

TOWNSHIP OF BERN
BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

February 3, 2026

SUPERVISORS MEETING

SUPERVISORS PRESENT: Irene Reed, Chairperson
Brian Eveland, Supervisor
Jeffrey Thompson, Supervisor
Dr. Boyd Wagner, Supervisor
Theresa Stork, Supervisor

STAFF PRESENT: Brian Potts, Township Manager
Diane DeJesus, Secretary/Treasurer
Bobby Turner, Road Foreman
Steve Seidel, Sergeant
Keith Mooney, Esquire
Kent Morey, Engineer
Bradley Pflum, Code Enforcement

CALL TO ORDER-PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Thompson moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Mr. Eveland. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

FINANCE REPORT

Balances as of February 4, 2026, General Fund: \$1,426,508.61 State Account: \$390,959.97
PLGIT: \$79,058.40, Certificate of Deposits: \$627,472.86, Expenses: \$100,996.54.

Treasurer's Report accepted subject to audit.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Swearing In of Police Officer Gary Dickson by Judge Brian Strand of the Berks County Magisterial District of Pennsylvania.

PUBLIC HEARING

Reading One Three LLC Conditional Use Application – Atty. Mooney stated the application is to request a conditional use to propose a 45’ height to the building structure, which is 10’ greater than the 35’ in the zoning district. Since there was a discrepancy in one of the notice provisions that are requested for a hearing, Atty. Mooney recommended opening the hearing this evening but take no testimony and reschedule for a later date. Hearing date is rescheduled for February 23, 2026, at 7:00 PM at the Bern Township Municipal Building. Resident, Mr. Zmroczek stated he wanted to express concerns about this project but is not available for the rescheduled date, should he present his concerns this evening? Atty. Mooney suggested he email either Mr. Potts or himself with his concerns, and they will be part of the record.

Mrs. Reed closed the Public Hearing at 7:09 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Alice Hinkle, 1032 Cathy Drive, would like to thank the road foreman and his crew for all their hard work during the last snowstorm. Mrs. Hinkle presented a concern about the responsibility of the uncovering of fire hydrants on residential properties after snowstorms. Mrs. Hinkle also expressed concern with snow emergency routes and the requirements and regulations for these routes.

Bret Habecker, 625 Seidels Run, asked if Cross Keys and Grange Roads have been given back to the state for snow removal? Mr. Potts acknowledged yes, this was a financial decision back in 2025. This decision came from the low amount the state was paying us to salt and plow their roads, so the responsibility is now on the state for these roads. Mr. Habecker also voiced concerns about residents plowing their driveways into the streets and leaving piles of snow behind.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Supervisors received a copy of the report. Mr. Potts added the Knox Boxes are now under the Townships’ control and there are order forms available if needed. Also, the BCIDA provided the environmental study for the entire development, which included the land between the road and the river, that showed there were no environmental issues. So, if the Township is inclined to accept dedication of this land, we do have an environmental report showing it has passed. Supervisors were all in favor of accepting this land.

PUBLIC SAFETY & SERVICES

Muhlenberg Township Fire and Rescue - Chief Lupco stated for the month of January there were 150 calls for service, 38 were in Bern Township.

Emergency Medical Services – Mr. Moyer stated there were 305 calls in the month of January, and 35 calls were within Bern Township.

Emergency Management – Supervisors received a copy of the report.

Ratify Snow Emergency Declaration - Mr. Eveland made a motion to ratify the snow emergency declaration, seconded by Mr. Thompson. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Police Department - Supervisors received a copy of the monthly report.

Police Discussion / Approval to send Officer to Fire Investigation Training – Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve sending Officer Jordan Heckman to Fire Investigation Training, seconded by Mr. Eveland **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Police Discussion / Approval to Send Sergeant to Annual J-NET Conference – Mr. Eveland made a motion to approve to send Sergeant Ed Noll to Annual J-NET Conference, seconded by Mr. Thompson **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Police Discussion / Approval to Accept Bid for 2021 Dodge Charger – Mr. Potts stated the winning bid was \$9,300.00. Mr. Thompson made a motion to accept the bid for 2021 Dodge Charger, seconded by Mr. Eveland. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

PLANNING/ZONING/CODE ENFORCEMENT

Engineer (SSM) – Supervisors received a copy of report.

Planning Commission

Discussion / Approval of Greater Berks Development Fund Escrow Release - Mr. Potts noted that Mr. Morey did an analysis of their request and recommends the release of \$363,528.75 from escrow with a remaining balance of \$76,317.25. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the

Greater Berks Development Fund Escrow release, seconded by Mr. Eveland. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion / Approval of 2452 Ventnor Avenue Stormwater Agreement – Mr. Potts stated Atty. Mooney prepared the agreement for your consideration. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the 2452 Ventnor Avenue Stormwater Agreement, seconded by Mr. Eveland. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Time Extensions – Mrs. Reed stated there are no time extensions at this time.

Code Enforcement - Supervisors received a copy of the report.

STORMWATER MANGEMENT

MS4 Stormwater Report – Mr. Potts had nothing to add.

ROADS

The Supervisors have a copy of the report.

The following items will need to be discussed further, but Mr. Turner wanted the Board to be aware of some upcoming situations he is facing. The first being the salt shortage/availability. Mr. Turner has done some research and has found that using a salt brine could be a cost-effective solution. The brine is applied and starts to “cook” so then less salt is used when the first salt spreading application happens. Mr. Turner did calculations for 110 miles of road (which is doubled) we have 55 miles, would be about \$410.00. Mr. Turner noted there would be upfront costs for this method, so he will put together a plan and a list of equipment needed. Secondly, Mr. Turner noted the current salt shed holds about 250 tons. The possibility of getting a bigger shed to hold more tonnage would allow more salt to be stored, so we could possibly get through a whole season without needing to purchase or find more salt. Lastly, Mr. Turner noted the old paver was taken to dealership and the repairs that are needed are estimated to be about \$31,000.00. This machine is a 2010 and has about 55,000 hours logged. Mr. Turner does not see the value in putting this much money into the old machine and he has done some research into the cost of used pavers.

Discussion / Approval of 2026 Road Project – The road project will be going out to bid mid-February. This project is to have Cathy Drive, Almark Way, Christina Drive and James Drive roads milled out, ground out and then replaced with 2” fill. Also, Seifrit Lane, Possum Lane, White Oak Lane & West Leesport Road will be oiled and chipped. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the 2026 road project, seconded by Mr. Eveland. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion / Approval of 2026 Road Project Resolution- A resolution is needed for the 100 tons of asphalt/cement. This amount will be just below the allotted amount, so a resolution is needed so a price structure can be followed for small projects. Mr. Thompson made a motion to

approve the 2026 road project resolution, seconded by Mr. Eveland. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

SEWER/WATER/BERN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

Discussion / Approval of Assign Reading One Three LLC Project to BTMA - Mr. Tompson approved to assign Reading One Three, LLC project to BTMA, seconded by Mr. Eveland **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION

The Supervisors have a copy of the report. Mr. Potts stated there will be an email blast going out to residents as a reminder for recycling that cardboard/paper needs to be separated from jars/bottles/cans. The recycling company has been instructed to not take/pick up recycling that is co-mingled.

ADMINISTRATION

Discussion of Large CD Maturing on February 28, 2026 - This CD is currently with Tompkins Community Bank and matures on February 28, 2026. We will investigate the normal institutions and see who offers the best rates and share this information with the board.

Discussion / Approval of Appointment of the Planning Commission - This is for a term that is already in progress which ends at the end of 2026. Mr. Thomas Egan, who lives at 1371 Palisades Drive, works for a local architectural firm and is interested in filling this position. Mr. Eveland made a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Egan to the Planning Commission, seconded by Mr. Thompson. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion / Approval of Appointment to the Three-Year Alternate Zoning Hearing Board Position – Mr. James Adams, who lives at 725 Butter Lane, is interested in this position. This term is in progress and will end at the end of 2027. Mrs. Stork made a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Adams to the three-year alternate Zoning Hearing Board position, seconded by Mr. Thompson. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion / Approval of 2026 Uniform Pension COLA – Mr. Potts provided information from Girard for your consideration. Mr. Eveland made a motion to approve the increase of 3.7%, there was no seconded. Motion died due to lack of a second.

Discussion / Approval to Send Solicitor to Zoning Hearing – Mr. Potts stated the Zoning Hearing is for the installation of a sign at the intersection of Aviation Road and Rt 183. The

variance is needed because the property is in the Suburban Residential District not a Commercial District. Mr. Potts recommends we do not take an adversarial position to the zoning. Mrs. Stork stated that she generally does not feel that a solicitor should be sent to the zoning hearing, she feels this influences the outcome. Mrs. Reed explained that when we send a professional legal advisor to a zoning hearing our (the Township's) interests and concerns are presented. At a zoning hearing an actual transcription of the proceedings is created. This is an official legal document which can be used in a court of law.

Next Meeting- The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 7:00 PM at the Bern Township Municipal Building.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane DeJesus, Secretary/Treasurer