

**TOWNSHIP OF BERN
BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

October 5, 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
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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A West Leesport Road resident expressed her concerns pertaining to the Logistics 222 Project. She spoke about various things such as building height, sidewalks, traffic, trucks, road maintenance, warehouse type buildings, screening, light pollution and air quality.

A second West Leesport Road resident read a letter from a Leisz's Bridge Road resident who could not be in attendance expressing concerns about the North Point Logistics 222 Project.

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Wagner moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented, which included the minutes of the September 7, 2021 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 October 5, 2021: General Fund: \$2,103,180.23, State Account: \$459,214.58, PLGIT: \$67,051.25, Certificate of Deposits: \$557,414.60, Expenses: \$612,738.98. Treasurer's Report accepted subject to audit.

PRESENTATION FROM SCHUYLKILL VALLEY LIBRARY

Christy Brown, Solomon Lausch and Stephanie Jacobs, representatives from the Schuylkill Valley Library, spoke about current events taking place at the library, upgrades and the need for funding.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Mr. Potts provided his report to the Board and stated that the revenue loss from 2019 to 2020 is \$120,869.00 and that the news newsletter has been taken to the post office.

PUBLIC SAFETY & SERVICES

Fire Company

Greenfields Fire Co.- Mr. Potts stated that the Township has received their report and that they are holding an open house on Thursday October 7, 2021 from 6PM-8PM.

The Township also received a report from Mount Pleasant Fire Company.

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 of Grooming and Appearance Policy- Chief Waugh requested a motion to amend the Police Department Grooming and Appearance Policy by changing the wording to state that the policy shall apply while the member is on duty, appearing in court or representing the department in official capacity in uniform. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve amending the Police Department Grooming and Appearance Policy; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval to Ratify Grant Application for Radar Speed Message Devices- Chief Waugh informed the Board that the Police Department submitted a grant application for funds for radar message signs which can display important messages for the public and provide speed information. Mrs. Reed asked where they will be located. Chief Waugh stated that they will be stored at the municipal building and that they will be utilized to allocate for speed based on citizen complaints and accident locations. Mr. Tobias asked if they are mobile units and Chief Waugh stated that they are mobile units with solar panels and data and analysis software. Mr. Tobias asked if they were similar to the message board located on Route 222 and Chief Waugh stated that they were similar to gigantic smart boards and capable of more than dot message boards. Mr. Tobias made a motion to ratify the Grant Application for Radar Speed Message Devices; Mr. Eveland seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval of Disposition of Three Police Vehicles- Chief Waugh requested a motion to approve selling three police vehicles on Municibid and stated that this represents a reduction in the fleet. Mr. Thompson asked if an additional vehicle will be needed next year and Chief Waugh stated it will depend on how the fleet does maintenance wise. Dr. Wagner made a motion to dispose of the three Police Vehicles on Municibid; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval to Discipline Police Officer- Chief Waugh requested a motion to approve a grievance committee. Mr. Tobias made a motion to approve a grievance committee consisting of Mr. Potts, Dr. Wagner and Atty. Mooney; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed.

PLANNING/ZONING/CODE ENFORCEMENT

Engineer

Mr. Morey provided his report to the Board.

Planning Commission

Discussion/ Approval of Eberly Sketch Plan for Record- Mr. Potts stated that the Planning Commission recommended approval of the plan based on the SSM September 10, 2021 review letter. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the Eberly Sketch Plan for Record; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval of Section 154-32.I(4)(c) Monument Waiver for Wentzel/ Schaeffer Sketch Plan for Record- Mr. Potts stated that the Planning Commission recommended approval of the waiver to place monuments at the two required locations only in the Shurr Road right-of-way provided all corner pins have been set for the Wentzel/ Schaeffer Sketch Plan for Record. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve Section 154-32.I(4)(c) Monument Waiver for the Wentzel/ Schaeffer Sketch Plan for Record; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion of Northpoint/ Logistics 222 Project- Mr. Jed Momont representing North Point Development Group gave a presentation to showing what they are proposing for the Logistics 222 Project and receive feedback specifically pertaining to the possibility of receiving a variance for height restrictions. After the presentation Atty. Dietrich and several Supervisors asked questions. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve sending the solicitor to take position against a variance for the building height; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval of 725 Butter Lane Stormwater Agreement- Mr. Potts stated that the agreement has been prepared by Atty. Mooney. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the 725 Butter Lane Stormwater Agreement; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Time Extensions

BCIDA Building H Preliminary Plan- Dr. Wagner moved that if an extension of time has not been granted by the applicant, prior to the expiration date of October 11, 2021, 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.

MISCO Preliminary Plan- Dr. Wagner moved that if an extension of time has not been granted by the applicant, prior to the expiration date of November 2, 2021, 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 Ratify Fire Escrow Refund for 414 South Tulpehocken Road- Mr. Potts stated that the house that had burned from a fire was now finished and the owners have their occupancy permit and rather than hold the funds longer he had Mrs. DeJesus send them a check. Mr. Thompson made a motion to ratify the Fire Escrow Refund for 414 South Tulpehocken; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

MS4 Stormwater Report

Mr. Potts stated that DEP audited the Township Stormwater Program and there were no violations.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Mr. Potts provided the report to the Board and stated that the road inspection is complete.

SEWER/ WATER/ BERN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

No report.

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMISION

No report.

ADMINISTRATION

Discussion/ Approval to Ratify CD Re-Investment- Mr. Potts stated that the CD is with Riverfront Credit Union at a rate of .50%. Mr. Thompson made a motion to Ratify the CD Re-Investment; Mr. Tobias seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion of 2021 Trick or Treat Night- Chief Waugh stated that the 2021 Trick or Treat Night should be held Sunday October 31, 2021 from 6PM-9PM. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the Trick or Treat Night; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion of 2022 Budget Draft- Mr. Potts stated that the budget draft is not ready, but preliminarily it is \$4,741,965.00 which is a 3% increase. Mr. Potts also stated that the library is budgeted for \$6,800 and EMS is budgeted for \$1,400.00.

Next Supervisor's meeting will be held on Monday, November 1, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Eveland made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7: 55PM; Mr. Tobias seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane DeJesus,
Secretary/Treasurer