

TOWNSHIP OF BERN
BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

May 5, 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
Brett Forry, Chief of Police
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

Dr. Wagner 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 May 5, 2026, General Fund: \$2,599,529.55 State Account: \$699,833.66, PLGIT: \$79,797.46, Certificate of Deposits: \$647,257.41, Expenses: \$80,163.21.

Treasurer's Report accepted subject to audit.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Colten Chestnut, 108 Van Street – Mr. Chestnut received a no trespass and a cease-and-desist letter from his neighbor regarding property lines. Mr. Chestnut noted he had his property surveyed and knows the property lines, and now his neighbor put pins in on what he believes is Mr. Chestnut’s property. Atty. Mooney stated this would be considered a civil matter between neighbors. Mr. Chestnut also inquired about the rules on fence height. Mr. Potts responded a fence up to 6’ in height can be erected without a permit, but a zoning permit is needed. If the fence is higher than 6’ a building permit and zoning permit will need to be submitted.

Marissa Loeb, Chris Thomas & Keith Marten from Schuylkill Valley Community Library – provided information regarding year end totals for 2025 and a profit and loss statement. Ms. Loeb added there is a new pantry available to help those in need which located in the library and open during library hours. Ms. Loeb is excited to announce the Summer Learning Programs are posted and are filling up fast. Mr. Thomas added the Youth Program that has been developed for toddlers and up to high schoolers has been very successful and wanted to thank Bern Township for their continued support.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

Discussion/Approval of Ziegler & Park Road Stop Sign Ordinance – Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve Ziegler & Park Road Stop Sign Ordinance, seconded by Dr. Wagner. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval of Planning Commission Ordinance – Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve Planning Commission Ordinance, seconded by Mr. Thompson. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval of Intergovernmental Resolution - Mr. Potts stated this resolution is to support an intergovernmental agreement with Lower Heidelberg for the distilling basin. This distilling basin is a peninsula that goes into Lower Heidelberg Township, but Lower Heidelberg does not have quick access to this basin. This agreement will allow Bern Township police to have authority on that peninsula. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve Intergovernmental Resolution, seconded by Mr. Thompson. **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 pointed out there are new trees which have been planted on the Township campus and were donated by Berks Nature. If the board is inclined Mr. Potts would like to send Berks Nature a Thank You letter. Dr. Wagner made a motion to send a Thank You letter to Berks Nature, seconded by Mr. Thompson. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Mr. Potts also wanted to thank the Planning Commission for their hard work on the Alternative Energy Ordinance. Atty. Mooney, Mr. Pflum and Mr. Potts met virtually and reviewed their comments and implanted most of their recommendations. However, there are two sections that we disagreed upon. 1) to allow commercial alternative energy systems in not only the general, industrial, limited industrial, agricultural business, institutional recreational, rural residential, shopping center, and office research Districts. We believe that this is not a good idea to have large solar rays among residential areas. We recommend allowing commercial solar installation in the DI (what does DI stand for?), limited industrial, and the institutional recreational Districts. 2) Also recommend this is legislated for Conditional Use.

PUBLIC SAFETY & SERVICES

Muhlenberg Township Fire and Rescue - Chief Lupco stated there were 100 calls for service and 30 were for service in Bern Township, with an average of 6.56 personnel per call.

Discussion/Approval of Fire Station Lease - Mr. Potts stated this is to approve the lease with the fire station, located on airport grounds. All prior concerns have been addressed. The lease is for a total of 39 years and 11 months; which is the most the FAA allows for a lease. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the fire station lease, seconded by Mr. Thompson. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Emergency Medical Services – Northern Berks report was received, but Western Berks report was not. Mr. Hinkle asked if a letter could be sent to Western Berks reminding them to submit their report in a timely fashion.

Emergency Management – Supervisors received a copy of the report. Mr. Hinkle noted the Blue Marsh Regional Report was also provided.

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

Discussion/Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement -Chief Forry asked for approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the intergovernmental agreement, seconded by Dr. Wagner. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval to Send Officers to De-Escalation & Intervention Training - Chief Forry stated Officer Archutowski and Officer Boyer would be attending this training. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve sending Officer Archutowski and Officer Boyer to De-Escalation & Intervention Training, seconded by Mr. Thompson. **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 to Return Berks County Youth Detention Facility Land Development Escrow Residue- Mr. Potts stated Land Development waiver was received, their residue balance is \$2,654.47. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the return to Berks County Youth Detention Facility Land Development Escrow Residue, seconded by Mr. Thompson. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Time Extensions

Berks Park 183 Lots A, F & G - Dr. Wagner moved that if an extension of time has not been granted by the applicant, prior to the expiration date of June 8, 2026, that the plan be rejected for the reasons set forth in the latest Engineering review letter, seconded by Mr. Thompson. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Code Enforcement - Supervisors received a copy of the report.

Discussion/Approval to Refund Cemetery Lane Building Permit Fee - Mr. Pflum explained a permit application and fee were submitted for a cell tower on Cemetery Lane. The cell tower location is in Penn Township, even though Cemetery Lane is in Bern Township, so the permit fee should be refunded. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the refund of Cemetery Lane building permit fee, seconded by Mr. Thompson. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

STORMWATER MANGEMENT

MS4 Stormwater Report- Nothing to report.

ROADS

The Supervisors have a copy of the report.

Discussion/Approval to Sell 2004 Ford Explorer - Mr. Eveland made a motion to approve the selling of the 2004 Ford Explorer, seconded by Mr. Thompson. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

SEWER/WATER/BERN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

Nothing to report

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Nothing to report

ADMINISTRATION

Discussion/Approval to Ratify Schuylkill Highlands Mini-Grant Support Letter for Schuylkill River Gateway Association Trail Study - Mr. Potts stated the grant application is being submitted to Schuylkill Highlands for funding to do a trail study in the Cross Keys area. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the support letter for Schuylkill River Gateway Association, seconded by Mr. Thompson. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval to Ratify Watershed Protection Grant for Berks Nature- Berks Nature submitted a grant for several projects, and our project on Mayo Drive and Fisher Road is included in this submission, so a support letter should be provided. Dr. Wagner made a motion to ratify Watershed Protection grant for Berks Nature, seconded by Mr. Thompson. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval of Penn State Health Grant Project Agreement -Mr. Potts stated the Township had a signed agreement with Penn State Health several years ago, but this agreement has been revised by their Grant Administrator. This is the \$1,000,000.00 grant for their Cath Lab project, which was finished 2-3years ago. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve Penn State Health Grant Project Agreement, seconded by Mr. Thompson. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval to Refund Partial 2025 Real Estate Tax for 1281 Fairview Drive – Mr. Potts stated this refund is for the property where a fire occurred last January, and since the house was not there for the rest of the year there should be a credit for the Township Taxes. This credit would be in the amount of \$298.36. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the refund of partial 2025 Real Estate Tax for 1281 Fairview Drive, seconded by Mr. Thompson. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval to Send Solicitor to Zoning Hearing Board – Berkshire Greens – a variance has been or will be submitted for the stone building along Route 183 to convert from commercial to residential. This will not change the character of the neighborhood, and do not recommend sending a solicitor to the Zoning Hearing.

Discussion/Approval to Send Solicitor to Zoning Hearing Board – Noll Pallet & Lumber – Mr. Potts explained this is where Eden Farms used to be. Noll Pallet & Lumber now own the property, and Henkels and McCoy (who is a sub-contractor of Met-Ed and PP&L) want to utilize the project to situate an office job trailer, store Conex boxes, materials and equipment for site work. This property is located behind a residential area. An alternative location was suggested for Henkels and McCoy to take over the other half of the Data Link parking lot. Decision to

send the solicitor to Zoning Hearing Board will be decided after the application is submitted to see what the applicant provides as information.

Discussion/Approval of Recycling Drop Off-Center Five-Year Extension Agreement with Berks County - Mr. Potts stated we lease the land for free from the County where our Yard Waste site is located and our agreement expires September 30, 2026. They have provided us with a five-year extension. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the Five-Year Extension Agreement with Berks County, seconded by Dr. Wagner. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Next Meeting- The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, at 7:00 PM at the Bern Township Municipal Building.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Respectfully submitted,

Diane DeJesus, Secretary/Treasurer