

**TOWNSHIP OF BERN
BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

March 1, 2022

SUPERVISORS MEETING

SUPERVISORS PRESENT: Irene Reed, Chairman
Brian Eveland, Supervisor
Jeff Thompson, Supervisor
Daniel Tobias, 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 via telephone.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Thompson moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented, which included the minutes of the February 1, 2022 Supervisors Meeting and to accept the finance report, subject to audit and approve payment of bills on the list, seconded by Mr. Eveland. YES: Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

FINANCE REPORT

Balances as of March 1, 2022: General Fund: \$1,656,200.03, State Account: \$506,466.06, PLGIT: \$67,062.70, Certificate of Deposits: \$557,414.64, Expenses: \$72,706.55. Treasurer's Report accepted subject to audit.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Evan Jack from Brossman Court asked questions pertaining to stormwater accumulating and a paving project on his property. Mr. Pflum offered to give him ideas. Mr. Potts stated that the Stormwater Ordinance will be adjusted this year, but nothing has been decided yet. Mr. Jack offered to be available if a committee should be needed.

Mr. Don Pottiger, president of the Daniel Boone Coin Club thanked the Police Department and presented them with a donation for the Police Equipment Fund.

ORDINANCES/ RESOLUTIONS

Discussion/ Approval of the Homestead Drive Resolution- Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the Homestead Drive Resolution; Mr. Tobias seconded. YES: Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Mr. Potts provided his report to the Board and stated the newsletter is at the printer.

PUBLIC SAFETY & SERVICES

Fire Company

No reports.

Emergency Medical Services

No reports.

Emergency Management

Mr. Hinkle provided his report to the Board.

Police Department

Chief Waugh provided his report to the Board and stated that unfortunately New Holland has cancelled the order for the Police vehicle due to lack of chips.

Discussion/ Approval of Keystone Konnection 2022 Training for Detective Sergeant- Chief Waugh requested a motion to approve Det. Sgt. Brett Forry's attendance at the Keystone Konnection 2022 Conference May 9-11, 2022. Chief Waugh stated Sgt. Detective Forry is a member of the International Association of Financial Crimes Investigators and the tuition will be paid for by Thompkins VIST Bank and the total cost to the Township will be \$298.00. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the Keystone Konnection 2022 Training for Detective Sergeant Brett Forry; Mr. Eveland seconded. YES: Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval to Send Officer to PA Gang Conference- Chief Waugh requested a motion to approve sending Officer Michael Archutowski to the PA Gang Conference May 17-19,

2022 which focuses on outlaw motorcycle gangs. Chief Waugh stated the total cost to the Township will be \$396. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the PA Gang Conference training for Officer Michael Archutowski; Mr. Eveland seconded. YES: Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval to Ratify Reading-Berks AAA Safety Grant Application- Chief Waugh requested a motion to ratify the Reading-Berks AAA Safety grant application which would grant \$5,021 for a smart radar sign board. Mr. Tobias made a motion to ratify the Reading-Berks AAA safety grant application; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: 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.

Planning Commission

Discussion/ Approval of Section 154-19.C(6) Plan Scale Waiver for Haupt Sketch Plan for Record- Mr. Potts stated the Planning Commission recommended approval of the waiver. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the Section 154-19.C(6) Plan Scale Waiver for the Haupt Sketch Plan for Record; Mr. Tobias seconded. YES: Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval of Haupt Sketch Plan for Record- Mr. Potts stated that the Planning Commission recommended approval of the plan subject to the conditions listed on the February 4, 2022 SSM review letter. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the Haupt Sketch Plan for Record contingent on the February 7, 2022 SSM review letter; Mr. Tobias seconded. YES: Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval of Penske Preliminary Plan- Mrs. Reed stated that this plan relates to the tract of Hartman land, not the building. Mr. Potts stated that this joins three properties and splits them into two properties, one for Penske and the residue along Route 183 for a proposed shopping center. Mr. Potts stated that the Planning Commission received this plan as a Sketch Plan for Record and it was discovered it can't be reviewed as a Sketch Plan for Record because it doesn't involve residential properties. Mr. Potts stated that the applicant recharacterized the plan as a Preliminary Plan and the Planning Commission recommended approval of the reconditioned Preliminary Plan subject to the SSM February 4, 2022 review letter and that SSM reviewed the Sketch Plan for Record with Preliminary and Final Plan remarks. Mr. Potts also stated that a Final Plan will need to be submitted and go through the approval process. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the Penske Preliminary Plan; Mr. Eveland seconded. YES: Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval of Land Development Waiver for Enersys Solar Panel Project- Mr. Potts informed the Board that Enersys is requesting a waiver from land development for the removal of an existing 20 feet x 44 feet solar panel array and replacing it with a 20 feet x 55 feet panel array in the same area and that part of the proposed solar panel array will be over a paved

area. Mr. Potts stated that the Planning Commission recommended the waiver. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve waiving land development for the Enersys Solar Panel Project; Mr. Eveland seconded. YES: Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion of Lord and Ladies Landscaping Plan- Ms. Liz McGovern, representative for Lords and Ladies Salon, asked the Board if they would be open to an alternative landscaping plan in order to keep as many parking spaces as possible versus the required landscape islands every 12 parking spaces. Mr. Thompson stated that he would be willing to look at their plans and offer assistance on choices. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve supporting an alternate landscaping plan for Lords and Ladies; Mr. Eveland seconded. YES: Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Ms. McGovern also asked the Supervisors for direction on curb and sidewalk requirements. Mr. Potts stated that he recommends waiving sidewalk requirements, but not curbing due to the need for edge of roadway support and truck traffic. Mr. Morey stated that the Planning Commission discussed waiving the sidewalks and re-evaluating curbing needs versus stormwater. Mr. Tobias asked if the curbs were to be on Route 183 and Mr. Potts stated they would be on MacArthur Road.

Discussion/ Approval of G&T Industries Escrow Release #1- Mr. Potts stated Mr. Morey analyzed the escrow and recommended that \$1,012,760 be released with a remaining balance of \$1,979,108. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the G&T Industries Escrow Release; Mr. Tobias seconded. Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval of Berks Park 183 Building E Escrow Release #3- Mr. Potts stated Mr. Morey analyzed the escrow and recommended that \$39,667 be released with a remaining balance of \$0. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the Berks Park 183 Building E Escrow Release; Mr. Tobias seconded. YES: Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion of Holiday Village Phase 2 Recreation Facilities- Mr. Potts stated that the developer asked if the Board will allow him to build recreation facilities, such as a pavilion, instead of the original agreement to pay \$550 per unit in lieu of constructing recreational facilities. Mr. Potts recommended that the Board ask Mr. Whitman to show them what he is proposing, Mr. Thompson asked who would be responsible for maintaining the facilities and Atty. Dietrich stated that there needs to be clarification on treatment of the facilities and will they be private or public. Mr. Potts also stated that Mr. Whitman is not asking to be reimbursed for any fees already paid and that he has been informed that it will require a revision to the final plan. Mrs. Reed tabled the topic until next month and Atty. Dietrich suggested reviewing the ordinance.

Time Extensions

None

Code Enforcement

Mr. Pflum provided his report to the Board.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

MS4 Stormwater Report

Mr. Potts stated that there were no illicit discharges found.

Discussion/ Approval of Engineering Proposal for Mayo Drive Stormwater Facility- Mr. Potts stated that Mr. Morey's proposal for the facility is \$11,500 and that this is the last stormwater facility required for the 2018-2023 DEP permit. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the \$11,500 engineering proposal for the Mayo Drive Stormwater Facility; Mr. Tobias seconded. YES: Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with the Berks County Conservation District- Mr. Potts stated that is a renewal MOU and the agreement allows the Berks County Conservation District to inspect jobsites for mud runoff into the streets. Mr. Thompson asked if they charge to perform this task and Mr. Potts stated no. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the MOU with the Berks County Conservation District; Mr. Eveland seconded. YES: Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Mr. Potts provided his report to the Board.

Mr. Potts informed the Board that the price of liquid asphalt is increasing and the road project might need to be cancelled if the price continues to climb. Mr. Potts also stated that the roadways are able to hold another year and he proposed they be added to the road project for next year if the price continues to increase. After discussion the Supervisors recommended holding off on the paving project.

Mr. Potts thanked Fisher's Rentals for reducing Township costs involved with renting a loader while the backhoe was undergoing repairs.

SEWER/ WATER/ BERN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

No report.

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMISION

No report.

Mr. Potts stated that he may be seeking the Solid Waste Authorities input on RFP's for trash and recycling and an optional bid for glass collection.

Discussion of Robby Drive Trash Service Request- Mr. Potts stated that a petition for trash service has been received from the residents of Robby Drive and informed the Supervisors typically a yes or no survey form would be sent to the Robby Drive residents asking for their private vote. The Supervisors agreed one should be sent.

ADMINISTRATION

Discussion/ Approval to Support Western Berks Ambulance Seeking ARP Funds from County of Berks- Mr. Potts stated that Western Berks Ambulance is asking for a letter of support from the Township supporting their grant request from the County. Mr. Thompson made a motion to send a letter supporting Western Berks Ambulance in the grant request; Mr. Tobias seconded. YES: Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion of Revenue Loss Standard Allowance Option for Utilizing American Rescue Plan Funding- Mr. Potts explained that a new category has been created allowing the option to claim the grant amount which then enables more flexibility on how the ARP money can be used. Mr. Potts stated that the first report to the treasury is due by the end of April and recommended this option. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve utilizing the Revenue Loss Standard Allowance for the ARP funds; Mr. Eveland seconded. YES: Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Next Supervisor’s meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 7:00 PM.

Mr. Potts stated that there will be an Executive Session held and there will be no action taken afterwards.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Thompson made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Eveland seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane DeJesus,
Secretary/Treasurer