

**TOWNSHIP OF BERN
BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

April 2, 2024

SUPERVISORS MEETING

SUPERVISORS PRESENT: Irene Reed, Chairperson
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
Keith Mooney, Esquire
Kent Morey, Engineer
Bradley Pflum, Codes 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, as presented, which included the minutes of the March 5, 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 April 2, 2024: General Fund: \$2,336,789.13, State Account: \$612,719.07, PLGIT: \$72,429.80, Certificate of Deposits: \$569,850.71, Expenses: \$70,908.23. Treasurer's Report accepted subject to audit.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mrs. Reed temporarily adjourned the meeting for a public hearing at 7:02 p.m.

Rural Residential Conditional Use Zoning Ordinance- Atty. Mooney stated the proposed zoning ordinance amendment if adopted amends the Bern Township Zoning Ordinance by adding a newly created Section 184-12.1.A(3) which will require an expanding non-conforming

use to maintain a minimum of thirty five percent 35% of the lot as open area in the Rural Residential Zoning District. Also, in Section 184-12.1.A(10), which was Section 184-12.1.A(9) before the addition of the first amendment referenced herein, a reference to the new open area requirement is added. Atty. Mooney asked if there were any questions. Mrs. Reed closed the public hearing at 7:03 p.m.

ORDINANCES/ RESOLUTIONS

Discussion/Approval of Rural Residential Conditional Use Ordinance- Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the Rural Residential Conditional Use Ordinance; 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 and informed them the newsletter has been mailed. He also provided an update of 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 and announced a carwash fundraiser scheduled for May 4, 2024, from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm.

Discussion/Approval to Financially Support Greenfields Fire Company Agreement with Florian Works- Mr. Potts requested a motion to approve giving Greenfields Fire Company \$1,500.00 per year for a scheduling software agreement between the fire company and Florian Works. Mr. Thompson made a motion to give Greenfields Fire Company the \$1,500.00 per year for the Florian Works Agreement; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Emergency Medical Services

Northern 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 of Conditional Offer of Employment to Police Officer- Chief Forry requested a motion to approve hiring Officer Lance Lillis conditioned on a qualifying background check and a probationary period of one year. Mr. Thompson made a motion to

approve the conditional employment offer; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval to Dispose of Case File Reports per Municipal Records Manual-Chief Forry requested a motion to dispose of old case file reports per the Municipal Records Manual guidelines. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve disposing of old case file reports; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval of National Night Out August 6 at Berks Fair- Chief Forry requested a motion to approve a venue change for National Night Out on August 6, 2024. The new location will be at the Berks Fairgrounds. Mr. Tobias made a motion to approve changing the venue to the Berks Fairgrounds for the National Night Out on August 6, 2024; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval to Send Sgt. Seidel & Chief Forry to Critical Leadership Training- Chief Forry requested a motion to send Sergeant Seidel and himself to “Critical Leadership Concepts” training on October 21, 2024. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the training; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval to Assign Fire Police to the World War II Weekend on June 7th – June 9th, 2024- Chief Forry requested a motion for Fire Police assistance for the WWII Weekend June 7, 2024, through June 9, 2024. Dr. Wagner made a motion to assign Fire Police to the WWII Weekend; Mr. Tobias seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval to Sell and/or Recycle Old Body Worn Cameras- Chief Forry requested a motion to either sell or recycle the old body worn cameras. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve selling or recycling the old body worn cameras; Dr. Wagner 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/Approval to Accept SSM Engineering Proposal for North Tulpehocken Road Stormwater- Mr. Potts stated that the \$17,500.00 quote is for SSM to provide surveying and engineering design services to address flooding issues on North Tulpehocken Road. Dr. Wagner asked if it was budgeted for. Mr. Potts said that it was. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the SSM quote; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval of Reading Behavioral Health Preliminary Land Development Plan- Mr. Potts stated the Planning Commission recommended approval of the plan subject on the

conditions in the March 8, 2024, SSM review letter. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the Reading Behavioral Health Preliminary Land Development Plan; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval of Penske District Services Facility (Hartman Farm) Municipal Improvements Agreement- Mr. Potts stated that the agreement is not ready yet.

Time Extensions

C&B Development Preliminary Land Development Plan (5/13/24)- The C&B Preliminary Land Development Plan expires May 13, 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.

Discussion/Approval to Refund Zoning Hearing Application Fee Residue to 1400 Cross Keys Road Applicant- Mr. Potts stated the amount left from the Zoning Hearing application fee for 1400 Cross Keys Road is \$1,757.50. Dr. Wagner made a motion to refund the Zoning Hearing application fee residue to the applicant: Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

MS4 Stormwater Report

No report.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Mr. Potts gave an update on the Palisades Drive Bridge Inspection Report and informed the Board that it may need to be sealed again.

Discussion/Approval to Award Road Contract- Mr. Potts informed the Board that the winning bidder is New Enterprise Stone and Lime Co. Inc. The bid amount is \$172,085.30. Atty. Mooney has reviewed the bid. Dr. Wagner made a motion to accept the winning bid; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval to Hire Road Foreman & Execute Hiring Agreement- Mr. Potts requested a motion to approve hiring Bobby Turner as the road foreman and to execute the hiring agreement. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve hiring Bobby Turner as road foreman and to execute the hiring agreement; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

SEWER/ WATER/ BERN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

Mrs. Reed stated there was nothing to report.

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Mr. Thompson gave a brief recycling update.

ADMINISTRATION

Discussion/Approval of Teamsters Health Care Renewal Rates- Mr. Potts stated that there is a 2% increase for the Teamsters health care renewal rate. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the Teamster health care renewal rate; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval to Award Access Control & Video Surveillance System- Mr. Potts went over the details of two quotes he received for the video cameras and recommended using Keystone Fire and Security. Their quote for \$54,431.37 also includes programming the wireless locks which will be installed by the general contractor. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the Keystone Fire and Security quote; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval of Purcell Construction Change Order Request #1- Mr. Potts stated that this is a \$347.00 credit from the building contractor because they did not have to excavate the additional forty-five feet for the UGI pipe. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the Purcell Construction Change Order Request #1; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval of Purcell Construction Change Order Request #2- Mr. Potts that this is a \$6,968.00 credit from the building contractor for time saved since the project has been reduced into one phase instead of three phases. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the Purcell Construction Change Order Request #2; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval of Purcell Construction Change Order Request #3- Mr. Potts stated that this is to add an additional locker in the locker room for \$1,316.00. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the Purcell Construction Change Order Request #3; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval of Purcell Construction Change Order Request #4- Mr. Potts stated this change order request is to construct the road foreman office for \$15,759.00. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the Purcell Construction Change Order Request #4; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval of Garden Spot Mechanical Construction Change Order Request #1- Mr. Potts informed the Board this change order request is for a \$200.00 gas piping credit. Dr.

Wagner made a motion to approve the Garden Spot Mechanical Construction Change Order Request #1; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval of Garden Spot Mechanical Construction Change Order Request #2-

Mr. Potts stated that since there will not be plumbing to the road foreman office this change order request is for \$0. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the Garden Spot Mechanical Construction Change Order Request #2; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval of Garden Spot Mechanical Construction Change Order Request #3-

Mr. Potts stated this change order request is to combine the three phases of the project to one and the credit amount is \$0. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the Garden Spot Mechanical Construction Change Order Request #3; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval of M&M Facility Services Change Order Request #1-

Mr. Potts stated this change order request is to extend duct work to the new road foreman office and the amount is \$95.00. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the M&M Facility Services Change Order Request #1; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval of Hirneisen Change Order Request #1-

Mr. Potts stated this change order is to combine the three phases of the project to one and the credit amount is \$0. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the Hirneisen Change Order Request #1; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval of Hirneisen Change Order Request #2-

Mr. Potts stated this is to add light switches and fixtures as well as cabling to the newly created road foreman office. The amount is \$3,300.00. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the Hirneisen Change Order Request #2; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Mr. Potts informed the Board that the total additional cost to the building project is \$12,766.69.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Reed adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane DeJesus
Secretary/ Treasurer

