

**TOWNSHIP OF BERN
BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

December 7, 2021

SUPERVISORS MEETING

SUPERVISORS PRESENT: Irene Reed, Chairman
Brian Eveland, Supervisor
Jeff Thompson, Supervisor
Daniel Tobias, Supervisor
Dr. Boyd Wagner III, Supervisor

STAFF PRESENT: Brian Potts, Township Manager
Diane DeJesus, Secretary/Treasurer
Wesley Waugh, Chief of Police
Keith Mooney, Esquire
Kent Morey, Engineer
Bradley Pflum, Codes Enforcement

CALL TO ORDER-PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mrs. Reed called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Wagner moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented, which included the minutes of the November 1, 2021 Supervisors Meeting and to accept the finance report, subject to audit and approve payment of bills on the list, seconded by Mr. Thompson. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

FINANCE REPORT

Balances as of December 7, 2021: General Fund: \$2,129,978.56, State Account: \$478,987.25, PLGIT: \$67,058.08, Certificate of Deposits: \$557,414.64, Expenses: \$162,667.19. Treasurer's Report accepted subject to audit.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PUBLIC HEARING

Mrs. Reed called a Public Hearing at 7:02 PM. Atty. Mooney stated the hearing is for two separate ordinances which were duly advertised in the Reading Eagle on November 17 and 23, 2021. Atty. Mooney stated that the first ordinance is for amendments to the SALDO that will

change the requirements for the number of plans submitted reducing the amount of paper and requiring an electronic submission of plans. Atty. Mooney also stated that the BCPC reviewed the changes and the Township received a review letter from the BCPC on November 19, 2021. Atty. Mooney stated that the second ordinance is for changes to the Zoning Ordinance adopting definitions for truck terminals and warehouse units and changes to parking requirements from two parking spaces per 1000 square feet for industrial, wholesaling or warehousing uses to 1.85 parking spaces per 1000 square feet for industrial, wholesaling, manufacturing and their accessory uses. Mrs. Reed closed the hearing and reconvened the meeting at 7:06 PM.

ORDINANCES/ RESOLUTIONS

Discussion/ Approval of Subdivision & Land Development Plan Submission Requirements Ordinance- Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the Subdivision & Land Development Plan Submission Requirements Ordinance; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval of Commercial/ Industrial Minimum Driveway Width Ordinance- Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve advertising the Commercial/ Industrial Minimum Driveway Width Ordinance; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. NO: Mr. Tobias. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval of Commercial Parking Requirements Ordinance- Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the Commercial Parking Requirements Ordinance; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. NO: Mr. Tobias. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval of Resolution for Bern Township to Support Penn State Health Catheterization Lab Capital Program Grant- Mr. Potts stated the resolution is required for the grant by the grantor. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the Resolution for Bern Township to support the Penn State Health Catheterization Lab Capital Program Grant; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval to Advertise Stop Sign Ordinance- Mr. Potts stated the ordinance is for a stop sign on Mull Avenue at the intersection of Mull Avenue and Kercher Avenue Mr. Eveland made a motion to advertise the Stop Sign Ordinance; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Mr. Potts provided his report to the Board.

PUBLIC SAFETY & SERVICES

Fire Company

Reports were received from Greenfields, Mount Pleasant and Leesport Fire Companies.

Emergency Medical Services

Reports were received from Western Berks and Northern Berks.

Emergency Management

Mr. Hinkle provided his report to the Board.

Police Department

Chief Waugh provided his report to the Board.

Discussion/ Approval to Approve Fire Police for Kris Kringle Run on Sunday December 26, 2021- Chief Waugh requested a motion for approval of 5 Fire Police for the Kris Kringle Run on Sunday December 26, 2021 for 4 roadway crossings. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve 5 Fire Police for the Kris Kringle Run on Sunday December 26, 2021; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval to Purchase Two Portable Scene Lighting Kits- Chief Waugh requested a motion for approval to purchase two portable scene lighting kits for \$1,320.00 from the Police Equipment Fund which currently has a balance of \$81,683.29. Chief Waugh stated the current scene lights are halogen and corded, which makes a fire investigation dangerous for the Fire Marshal to investigate and the new lights are LED, brighter, chargeable with a run time of 18 hours and do not have cords. Mr. Eveland made a motion to approve the purchase of two portable scene lighting kits; Dr. Boyd seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

PLANNING/ZONING/CODE ENFORCEMENT

Engineer

Mr. Morey provided his report to the Board.

Planning Commission

Discussion/ Approval of Section 154-24.C(1) Cart Way Widening Waiver at Leisz's Bridge Road for Misco Land Development Plan- Mr. Potts stated that the Planning Commission recommended approval of the waiver. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve Section 154-24.C(1) Cart Way Widening Waiver at Leisz's Bridge Road for the Misco Land Development Plan; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval of Section 154-24.C(1) Increased Right of Way Width Waiver at Stinson Drive for Misco Land Development Plan- Mr. Potts stated that the Planning Commission recommended approval of the waiver. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve Section 154-24.C(1) Increased Right of Way Width Waiver at Leisz's Bridge Road for the Misco Land Development Plan; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval of Section 154-30.I(1) Traffic Impact Study Waiver for Misco Land Development Plan- Mr. Potts stated that the Planning Commission recommended approval of the waiver. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve Section 154-30.I(1) Traffic Impact Study Waiver

for Misco Land Development Plan; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval of Section 154-32.C Leisz's Bridge Road Curbing Waiver for Misco Land Development Plan- Mr. Potts stated that the Planning Commission recommended approval of the waiver. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve Section 154-32.C Leisz's Bridge Road Curbing Waiver for Misco Land Development Plan; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval of Section 154-32.D Leisz's Bridge Road and Stinson Drive Sidewalk Waiver for Misco Land Development Plan- Mr. Potts stated that the Planning Commission recommended approval of the waiver. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve Section 154-32.D Leisz's Bridge Road and Stinson Drive Sidewalk Waiver for Misco Land Development Plan; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval of Misco Preliminary Land Development Plan- Mr. Potts stated that the Planning Commission recommended approval subject to the SSM November 5, 2021 review letter. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the Misco Preliminary Land Development Plan; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval of SunCap Stormwater Agreement- Mr. Potts stated that the agreement has been prepared by Atty. Mooney. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the SunCap Stormwater Agreement; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval of SunCap Municipal Improvements Agreement- Atty. Mooney stated the SunCap Municipal Improvements Agreement be approved subject to review by himself, Mr. Potts and Mr. Morey because the draft is completed, but they are waiting on numbers from SunCap. After discussion the Supervisors decided to table a decision until next meeting.

Discussion of Lords and Ladies Hair Salon Project- Representatives for Lords and Ladies Salon spoke about the possibility of a location at 2493 MacArthur Road and requested a letter of support from the Board to the Zoning Hearing Board because a variance is required to operate a hair salon in the Light Industrial Zoning District and they do not want to continue forward if the Supervisors would not support a variance. After the presentation and Supervisor discussion Dr. Wagner asked Atty. Mooney if there was an issue with sending a letter of support and Atty. Mooney stated no. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve sending a letter of support for the Lords and Ladies Hair Salon variance request to the Zoning Hearing Board; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion of Town Center Overlay District- Representatives from Costco and Penske spoke about the Hartman Farm property and the Town Center Overlay Zoning District and requested that "truck leasing facility" be added to approved uses in the Town Center Overlay District. Mr. Potts and Atty. Mooney both stated that the developer should be required to pay any expenses associated with adding the use to the Town Center Overlay Zoning District and the Penske representative stated that Penske would pay those fees. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve adding truck

leasing facility to the Town Center Overlay Zoning District with Penske paying any costs associated with the change; Dr. Wagner seconded. Mr. Tobias expressed concerns with regards to the residents who live in the area of the potential facility. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. NO: Mr. Tobias. Motion carried.

Time Extensions

None

Code Enforcement

Mr. Pflum provided his report to the Board.

Discussion/ Approval to Release Remaining Building Permit Escrow to Willow Hollow Golf Course- Mr. Potts stated that the remaining balance is \$504.04. Mr. Thompson made a motion to release the remaining balance of \$504.04 to Willow Hollow Golf Course; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

MS4 Stormwater Report

No report.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Mr. Potts stated that Gary Bechtel had obtained his Class A license.

SEWER/ WATER/ BERN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

No report.

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMISION

No report.

Mr. Potts stated that the Township received \$19,927.00 for the Recycling Grant Application.

ADMINISTRATION

Discussion/ Approval of Police Contract January 1, 2022 thru December 31, 2026- Mr. Potts stated that the 5 year Police Contract will have a pay increase of 3% per year, another weeks' vacation after 17 years of service, two sick days are allowed to be used for family, the officer in charge when the Chief is on vacation will receive a \$1.00 extra per hour, training officers will receive \$0.50 per hour to train new officers, new hires will receive 10 hours of sick time, two officers will be on duty during a snow emergency, overtime for a hearing before a scheduled shift will begin when the officer is in court up until the time of the scheduled shift, a stipend \$10 for breakfast, \$12 for lunch and \$20 for dinner will be allotted an officer out for training, the Chief must respond to vacation requests by February 28th each year, a payment of \$2,500 single or \$4,000

family will be paid to officers not participating in the insurance program and will be paid over 26 weeks, disability coverage is increasing to a maximum of \$10,000 coverage per month and some minor changes to equipment for new hires. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the Police Contract for January 1, 2022 thru December 31, 2026; Mr. Tobias seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval of 2022 Budget- Mr. Potts stated that the 2022 budget is \$4,655,895.00 and does not include a tax increase. Mr. Potts also stated that there will not be any change in the fees for recycling, trash and light district or the fire protection tax. Mr. Potts also stated that the budget is \$53,070.00 over 2021 which is a 1.1 percent increase and was balanced by utilizing \$209,305.00 of the reserve funds. Mr. Potts stated that the health insurance was only a .7 percent increase and the he had budgeted for 7.5 percent increase. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the 2022 Budget; Mr. Thompson seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval of Uniformed Pension Plan COLA- Dr. Wagner asked Mr. Potts to find out when the last time COLA was increased and discussion was tabled until next meeting.

Discussion/ Approval to Advertise 2022 Meeting Dates- Mr. Thompson made a motion to advertise the 2022 Meeting Dates; Mr. Tobias seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval of Letter of Resignation from Planning Commission- Mr. Potts stated that the letter of resignation is from Russ Adams who started serving on the Planning Commission in 1972. Mr. Thompson made a motion to accept the resignation; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried. Mr. Potts will send a Thank You letter.

2022 Re-Organization Meeting: Monday, January 3, 2022 at 6:30 PM.

Next Supervisor's meeting will be held on Monday, January 3, 2022 at 7:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Thompson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM; Dr. Wagner seconded. YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane DeJesus,
Secretary/Treasurer