

**TOWNSHIP OF BERN
BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

November 1, 2022

SUPERVISORS MEETING

SUPERVISORS PRESENT: Irene Reed, Chairman
Dr. Boyd Wagner
Brian Eveland, Supervisor
Daniel Tobias, Supervisor
Jeffrey Thompson, 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 and stated that an executive session was held last week to discuss litigation and personnel matters.

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Wagner moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented, which included the minutes of the October 4, 2022 Supervisors Meeting and the minutes of the October 21, 2022 Budget Workshop 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 November 1, 2022: General Fund: \$2,192,783.92, State Account: \$761,544.79, PLGIT: \$67,575.32, Certificate of Deposits: \$560,645.82, Expenses: \$600,876.82. Treasurer's Report accepted subject to audit.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Frank Roberts from Stephen Road voiced his concerns about a patient who escaped at the Reading Behavioral Health facility and Chief Waugh clarified that the patient did not escape from the hospital, but an ambulance upon arrival at the facility. Mr. Roberts also voiced concerns over pine trees blocking the view of drivers pulling out of North Tulpehocken Road onto Route 183 and speeding on Route 183. Mr. Potts stated that he will speak with the property owners about the trees. Chief Waugh stated that the police department is utilizing the radar speed sign to track times that high rates of speed are occurring on the roadways in order to have patrol active in those locations at those times. Atty. Dietrich also voiced concerns over the trees at South Tulpehocken Road. Mr. Potts stated that he has been conversing with the Berkshire Country Club about the trees.

Mr. Steven Zmroczek from Leisch's Bridge Road expressed his concerns over Old Airport Road and flooding. Mr. Zmroczek stated that there isn't any stormwater retention at that location and asked that it be addressed as part of any land development plan.

ORDINANCES/ RESOLUTIONS

Discussion/ Approval of Act 57 of 2022 Resolution- Mr. Potts explained that this resolution is required by the state and allows for the waiving of late tax payment penalties if a bill had not been received in twelve months and the homeowners are actively paying the taxes. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Ratification of American Rescue Plan Resolution to Outfit Utility Truck- Mr. Potts stated this is for the \$8,075.00 for the snowplow and lighting package for the truck purchased with ARP Funds. Mr. Thompson made a motion to ratify the American Rescue Plan Resolution to Outfit the Utility Truck; Dr. Wagner 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 that bargaining with the teamsters' union has concluded and Atty. Mooney is compiling the changes to the contract.

PUBLIC SAFETY & SERVICES

Fire Company

Mount Pleasant and Leesport provided their report.

Greenfields- No report.

Emergency Medical Services

Western Berks and Northern Berks provided their report

Emergency Management

Mr. Hinkle provided his report to the Board.

Police Department

Chief Waugh provided his report to the Board.

PLANNING/ZONING/CODE ENFORCEMENT

Engineer - Mr. Morey provided his report to the Board.

Planning Commission

Discussion/Approval of the Stinson Drive LLC Preliminary Plan- Mr. Potts informed the Board that this is to divide the large track into two parcels without construction and stated that the Planning Commission recommended conditional approval of the plan contingent on an Environmental Assessment Statement being submitted at the Final Plan stage and subject to the October 7, 2022 SSM review letter. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the Stinson Drive LLC Preliminary Plan contingent on an Environmental Assessment Statement being submitted at the Final Plan stage and subject to items in the October 7, 2022 SSM review letter; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval of Section 154-24.A(6) Roadway Widening Waiver for Wentzel/ Schaeffer II Subdivision Plan- Mr. Potts stated that Mr. Hoffert was present to answer any questions. Mr. Potts informed the Board that the waiver request is to not have to widen the cartway of Hilltop Road and Shurr Road because there would be two widened areas for a period which would abruptly stop and the frontage on Hilltop Road would be further into their property and close to their house. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the Section 154-24.D(6) Roadway Widening Waiver for the Wentzel/ Schaeffer II Subdivision Plan; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval of Section 154-32.I(1) Monument Placement Waiver for Wentzel/ Schaeffer II Subdivision Plan- Mr. Potts informed the Board that the waiver request is to only establish one monument along the northern right-of-way of Shurr Road, at the western portion of Lot 2 because they already have markers at the corners except for one corner and they will place a marker on the corner. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the Section 154-32.I(1) Monument Placement Waiver for the Wentzel/ Schaeffer II Subdivision Plan; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Time Extensions

Penske Preliminary Land Development Plan at the Hartman Farm location expires December 8, 2022. Dr. Wagner moved that if an extension of time has not been granted by the applicant, prior to the expiration date of December 8, 2022, 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.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

MS4 Stormwater Report

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Mr. Potts stated that the annual road inspection report is finished. Mr. Potts also stated that the second water tap for the Reading Behavioral Health Facility in the roundabout is complete and the stormwater work and grading is finished. Mr. Potts also stated that the damaged curbing on the north side of the roundabout will be repaired by Warful. Mr. Potts also informed the Board that PennDOT had set up sensors and a camera near the intersection of Route 183 and West Leesport Road in response to the Supervisors request for a traffic study to be performed and although the equipment is gone now he has not heard anything from PennDOT on the findings or their intentions.

SEWER/ WATER/ BERN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

No report.

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Mr. Potts stated that the grant application has been submitted electronically to DEP for a loader and to secure the Township yard waste site because contractors and residents from other municipalities are using the site and costs have risen from \$30,000-\$40,000 per year to approximately \$88,000 for 2022. Mr. Potts informed the Board that the plan is to stockpile the material and hire a grinding company to grind and remove the material. Mr. Potts also stated the location will be fenced and gated with paid access cards being used for entering and exiting the facility and security cameras will also be installed. Mr. Potts also informed the Board that a computer and monitor will be purchased and set up at the Township for a billing system and a card access program which will also be purchased. Mr. Potts stated that the total grant project is \$310,249.00 and DEP will fund \$279,224.00 and the Township will fund \$31,025.00.

ADMINISTRATION

Discussion/ Approval of Animal Rescue League Agreement- Mr. Potts stated that the Animal Rescue League Agreement will cost \$1.25 per person according to the 2010 Census with the residents of the Berks Heim and Berks County Prison removed because they will not utilize the service. Mr. Potts stated the total cost will be \$7,200. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the Animal Rescue League Agreement; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval to Advertise 2023 Budget- Mr. Potts stated that the 2023 budget is \$5,053,095 which is approximately 8.5% increase from 2022 and fund balance forward will be

used to balance the budget so that there will not be a tax increase. Mr. Thompson made a motion to advertise the 2023 budget; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried

Next Supervisor's meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 6, 2022 at 7:00 PM.

Mrs. Reed adjourned the meeting at 7:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane DeJesus,
Secretary/Treasurer