TOWNSHIP OF BERN

BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

September 1, 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. Thompson **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

FINANCE REPORT

Balances as of September 1, 2026, General Fund: $2,572,373.95 State Account: $228,537.72, PLGIT: $80,797.57, Certificate of Deposits: $647,257.41, Expenses: $61,515.17.

Treasurer's Report accepted subject to audit.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Marissa Loeb from Schuylkill Valley Community Library – Ms. Loeb provided a Summer Learning Program Report along with the 2025 report to show how much the numbers have increased in 1 year. Ms. Loeb highlighted some upcoming events. One event she wanted to touch on is the "Rally for the Ramp" campaign. The ADA ramp currently at the library needs to be replaced. The library has secured a $16,000.00 grant though the Berks Community Foundation and is looking for support from the community for any added expenses. Ms. Loeb also provided the 2026 Funding Formula and thanked Bern Township for their continued financial support.

Mike Worley, Bern Township Planning Commission- Mr. Worley read a section from the Planning Commission meeting minutes from July 2026, with regards to not allowing AB & RR districts to install commercial solar panels, which the Planning Commission does not agree with. The primary reasons stated is to not allow commercial solar within these districts are primarily focused on aesthetics, but this may not be a valid agreement, since the proposed ordinance does state screen previsions. The Planning Commission still respectfully recommends that the Board of Supervisors include both the AB & RR district as allowable areas for installation of commercial solar energy systems. Mrs. Reed read what a variance is, which indicates that anyone could apply for variance for solar panels. Mr. Potts also stated when he received the review letter from the Berks County Planning Commission, he asked the reviewer if it was appropriate to locate large commercial solar panels in AB & RR districts, and the response from the reviewer was No. The reviewer felt solar should not be near prime agriculture lands, or residential areas.

Steve Tricarico, Bern Township Planning Commission - Mr. Tricarico knows one of the main concerns for the solar panels is the way they look. Mr. Tricarico provided information showing two (2) very large solar panel fields that already exist and because of the way they are sited it makes it difficult to know they exist. Mr. Tricarico also wanted to point out that solar panels can be installed on the roofs of buildings and not just installed on the ground. When he spoke with the Executive Director of Berks County Department of Agriculture regarding solar panels and their impact and questioned about putting solar panels on roofs in what is considered "forever farm" and found out that there is no impact because it does not take away from the agricultural land. This could potentially alleviate the visual site of solar panels. Mr. Tricarico also made his last point, that if only 39 of our major farms would have a chicken house on their property, and would install solar panels on that chicken house, this produces enough energy to satisfy 3 times the amount of our residential consumption in our Township.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Reed temporarily adjourned the meeting to discuss litigation @ 7:16 p.m.

Meeting reconvened 7:46 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

Alternative Energy Ordinance - Atty. Mooney stated that today was date and time advertised for the Public Hearing on the Alternative Energy Ordinance which amends the Bern Township Zoning Ordinance. Public notice was in the Reading Eagle on August 19 and August 24 of 2026 and was posted at the Township Building. The Ordinance was also available for inspection by the community. The Ordinance, if passed this evening would amend the Bern Township Zoning Ordinance by providing rules and regulations for the sighting and locating of alternative energy systems, primarily solar within the Township for accessory use and commercial. This Ordinance added some definitions to the Bern Township Zoning Ordinance, unrelated to the alternative energy systems. Amended the definition of "accessory building and group home" and created a definition for "grazing animals." Atty. Mooney asked the audience if there were any questions or comments. Let the record show there were no questions or comments from the audience. Atty. Mooney asked if the Board of Supervisors had any additional questions or comments, with none, Atty. Mooney closed the Public Hearing. Dr. Wagner made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Mr. Thompson. Dr. Wagner also made a motion to accept the Alternative Energy Ordinance, seconded by Mr. Thompson **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. **NO:** Mrs. Stork. Motion carried.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

Discussion/Approval of John Deer Mower LSA State Grant Resolution - Mr. Potts stated Bern Township is applying to both LSA grants for a John Deer Mower for the road department. The current mower is from 2002. Mrs. Stork asked if we do not receive the grant money, can we still proceed to purchase the mower? Mr. Potts explained if we do not receive the grant money there is not enough money in the budget to purchase one. Mr. Eveland made a motion for approval of John Deer Mower LSA State Grant Resolution, seconded by Dr. Wagner. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried. Dr.

Discussion/Approval of John Deer Mower LSA Local Grant Resolution – Dr. Wagner made a motion for approval of John Deer Mower LSA Local Grant 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 added the Agricultural Security applications are now open. Also, the burn ban is still in effect.

PUBLIC SAFETY & SERVICES

Muhlenberg Township Fire and Rescue – Mr. Potts noted Chief Lupco was unable to attend tonight's meeting, due to a current structure fire. Mrs. Reed commended the Fire Department and our Police Department for their quick work with this past weekend's house fire in Bern Township.

Emergency Medical Services – Mr. Hinkle will let us know when the report is available.

Emergency Management – Supervisors received a copy of the report.

Police Department - Supervisors received a copy of the report.

Discussion/Approval to Sell Police Mountain Bike – Chief Forry stated they have (2) two mountain bikes, and to cut maintenance costs, they would like to sell one of the bikes. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the selling of one police mountain bike, seconded by Dr. Wagner. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval to Accept Donation from Star-Spangled Spectacular - Chief Forry stated a $500.00 donation was received that will go toward the Police Equipment Fund. Mr. Thompson made a motion to accept the donation from Star-Spangled Spectacular, 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 the report.

Planning Commission

Discussion/Approval of Berks Parks Lots A, F, & G Final Land Development Plan – Mr. Potts stated Mr. Zaborowski from BCIDA is here to answer any questions. Mr. Potts noted the Planning Commission did recommend approval of the final plan, condition use to the SSM letter dated August 3, 2026. Mr. Zaborowski wanted to discuss (2) two items. In the final land development submission to the Planning Commission there was a design that included an easement on a portion of one of the properties, owned by US Anodize. US Anodize notified BCIDA they would prefer that the BCIDA purchase this property instead of an easement which is .083 acres. This information was only found out this week. Mr. Zaborowski reached out to the Township, Solicitor and Engineer to determine if it was appropriate to continue or if this was too big of a change. Mr. Morey stated that once he and Atty. Mooney reviewed this information and if it's okay, that would be a part of your approval. Mr. Zaborowski also wanted to review Item #5 in the review letter asking if the Letter of Credit could be waived. Atty. Mooney explained the legalities of this being waived. Mr. Thompson made a motion to accept with condition of the SSM letter of August 3, 2026, and the Solicitor and Engineer review of the land in question being sold to BCIDA from US Anodize along with the waiver request, seconded by Dr. Wagner. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval of Reading One Three, LLC Conditional Use Agreement -Atty. Mooney explained there was a Conditional Use Hearing for the Reading One Three, LLC proposed warehouse at 1067 West Leesport Road. The Board of Supervisors issued a Conditional Use decision denying their request to increase the height of the proposed warehouse from 35 feet to 45 feet. They filed an appeal with the Court of Common Pleas. There was an Oral Argument with Judge Fudeman 2 weeks ago, but Judge Fudeman made no decision and rescheduled Oral Argument till next Tuesday and wanted the interested parties to have a conversation to come to an agreement. What came out of these conversations is a proposed Condition. The Township has the option tonight whether to accept these 32 Conditions or not. Atty. Mooney read the 32 Conditions. There were lengthy discussions and concerns expressed regarding many of the topics in this document. Mrs. Reed asked the audience for their feedback and simplified the question at hand; do we accept 35 feet with no conditions or 45 feet with conditions? Ms. Burkovich asked if there could be a weight limit put on West Leesport Road. Mr. Potts did reply that this would be very difficult to enforce. Mr. Thompson made motion to reject the offer of settlement put forth by the developer, seconded by Mrs. Stork. **YES:** Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, and Mrs. Reed. **NO**: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Thompson. Motion carried.

Time Extensions

Bernville Business Center - Dr. Wagner moved that if an extension of time has not been granted by the applicant, prior to the expiration date of October 12, 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.

Riverfront Federal Credit Union- Dr. Wagner moved that if an extension of time has not been granted by the applicant, prior to the expiration date of October 12, 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.

STORMWATER MANGEMENT

MS4 Stormwater Report. Mr. Potts added DEP will be coming later this month for an audit of our stormwater program.

ROADS

Supervisors have a copy of the report.

SEWER/WATER/BERN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

Nothing to report.

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Nothing to report.

ADMINISTRATION

Discussion/Approval of the 2027 Uniform & Non-Uniform Minimum Municipal Obligation- Mr. Potts noted this is for the contributions to both pension plans in 2027. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the 2027 Uniform & Non-Uniform Minimum Municipal Obligation, seconded by Mr. Eveland. **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 Schuylkill River Greenway Association; they are looking to establish a campsite. They own a small piece of property near Rickenbach Road on the river. This campsite would serve as their rest spot for kayaking and then they could continue down the river. This would only happen 4 to 5 times a year. Mr. Potts does not recommend sending the solicitor to the zoning hearing. No motion made.

Discussion/Approval to Appoint Jessica Seiders Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer -Currently Mr. Potts is the Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer to Mrs. DeJesus, Mrs. Seiders will be taking Mr. Potts position. Mr. Eveland made a motion for approval to appoint Jessica Seiders Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer, seconded by Mr. Thompson. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Next Meeting- The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 6, 2026, at 7:00 PM at the Bern Township Municipal Building.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane DeJesus, Secretary/Treasurer