

**TOWNSHIP OF BERN**  
**BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

March 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 March 3, 2026, General Fund: \$1,479,639.88 State Account: \$438,970.34, PLGIT: \$79,314.19, Certificate of Deposits: \$627,472.86, Expenses: \$75,063.75.

Treasurer's Report accepted subject to audit.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Gene Stork, 2984 Bernville Road** - Mr. Stork objects to the Executive Session that is being held later this evening, regarding the discussion of building height for Reading One Three facility. Mr. Stork feels the residents should know what is going on with the warehouse and there has not been enough time to discuss it. Atty. Mooney explained Executive Session and stated last Monday we announced we would render our decision at next month's meeting and we would hold an Executive Session at a future date which is this evening. There were several discussions in regard to the 45' height of this proposed warehouse. Mr. Stork's second comment was regarding Backup Alarms on trucks; will this be enforced and is there an Ordinance stating from what time at night to what time in the morning this is permitted? Mr. Potts noted there is a Nuisance Ordinance which would require someone to report on what times and dates the noises are being heard.

## **ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS**

**Discussion / Approval to Advertise the Alternative Energy Systems Ordinance** – Mr. Potts stated this to regulate large scale solar farms, will also provide legislation for accessory windmill structures and electronic charging stations. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve to advertise the Alternative Energy Systems Ordinance, seconded by Mr. Eveland. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

**Discussion / Approval to Advertise Planning Commission Ordinance** – Mr. Potts acknowledged the Planning Commission did not have an ordinance, therefore one needs to be established with criteria for which they act, and gives structure with rules and regulations to follow. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve to advertise Planning Commission Ordinance, seconded by Mr. Eveland. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

**Discussion / Approval of Stormwater Fee Resolution** – Mr. Potts noted this fee resolution keeps the project fees the same, however the escrow amounts are increasing. When the escrow amounts are posted it's exhausted before the review is completed. Small project escrow will be \$1,500.00 and a large project escrow will be \$2,250.00. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the Stormwater Fee Resolution, seconded by Mr. Eveland. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

## **TOWNSHIP MANAGER**

Supervisors received a copy of the report. Mr. Potts added the Newsletter has been mailed and residents should be receiving them shortly. Mr. Potts brought a discussion to the Board regarding a VA Medical Facility being proposed on Leisz's Bridge Road. Mr. Potts and Mr. Pflum will be having a discussion with the interested party regarding procedures and will gather more information and bring this to the Board.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY & SERVICES**

**Muhlenberg Township Fire and Rescue** - Chief Lupco stated for the month of February there were 31 calls for service in Bern Township with an average of 6.74 personnel per call. Chief Lupco noted a DCNR grant was applied for last year specifically for fire suppression equipment for communities that are potentially at high risk for wild & brush fires. Application was for a \$29,450.00 project for a new UTV with a pump and tank. Last week we were notified we were successful with this project. This piece of equipment will be stored at the Bern Township Fire Station once that is up and running.

**Discussion / Approval of Fire Station Lease with Reading Airport** – Mr. Potts noted this lease is still being worked on, but suggests the Board approve the lease subject to the solicitor and managers’ review. There are a few issues we are waiting to hear back on for clarification. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the Fire Station Lease with Reading Airport, seconded by Mr. Eveland. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

**Emergency Medical Services** – Mr. Hinkle stated he received Northern Berks report, but not Western Berks.

**Emergency Management** – Supervisors received a copy of the report.

**Discussion / Approval of Run Card Changes** – Mr. Potts stated that Chief Lupco worked on creating new boxes for the Township which will improve efficiency. Mr. Potts explained what “boxes” are. Boxes split the Township up in sections and each section requires certain types of fire equipment for a fire call because of demographic (ex: some areas have fire hydrants, and some do not). With Chief Lupco’s help these boxes have proper hydrant information and tankers are on the run card to respond. Chief Lupco also reviewed all the closest fire companies, and his analysis tags the closest fire companies for each box for a fire call. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve of Run Card Changes, seconded by Mr. Eveland. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

**Ratify Snow Emergency Declaration** - Mr. Potts noted this was for the storm that did not materialize as expected. Mr. Thompson made a motion to Ratify Snow Emergency Declaration, seconded by Mr. Eveland. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

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

**Discussion of Towing Policy** - Mr. Potts noted the Police Department currently uses the police officer’s discretion to determine who they will contact for towing services when needed. This discretion policy is legal and valid, but the Board must validate this policy. Mr. Eveland made a

motion to validate Officer's discretion for towing services in the Township, seconded by Dr. Wagner **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried. Atty. Mooney added the companies that are being used should be checked on an annual basis to make sure they meet insurance requirements set forth in the statute.

## **PLANNING/ZONING/CODE ENFORCEMENT**

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

### **Planning Commission**

**Discussion / Approval of BCIDA Fourth Addendum to Development Schedule** – Mr. Potts stated the schedule is asking to allow the last three (3) lots to be extended until December 31, 2027, for development. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve BCIDA Fourth Addendum to Development Schedule, seconded by Mr. Eveland. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

**Discussion / Approval of Lookout Lot 4 Stormwater Agreement** – Mr. Potts noted the owner information that is listed for this lot might be incorrect. Marcy and Jeff Koppenheffer are currently listed for this property. We are aware that Berks Mapping has not been updating the property changes in a timely fashion. We want to make sure we have the proper owner verified before this is approved.

### **Time Extensions**

**Stinson Drive Properties** – Plan date is April 13, 2026. Mr. Thompson moved that if an extension of time has not been granted by the applicant, prior to the expiration date of April 13, 2026, that the plan be rejected for the reasons set forth in the latest Engineering review letter. Mr. Eveland seconded this motion. Mrs. Stork asked if the time extension process could be explained, which Mr. Potts did. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

**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.

**Discussion / Approval of Stinson Drive Road Closure and Detour** – Mr. Potts explained this is for BTMA due to the sewer main which is sagging. This project is to excavate Stinson Drive

since the main is located below this area. BTMA has submitted a letter requesting road closure for approximately 2 weeks starting on March 9, 2026, from 7:00 am – 5:00 pm. A detour route involves West Leesport Road and Leisz's Bridge Road to get to either end of Stinson Drive. Signage appears to be sufficient. Mr. Thompson made a motion for the approval of Stinson Drive Road Closure and Detour, seconded by Mr. Eveland. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

**Discussion of Ziegler / Park Road Intersection and Stop Signs** – Mr. Turner has received several complaints regarding this intersection and with the site distance, this is hazardous. Mr. Turner recommends putting up a stop sign on Ziegler Road and having an Engineering Study completed.

### **SEWER/WATER/BERN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY**

The Supervisors have a copy of the report. Mrs. Reed noted the sagging pipe replacement cost bid came in at \$58,000.00.

### **SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Mr. Potts reported he took a tour of Cogle's Recycling facility and their operation process. The most important lesson learned is when putting out recycling for collection the paper/cardboard must be in a separate container from the container for plastics, glass, and jars. The Township will get charged extra fees if this process is not followed.

### **ADMINISTRATION**

**Discussion / Approval of CD Reinvestment** - Tompkins Community Bank has the best rates for 6 or 9 months of 3.49%, 12 month rate is 3.43% and 18-months is 3.17%. The next best is Wells Fargo for 7 months at 3.24% and Truist Bank was 3.02% for 12 months. It looks like we are staying with Tompkins Bank, just need to decide if we want the 9 months at 3.49% or the 12 months at 3.43%. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the 9 months with Tompkins Bank, seconded by Mrs. Stork. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

**Discussion / Approval to Send Solicitor to Zoning Hearing** – Mr. Potts stated this is for the Bernville Business Center. Mr. Potts read the letter from Atty. Josele Cleary. Mr. Potts also shared a map with the property highlighted. As of now they were instructed to use Leisz's Bridge Road as the main entrance and exit and the portion that touches Route 183 as the emergency exit, I propose that this be switched. The reason this is being suggested is to eliminate traffic flowing through residential areas to enter their business. Suggestion was made to sit down with the developer to discuss this switch before sending solicitor to Zoning Hearing. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve sending Solicitor to Zoning Hearing with the intent of

establishing criteria for the developer to meet in order to receive their variances, seconded by Mr. Eveland. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. **NO:** Mrs. Stork

**Discussion / Approval of Appointment to the Two-Year Alternate Zoning Hearing Board Position** – Mr. Thompson made a motion to appoint Craig Preiebe to the Two-Year Alternate Zoning Hearing Board position, seconded by Mr. Eveland. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Discussion of Reading One Three Conditional Use Application

The executive session was adjourned at 9:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane DeJesus, Secretary/Treasurer