TOWNSHIP OF BERN

BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

October 6, 2026

SUPERVISORS MEETING

SUPERVISORS PRESENT:	Irene Reed, Chairperson Brian Eveland, Supervisor Jeffrey Thompson, 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

Mr. Thompson moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Mr. Eveland **YES:** Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

FINANCE REPORT

Balances as of October 6, 2026, General Fund: $2,128,835.48 State Account: $229,120.41, PLGIT: $81,311.67, Certificate of Deposits: $647,257.41, Expenses: $841,314.73.

Treasurer's Report accepted subject to audit.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Maureen Huber, Wendy Road – Ms. Huber's concern was the loss of shade trees in her neighborhood and if there could be a consideration of replanting. Mr. Potts stated that the Township may consider it in the future.

Sharon Henke, Heather Lane - Mrs. Henke's concerns come from the meeting that was held by State Representative Eric Weaknecht with regard to Route 183 and roundabouts. Berks State Representative Eric Weaknecht was present at tonight's' meeting and answered there is a long-term possibility this could happen. Representative Weaknecht also stated within the next two years the entire road (Route 183) will be resurfaced, rumble strips installed, and a light at the Penn-Bernville Elementary School with left-hand turning lane coming south and right-hand turning lane going north. Mrs. Henke's is also concerned with the area coming out of her development onto Route 183 with the traffic flow. Chief Forry responded this same concern was brought up at the above-mentioned meeting, and this is the City of Reading and Penn DOT issue. Mrs. Henke also noted the need for paving of the streets in the Greenfields area. Mr. Potts listed all the Greenfields streets that have been paved.

Chief Forry depicted a situation that happened on August 29, 2026, and would like to recognize Sergeant Noll and Officer Mazza, for their quick and professional actions that helped save the life of a female resident. Sergeant Noll and Officer Mazza are a credit to themselves and their department and Bern Township community they serve. State Representative Eric Weaknecht presented a citation to Officer Mazza. State Representative Brett Miller of Lancaster presented a citation to Sergeant Noll. Representative Miller also spoke about the importance of public safety and the heart it takes to protect the community which is being celebrated this evening.

Maria DeWald, Rick Road – Ms. DeWald asked the Supervisors to consider appealing the courts decision for the Conditional Use for the Reading One-Three warehouse. It is Ms. DeWald's understanding that the court has ruled in favor of the developer. Atty. Mooney noted there has not been a written decision issued yet. Once the written decision is received the Township has 30 days to appeal.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

Discussion/Approval to Advertise Pension Ordinance Amendment - Mr. Potts stated this is for a minor change in the police pension ordinance. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve to advertise the pension ordinance amendment, seconded by Mr. Eveland. **YES:** Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval of Berks County Tax Collection Committee Resolution- Mrs. Reed introduced Mrs. Jessica Seiders, the new Assistant Township Manager, upon Mr. Potts's retirement at the end of the year. Mr. Potts explained this committee is the committee that

collects our earned income tax and our local services tax and remits it to us. Currently Diane DeJesus is the primary representative and Mr. Potts is the alternate for the Schuylkill Valley School District. With Mr. Potts's retirement Mrs. Jessica Seiders will be the primary and Diane DeJesus will be the alternate moving forward. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the Berks County Tax Collection Committee Resolution, seconded by Mr. Eveland. **YES:** Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Supervisors received a copy of the report. Mr. Potts added this will be his last Supervisor meeting seated on the dais; Mrs. Seiders will be seated in this position for the November and December meetings.

Mrs. Reed congratulated Mr. Potts on his excellent DEP audit.

PUBLIC SAFETY & SERVICES

Muhlenberg Township Fire and Rescue – Chief Lupco stated for the month of September there were 147 calls for service and 35 in Bern Township. Chief Lupco also announced the Annual Fire Prevention Open House will be held on Saturday, October 17th, 11:00- 2:00 at the firehouse location 4963 Kutztown Road.

Discussion/Approval of Third Amendment to Fire Service Agreement – Mr. Potts stated it is noted in our Fire Protection Agreement with Muhlenberg Fire that we give 100% of our Foreign Fire Insurance money that we receive from the state to Muhlenberg Fire. Muhlenberg Fire has decided to share 5% with Mt. Pleasant Fire Company. This amendment will allow us to give 5% to Mt. Pleasant and 95% to Muhlenberg. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the third amendment to the fire service agreement, seconded by Mrs. Stork. **YES:** Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Emergency Medical Services – Mr. Hinkle stated both reports were received and provided to the Supervisors.

Emergency Management – Supervisors received a copy of the report.

Discussion of Burning Ban – Mr. Potts recommended that the burn ban be lifted. Mr. Thompson made a motion to lift the burn ban, seconded by Mr. Eveland. **YES:** Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Police Department - Supervisors received a copy of the report.

Chief Forry added a donation of $500.00 was received from IAMABLE. For the last three years the Police Department have helped with their "road race" to raise money for disabled veterans. In leu of charging them, they have sent a donation. Chief Forry asking that this donation be accepted and will be ratified at next month's meeting. Supervisors did not take exception to receiving the donation.

Discussion/Approval of 2026 Trick or Treat Night, Saturday October 31 from 6 pm to 9 pm - Mrs. Stork made a motion to approve October 31 as 2026 Trick or Treat Night, seconded by Mr. Thompson. **YES:** Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval to Accept Bid of Police Bike - Chief Forry stated a bid of $220.00 was received for the police bike. Mrs. Stork made a motion to accept the $220.00 bid for the police bike, seconded by Mr. Thompson. **YES:** 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 Eagle Metals Cartway Widening Waiver 154-24.A.(12) – Mr. Potts stated the Planning Commission recommends approving the waiver. This cartway had been widened with their last project, so it would not be necessary for this to be done again. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the Eagle Metals Cartway Widening Waiver 154-24.A.(12), seconded by Mrs. Stork. **YES:** Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval of Eagle Metals Street Tree Waiver 154-32.N- Mr. Potts stated Eagle Metals already had trees planted between the parking lot and the street, again the Township did not feel the need to require Eagle Metals to plant trees again. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the Eagle Metals Street Tree Waiver 154-32.N, seconded by Mrs. Stork. **YES:** Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval of Holiday Village Escrow Release #3- Mr. Potts stated Mr. Morey did an analysis of the Holiday Village escrow release request. Mr. Morey is recommending the amount of $72,882.00 be released from their escrow. The remaining balance will be $213,592.85. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the Holiday Village Escrow Release #3, seconded by Mrs. Stork. **YES:** Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Time Extensions

Mrs. Reed stated no time extensions are required.

Code Enforcement - Supervisors received a copy of the report.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

MS4 Stormwater Report. Mr. Potts commented on how well the DEP's audit went.

ROADS

Supervisors have a copy of the report.

SEWER/WATER/BERN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

Nothing to report.

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Nothing to report.

Mr. Thompson asked for clarification regarding recycling. His understanding is that paper, cardboard, and newspaper are to be separated from glass, cans and plastics. Mr. Potts responded that this was correct and explained the difference between single stream and dual stream costs.

ADMINISTRATION

Discussion/Approval to Offer the Samaritan Fund Program to Police and Administration Departments - Mr. Potts noted this is a fund that is sourced with funds from 3rd party sponsors, foundations and groups that provide donations. This program is for people with chronic illness with costly health bills. Mr. Potts explained the Samaritan Fund Program: if an employee or one of their family members has a chronic illness, they would apply to the Samaritan Fund Program, if accepted they would stay on this program for one year, any significant health charges or claims are moved out of our account and moved into the Samaritan Fund account. The Township pays $60,000.00 to the Samaritan Fund and then Benecon (our health insurance carrier) would credit us the $60,000.00. There is a debit card that is provided to the employee that is pre-coded which can only be used for medical expenses. An applicant must re-apply each year for this program. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the Samaritan Fund Program to Police and Administration Departments, seconded by Mrs. Stork. **YES:** Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval of Side Letter of Agreement with Teamsters Union – Mr. Potts explained there is a road department employee that is out on Workmans Compensation. He would like to trade in his five days of vacation that he earned on his hiring anniversary and put that value towards his co-pays. He will be out six to ten months; this is an effort to not have him

face huge bills upon his return. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the Side Letter of Agreement with the Teamsters Union, seconded by Mrs. Stork. **YES:** Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion of Small Certificate of Deposit Maturing on October 28, 2026 – Mr. Potts stated this is the State CD that is separate from the other funds which does mature on October 28, 2026. We will handle it like we have in the past; calls will be made to local institutions to get rates.

Discussion of Annual Budget Meeting – Mr. Potts made the Supervisors aware that an email will be sent out shortly with dates of availability to schedule the 2027 Budget Meeting.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Discussion of Personnel Matter & Take Possible Action on a Grievance.

Meeting reconvened at 8:05 PM

Mr. Thompson made a motion to allow the exchange of vacation for sick time for a member of the road department who has requested this with the understanding that this is a non-precedent setting event, seconded by Mrs. Stork. **YES:** Mr. Eveland, Mrs. Stork, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Mrs. Reed stated the Supervisors have decided to appeal the recent judge's ruling for the Conditional Use for Reading-One Three warehouse and will be taking it to Commonwealth Court.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane DeJesus, Secretary/Treasurer