

BERN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting of Bern Township Municipal Authority

March 25, 2026

ATTENDEES: Jay Field, Treasurer; Fred Gurman, Chairman; Irene Reed, Secretary; Gloria Heffner, Asst. Treasurer; Alice Hinkle, Assistant Secretary; Solicitor, Daniel Becker, Kozloff Stoudt; Kevin Conrad, Engineer, SSM Group

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Gurman, Chairman at 11:00 AM.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 25TH, 2026: Mr. Field noted at the February meeting, he said \$48,000.00 was the amount of rate increase from WBWA, however, it is only a \$25,000 increased expense to BTMA.

Ms. Hinkle made a motion to approve the monthly minutes of the February 25th, 2026, meeting with the WBWA rate increase correction. Seconded by Ms. Reed. Motion Carried.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Berks Co. Youth Center announced they will be housing 51 people, increasing their water and sewer usage at a future date.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mr. Field presented the water bill list for March in the amount of \$58,456.91 consisting of \$41,215.00 to WBWA; \$4,650.00 to Maillie LLP for the final audit billing; and \$8,449.66 to RAWA.

Mr. Field made a motion to pay the March water bills as presented. Seconded by Ms. Heffner. **VOTE:** Yes – Mr. Field, Ms. Heffner, Mr. Gurman, Ms. Reed, Ms. Hinkle. Motion Carried.

Mr. Field presented the sewer bill list for March in the amount of \$52,982.34 consisting of \$10,358.53 to SSM of which \$220.00 will be reimbursed by developers; \$8,065.92 to Kozloff of which \$1,063.84 will be reimbursed by developers; \$3,599.84 to Envirep for the yearly service agmt. for the Greenfields PS's; \$10,850.00 to Maillie LLP for the final audit billing; and \$11,196.50 to Berks County for the qtrly. T&T.

Mr. Field made a motion to pay the March sewer bills as presented. Seconded by Ms. Heffner. **VOTE:** Yes – Mr. Field, Ms. Heffner, Mr. Gurman, Ms. Reed, Ms. Hinkle. Motion Carried.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Water Rate – There was discussion about increasing the water rates for commercial and industrial customers based on the rates presented. There have been two rate increases from WBWA since 2024. BTMA did not increase the rate in 2025. BTMA's profit was \$10,238.00 on the water side in 2025. The expense to repair one water main break usually is that much or more.

Mr. Field handed out his calculations for the proposed rate increases for commercial customers that would result in those customers paying .555 times their monthly minimum gallons for their meter size divided by 1000 gallons. The charge for over the minimum for both commercial and residential would increase from \$4.96 to \$5.55/1000 gallons.

BTMA agreed that a rate increase was necessary to prepare for upcoming water system repairs. A new resolution will be adopted with the new water rates, effective April 1st, 2026 for the May 1st, 2026 billing.

Ms. Hinkle made a motion to authorize a resolution be passed to increase the water rates as presented, effective April 1st, 2026, for the May 1st, 2026 billing. Seconded by Ms. Reed. **VOTE:** Yes – Mr. Field, Ms. Heffner, Mr. Gurman, Ms. Reed, Ms. Hinkle. Motion Carried.

CD's – Two Sewer CD's came due in March, one with Riverfront CU and one with First National Bank of Ohio. Mr. Field renewed both CD's at \$245,000 for one year. The \$240,000 Riverfront CD was redeposited at \$245,000, using \$5,000 of the \$9,903.18 interest toward the principal, and the rest was deposited into the ICS account. The new Riverfront CD will earn 3.75%

The First National Bank of Ohio CD earned \$9,932.71 in interest and was redeposited with Cross River Bank at \$245,000 at a 3.8% interest rate for one year. The next CD will come due on April 29, 2026.

Audit Report – The audit report was completed, and each board member received a copy for review.

Maillie Engagement Letter for 2026 through 2028 – There was a discussion to continue using Maillie for the next three years as BTMA's auditors.

Ms. Reed made a motion to continue engaging Maillie's services as BTMA's auditors from 2026 through 2028. Seconded by Mr. Field. Motion Carried.

PROJECT COMMITTEE: RRAA – Bi-Monthly Meeting – None.

PERSONNEL: None.

ENGINEER: Pump Stations Update – The cranes have not been installed but, they should be installed by the May board meeting.

Penske District Services Facility (Hartman South) – discussion under Solicitor.

Penske Truck & Collision Repair Center – None.

Bernville Business Center – None.

High Billed Usage vs. Usage Billed – None.

Miller Agreement – The agreement was sent to the Solicitor for review.

Stinson Road Project – The project should begin in mid-April.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Penske District Services Facility (Hartman South) – The Bill of Sale has been finalized along with 2 Easements and the Assignment of Easements. They will be ready for signature at the April Meeting.

There was considerable discussion regarding how much to bill the Hospital each quarter, and how much to reimburse for future connections. No agreement was reached, so future discussions will continue at the next meeting.

The Reimbursement Agreement for any EDU charges paid in regards to the Hartman Property was discussed. The Hospital will be reimbursed for the transportation part of and EDU charge. That dollar amount must be determined.

RRAA Agreement – A meeting between BTMA and the airport is needed to finalize the agreement.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Acct. 28826608 requesting reversal of \$6.50 penalty. The payment was mailed but BTMA never received it.

Ms. Heffner made a motion to reverse a \$6.50 penalty for acct. 28826608. Seconded By Ms. Hinkle. **VOTE:**
Yes – Mr. Field, Ms. Heffner, Mr. Gurman, Ms. Reed, Ms. Hinkle. Motion Carried.

Ms. Reed made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:20 PM. Seconded by Ms. Hinkle. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Irene Reed, Secretary