

**TOWNSHIP OF BERN
BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

August 3, 2021

SUPERVISORS MEETING

SUPERVISORS PRESENT: Irene Reed, Chairman
Brian Eveland, Supervisor
Jeff Thompson, Supervisor
Daniel Tobias, Supervisor
Dr. Boyd Wagner III, Supervisor

STAFF PRESENT: Brian Potts, Township Manager
Diane DeJesus, Secretary/Treasurer
Wesley Waugh, 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 PM.

Swearing In of Two Fire Police Officers- Mrs. Reed swore in Tanya Allen and Wayne Henry Jr. as Fire Police Officers.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Thompson moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented, which included the minutes of the July 6, 2021 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 3, 2021: General Fund: \$2,653,993.61, State Account: \$459,139.86, PLGIT: \$67,046.64, Certificate of Deposits: \$556,547.76, Expenses: \$63,636.83. Treasurer's Report accepted subject to audit.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Debkowski from 541 Butter Lane and Angela Potts from 545 Butter Lane spoke about issues the residents of Butter Lane are having with the Pocono Beagle Club. Atty. Mooney provided insights, explained that the Township has no jurisdiction and advised them to consult an attorney. The Supervisors also provided their opinions.

ORDINANCES/ RESOLUTIONS

Discussion/ Approval to Advertise Commercial Parking Regulations Ordinance- Tabled until September.

PUBLIC SAFETY & SERVICES

Fire Company

Greenfields Fire Co.- Terry Royce provided the report.

Terry Royce requested a motion for approval for fire police assistance on a truck stop detail in Hamburg on August 4, 2021 and also for the Berks County Fair, if necessary, August 4-6, 2021. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve both fire police assistance requests; Mr. Tobias seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

There was a brief discussion on updates to the Sunshine Law and requirements for meeting agendas and all items must be presented to the Township the Friday prior to the meeting in order to be placed on the agenda.

Discussion/ Approval to Appoint Ken Haupt as Liaison to the Greenfields Fire Company & Social Club- Dr. Wagner made a motion to appoint Ken Haupt as liaison to the Greenfields Fire Company & Social Club; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Emergency Medical Services

The Township received reports from Western Berks Ambulance and Northern Berks EMS.

Emergency Management

Mr. Hinkle provided his report to the Board.

Police Department

Chief Waugh provided his report to the Board.

Discussion/ Approval to Accept Monetary Donation- Chief Waugh requested a motion for approval to accept a monetary donation of \$2,400 to the Police Equipment Fund designated by the donor for the purchase of patrol rifles. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve accepting the monetary donation of \$2,400 to the Police Equipment Fund designated by the donor for the purchase of patrol rifles; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval to Purchase Patrol Rifles-Chief Waugh requested a motion for approval to purchase two Colt 11.5” Enhanced Patrol Rifles at a total cost of \$2,400. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the purchase of the patrol rifles; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

PLANNING/ZONING/CODE ENFORCEMENT

Engineer

Mr. Morey provided his report to the Board.

Planning Commission

Discussion/ Approval of Eaton Farms Final Subdivision Plan- Mr. Potts stated the Planning Commission recommended approval of the plan subject to the SSM July 9, 2021 review letter. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the Eaton Farms Preliminary Subdivision Plan subject to the SSM July 9, 2021 review letter; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval of Enersys Land Development Waiver for Solar Structure- Mr. Potts stated the Planning Commission recommended approval of the waiver. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the Enersys Land Development Waiver for the Solar Panel Structure; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval of Section 154-24.C (1) Road Widening Waiver for Eberly Subdivision Plan- Mr. Potts stated that this subdivision is for an existing pair of houses on one property so that each house will be on its own property and that the Township can require them to increase the size of the roadway with this subdivision, but because of the location it doesn't make sense to do this, so the Planning Commission recommended approval of the waiver. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the Road Widening Waiver for the Eberly Subdivision; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval to Release Stonehedge #2 Maintenance Bond for Belfair Drive- Mr. Thompson made a motion to release the Stonehedge #2 Maintenance Bond for Belfair Drive; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Time Extensions

None

Code Enforcement

Mr. Pflum provided his report to the Board.

Atty. Mooney informed the Board about new small cell tower box regulations and zoning. The subject will be on next month's Supervisors Meeting Agenda.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

MS4 Stormwater Report

No report.

Discussion/ Approval to Sign Easement Agreement for 1015 Snyder Drive for Stormwater Facility- Mr. Potts stated that Atty. Mooney prepared the agreement, but the property owners had not responded yet. No action.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Mr. Potts provided the report to the Board.

Discussion/ Approval to Release Kevin Cogan from Probation- Mr. Potts informed the Board that Mr. Cogan's new employee probation had ended July 15, 2021. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve releasing Kevin Cogan from probation; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

SEWER/ WATER/ BERN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

No report.

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMISION

No report.

Discussion/ Approval to Refund 2021 Recycling Fee for Rick Road Property PIN 27439903042110- Mrs. Reed stated that there isn't a house on the property so the owner should not have been charged the recycling fee. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the refunding 2021 Recycling Fee for Rick Road Property; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATION

Discussion/ Approval of Penn State Health Public Safety Agreement Renewal- Mr. Potts stated that the previous agreement expired at the end of June and the new proposed agreement is for an 18-month extension with the contributions being a continuation of what the Township has been receiving. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the Penn State Health Public Safety Agreement Renewal; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval of Revised Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with Leesport Borough- Mr. Potts stated that the revision is at the request of the Berks Department of Emergency Services adding specific language to give authority to change fire police and EMS responders. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the Revised Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with Leesport Borough; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval of Penn State Heath RACP Grant Project Agreement-Atty. Mooney reviewed the Agreement and stated that the Township is indemnified, but questioned the grant administration fees for \$1.00 since the amount would not cover administration costs. The Supervisors discussed and agreed not to charge additional fees. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the Penn State Heath RACP Grant Project Agreement; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval of CHD Reading MOB, LLC Tax Penalty Relief Request- After Supervisor discussion they agreed to not extend tax penalty relief. No action.

Discussion of Comcast Community Service Locations in Bern Township- Mr. Potts stated that removing Berks DES and the Greenfield's Social Club would reduce the Comcast franchise fees and Comcast will send them a bill. Supervisors discussed and provided Mr. Potts with feedback.

Next Supervisor's meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Tobias made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7: 53PM; Mr. Thompson seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane DeJesus,
Secretary/Treasurer