

**TOWNSHIP OF BERN
BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

August 1, 2023

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

CALL TO ORDER-PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mrs. Reed called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

CONSENT AGENDA

Business Arising Within 24 Hours of Meeting- Discussion and Vote on Letter of Intent from DCED.

Mr. Thompson moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented, which included the minutes of the July 3, 2023 Supervisors Meeting and to accept the finance report, subject to audit and approve payment of bills on the list, seconded by Dr. Wagner. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

FINANCE REPORT

Balances as of August 1, 2023: General Fund: \$2,989,364.84, State Account: \$292,550.44, PLGIT: \$69,892.19, Certificate of Deposits: \$568,756.38, Expenses: \$134,145.00. Treasurer's Report accepted subject to audit.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Tom Copenhaver expressed concerns about his property on Stoudt's Lane with regards to flooding issues, property value and the safety of a temporary bridge a neighbor installed across the gully in the roadway. Mr. Copenhaver is worried about emergency equipment such as

firetrucks being able to drive over the bridge. Mr. Potts stated that one of the bridge corners is not stabilized, but because it is a private road the Township cannot fix it. He suggested Mr. Copenhaver contact Schuylkill River Greenway Association and the other surrounding property owners about splitting the repair costs. Chief Forry stated that he had visited the site with Brad Pflum. Chief Forry agrees that a firetruck would not be able to go over the bridge. Dr. Wagner raised concerns over DEP. Atty. Dietrich recommended contacting an attorney to search for the easement, either on a deed, land development plan or written easement to see what the property owners' rights are under the terms of the easement.

PUBLIC HEARING

Atty. Dietrich stated that the public hearing is to take public comment on an ordinance authorizing the incurrence of non-electoral debt in the principal amount of \$800,000.00 for the purpose of capital projects including the construction of a building addition for police use and costs and expenses related to the issuance of the note. The hearing was advertised in the Reading Eagle on July 25, 2023. Atty. Dietrich also stated that a TEFRA hearing, which is a hearing under the Tax Equity & Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982, wasn't necessary. Mrs. Reed opened the floor for public comment. Mrs. Reed closed the public hearing.

The Supervisors meeting at reconvened at 7:13 PM.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

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

Discussion/ Approval of the Loan Agreement Resolution- Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the Loan Agreement 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.

Mr. David Hunter, executive director of the BCPC, contacted Mr. Potts about a joint comprehensive plan with Ontelaunee Township. Center Township, Centerport Borough and Leesport Borough are also interested. DCED funding is available for 50% reimbursement.

Discussion/ Approval to Amend August 1, 2023 Meeting Agenda- Dr. Wagner made a motion to amend the August 1, 2023 meeting agenda; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval of the Letter of Intent from DCED- Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve signing the DCED Letter of Intent; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

PUBLIC SAFETY & SERVICES

Fire Company

Mount Pleasant provided their report.

Greenfields- No report.

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 Assign Fire Police to the Fleetwood Fire Company Festival and Parade on September 23, 2023- Mr. Thompson made a motion to assign fire police to the Fleetwood Fire Company Festival and Parade on September 23, 2023; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval of Side Letter of Agreement with Police Association to Create Administrative Sergeant Position- Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the Side Letter of Agreement with the Police Association to create the Administrative Sergeant position; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval to Send Two Police Officers to CODY Training- Chief Forry requested a motion to approve sending Sergeant Seidel and Officer Noll to Cody Connection 2023 being held at the Hershey Hotel Conference Center September 12th – 14th, 2023. The cost is \$600.00 total for the two attendees. There will not be a lodging fee as the attendees will commute. Chief Forry stated funding for the training is allocated in the Training Budget. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the CODY training; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval to Send the Detective to Background Investigation Training- Chief Forry requested a motion to approve sending Detective Santos to “Background Investigations for Police Applicants” training being held in Hershey, PA September 7th and 8th, 2023. The cost is \$425.00. There will not be a lodging fee as the attendee will commute. Chief Forry stated funding for the training is allocated in the Training Budget. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the CODY training; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval of Extension to Receive Police Officer Applications- Chief Forry stated he spoke with Atty. Mooney about extending the application period in order to obtain a bigger pool of applicants. Mr. Thompson made a motion to extend the police department

application deadline until August 25, 2023; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion of the Reading Symphony Orchestra Event at Enersys on July 4, 2023- Chief Forry spoke about the issues that occurred due to large attendance at the event including traffic issues and lack of man power. After discussion it was decided that next year a plan will need to be in place similar to the plan utilized for the WWII Weekend.

Discussion/ Approval to Accept Bids for 2017 Charger Police Patrol Car 54-1- Mr. Thompson made a motion to accept the winning bid in the amount of \$8,200.00 for the 2017 Charger Police Patrol Car 54-1 on Municibid; 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 and stated the Suncap Escrow Release is not ready for action.

Planning Commission

Discussion/ Approval of Section 154-32.I(1) Monument Waiver for the Roberts/ Weyandt Sketch Plan for Record- Mr. Potts stated that the Planning Commission recommended approval of the waiver. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve Section 154-32.I(1) Monument Waiver for the Roberts/ Weyandt Sketch Plan for Record: Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval of the Roberts/ Weyandt Sketch Plan for Record- Mr. Potts stated the Planning Commission recommended approval of the plan subject to the July 7, 2023 SSM review letter. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the Roberts/ Weyandt Sketch Plan for Record subject to the July 7, 2023 SSM review letter; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval of the Building H Stormwater Agreement- Mr. Potts stated that Atty. Mooney has prepared the Building H Stormwater Agreement in connection with their land development plan. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the Building H Stormwater Agreement; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval of the 2476 Roosevelt Avenue Stormwater Agreement- Mr. Potts stated that Mr. Morey has conducted a review and Atty. Mooney has prepared the 2476 Roosevelt Avenue Stormwater Agreement. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the 2476 Roosevelt Avenue Stormwater Agreement; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Time Extensions

The Garage Strength Preliminary Land Development Plan expires September 11, 2023. Dr. Wagner moved that if an extension of time has not been granted by the applicant, prior to

September 11, 2023, 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 Release Building Permit Residue to Epler’s Schoolhouse- Mr. Potts stated that the refund amount is \$6.70. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the refund to Epler’s Schoolhouse in the amount of \$6.70; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

MS4 Stormwater Report

Mr. Potts detailed the flood damages from the recent storm in the Township on July 9, 2023. The Washington Road Stormwater Facility did work through the storm.

Washington Road Low Volume Grant Project of the Year- Mr. Potts stated the Township won the Low Volume Grant Project of the Year from the Berks County Conservation District.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Mr. Potts stated the road project is finished. The project went over by 300 tons due to addition asphalt requirements on some Greenfields roads. Mr. Potts also informed the Board that the road crew has been working along with Penn Township to resurface and repair Penn-Bern Road.

SEWER/ WATER/ BERN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

No report.

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION

No report.

Mr. Potts stated he turned in the performance grant to DEP for 2022. In 2022 the Township recycled 1,511 tons of household recyclables. This amount is 340 tons less for 2022 than in 2021, which can be attributed to the numbers reported by A.J. Blosenski and Republic Services.

Discussion/ Approval to Accept the DEP Section 902 Grant- Mr. Thompson made a motion to accept the DEP Section 902 Grant; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATION

Next Supervisor’s meeting will be held on Tuesday September 5, 2023 at 7:00 PM.

Ag Security Applications Are Being Accepted in August.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Reed adjourned the meeting at 7:50 PM.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No action will be taken.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane DeJesus,
Secretary/Treasurer