motion to approve sending Sergeant Steve Seidel to the National Rifle Association Re-Certification Course training June 17, 2024, through June 21, 2024. The training will be held at the Berks County Jail and will cost \$685.00. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve sending Sergeant Seidel to the National Rifle Association Re-Certification Course training June 17, 2024, through June 21, 2024; Mr. Eveland seconded. YES: Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

**Discussion/Approval to send Chief of Police to the IACP 2024 Annual Conference-** Chief Forry requested a motion to approve attending the International Chief of Police Annual Training Conference in Boston, Massachusetts, October 19, 2024, through October 22, 2024. The total approximate cost of conference attendance and lodging is approximately \$1,700.00. Chief Forry will drive his assigned police vehicle to the conference. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve sending Chief Forry to the International Chief of Police Annual Training Conference in Boston Massachusetts, October 19, 2024, through October 22, 2024; Mr. Eveland seconded. YES: 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/Approval of Stinson LLC 2 Lot Preliminary Subdivision Plan-** Mr. Potts stated that the Planning Commission recommended approval of the Stinson Drive LLC 2 Lot Preliminary Plan subject to the January 8, 2024, SSM review letter. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the Stinson Drive LLC 2 Lot Preliminary Plan subject to the January 8, 2024, SSM review letter; Mr. Eveland seconded. YES: Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

**Discussion/Approval of Stevens Acres II Sketch Plan for Record-** Mr. Potts stated that the Planning Commission recommended approval of the Stevens Acres II Sketch Plan for Record subject to the resolution of the non-conforming lot line and conditioned on the January 7, 2024, SSM review letter. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the Stevens Acres II Sketch Plan for Record subject to the resolution of the non-conforming lot line and conditioned upon the January 7, 2024, SSM review letter; Mr. Eveland seconded. YES: Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

**Discussion/Approval of Suncap Municipal Improvements Escrow Release-** Mr. Potts stated that Mr. Morey did an analysis and recommended an amount of \$572,945.00 be released leaving a remaining balance of \$75,852.00. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the Suncap Municipal Escrow Release; Mr. Eveland seconded. YES: Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

**Discussion/Approval of Building H Escrow Release-** Mr. Potts stated that Mr. Morey did an analysis and recommended an amount of \$542,765.00 be released leaving a remaining balance of \$1,537,780.00. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the Building H Escrow Release; Mr. Eveland seconded. YES: Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

### **Time Extensions**

#### **Garage Strength Sports Preliminary Land Development Plan (3/11/24)**

The Garage Strength Sports Preliminary Land Development Plan expires March 11, 2024. Mr. Eveland moved that if an extension of time has not been granted by the applicant, prior to March 11, 2024, that the plan be rejected for the reasons set forth in the latest Engineering review letter; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

### **Code Enforcement**

Mr. Pflum submitted his report to the Board.

### **STORMWATER MANAGEMENT**

#### **MS4 Stormwater Report**

Mr. Potts reported on a possible illicit discharge he witnessed from a business in the Northfield Business Development. He stated he is concerned chlorinated water is going to the Schuylkill River. Atty. Dietrich suggested that the agreement the Township has with the Reading Airport on non-security issues be revisited. A water sample will be taken from the holding area that the stormwater drains to and Mr. Potts will continue to speak with the airport manager.

### **ROAD DEPARTMENT**

**Discussion of Grader Equipment-** Mr. Potts stated that Caterpillar does not have the parts available when repairs are needed, and they cannot provide a quote for repairs. Mr. Potts will investigate applying for a grant to fund the purchase of a grader.

### **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 provided an update on the meeting with A.J. Blosenski and recommended waiting to levy fines on the missed collections. Atty. Dietrich stated a letter should be sent explaining that the Township is holding off on fines for the time being and allowing A.J. Blosenski time to put their corrective action plan into effect.

### **ADMINISTRATION**

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Reed adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane DeJesus  
Secretary/ Treasurer