

TOWNSHIP OF BERN
BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

December 2, 2025

SUPERVISORS MEETING

SUPERVISORS PRESENT: Irene Reed, Chairperson
Brian Eveland, Supervisor
Daniel Tobias, Supervisor
Jeffrey Thompson, Supervisor
Dr. Boyd Wagner, Supervisor

STAFF PRESENT: Brian Potts, Township Manager
Diane DeJesus, Secretary/Treasurer
Keith Mooney, Esquire
Brett Forry, Chief of Police
Kevin Conrad, 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. Eveland moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Mr. Tobias **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

FINANCE REPORT

Balances as of December 2, 2025, General Fund: \$2,204,448.87, State Account: \$388,827.98
PLGIT: \$78,253.60, Certificate of Deposits: \$627,472.86, Expenses: \$81,787.93.

Treasurer's Report accepted subject to audit.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

Discussion / Approval of Ziegler Road Stop Sign Ordinance – Mr. Potts stated this did change the intersection from a 3-way to 4-way stop. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the Ziegler Road stop sign ordinance, seconded by Mr. Tobias. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion / Approval to Advertise Street Opening Ordinance – Mr. Potts stated the Township's Ordinance is from 1974 is becoming outdated. With Atty. Mooneys' help, a new Ordinance with an Exhibit and Fee Schedule was created. This is for your consideration to advertise the Ordinance. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve to advertise Street Opening Ordinance, seconded by Mr. Tobias. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Supervisors received a copy of the report.

BCIDA Discussion Regarding Donating Land to Bern Township – Mrs. Reed introduced Jeremy Zaborowski, who is the Executive Director of the Berks County Industrial Development Authority. Mr. Zaborowski provided a memo with several topics to be considered. Berks Park 183 behind the Airport, as part of the Land Development Plan approvals, BCIDA agreed with the Township to convert the flood plain portion of the property to allow park usage of some kind. Early in the process BCIDA was looking to partner with the Schuylkill River Trail to make a connection to the trail and continue what used to be the actual Leisch's Bridge. In the final design this area was determined as a non-use option for the Schuylkill River Trail. BCIDA is proposing to turn the 26 acres over to the Township. Mrs. Reed asked if this could be reviewed at a later date to allow the Supervisors to give their input. Dr. Wagner asked why BCIDA wants to turn this property over to the Township. Mr. Zaborowski stated with the property being in a flood plain, it cannot be developed and carries no value. Mr. Potts and Mr. Turner walked through the area and gave a report on the cleanup that would need to be done. Mr. Potts stated the original thought for this area was a walking trail or a dog park. Question was asked what if this area was not developed at all and is kept as it is now. Mr. Zaborowski responded there is value in keeping it as is, since it is next to the river for MS4 and other purposes and would support the Township if this was the decision, but if there is a higher and better use in the Township's opinion, we want to support that. Mr. Zaborowski stated there is no time limit for this decision.

PUBLIC SAFETY & SERVICES

Muhlenberg Township Fire and Rescue - Chief Lupco noted for the month of November there were 57 calls for service in Bern Township. Overall, our department responded to 227 calls for service for the month, and 1,807 for the year. Resident Mr. Christopher Becker commended the fire company for doing an outstanding job regarding the fire at 6 Homestead Drive.

Emergency Medical Services – Supervisors received a copy of each report. Western Berks had 38 calls, and Northern Berks had 26 calls for service in Bern Township. Two (2) more municipalities were added to Western Berks area, which are Womelsdorf and Robesonia.

Emergency Management – Supervisors received a copy of the report.

Police Department - Supervisors received a copy of the report. Chief Forry read a letter from Officer Christian Lengel. Officer Lengel is asking the board to accept his formal notification of his resignation from his position as police officer effective January 4, 2026.

Police Discussion / Approval to Hire Police Officer – Chief Forry asked for approval to hire Mr. Gary Dickson, Jr. Mr. Dickson comes with a host of specialties and training from the City of Reading where he served for 15 years. The hire date would be February 2, 2026. Mr. Dickson will be on a one (1) year probation status, and he meets the requirements for Patrolman Class 1. Mr. Thompson made a motion to hire Mr. Gary Dickson, seconded by Mr. Tobias. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Police Discussion / Approval to Send Sergeant to Cody Connect Conference - Chief Forry stated this is the annual conference that both Sergeant Seidel and Sergeant Noll have attended in the past. Mr. Tobias made a motion to approve sending the (2) two Sergeants to Cody Connect Conference, seconded by Mr. Thompson. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

PLANNING/ZONING/CODE ENFORCEMENT

Engineer (SSM) – Mr. Conrad stated Mr. Morey submitted a report to Supervisors and will answer any questions.

Planning Commission

Discussion / Approval to Refund Land Development Escrow Residue to Eagle Metals for Withdrawn Plan - Mr. Potts stated Eagle Metals withdrew their preliminary plan. They made a request for the return of residual escrow, but there is none.

Time Extensions

Bernville Business Center – Mr. Potts stated the plan expires on January 13, 2026. Dr. Wagner moved that if an extension of time has not been granted by the applicant, prior to the expiration date of January 13, 2026, that the plan be rejected for the reasons set forth in the latest Engineering review letter, seconded by Mr. Tobias. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Code Enforcement

Supervisors received a copy of the report.

Discussion of Requested Zoning Permit Fee Waiver by Leesport Borough – Mr. Potts stated the Borough of Leesport is applying for a Zoning Permit to place a shed on the parking lot at the Schuylkill Valley Library and Ballfield area. They are asking for the zoning permit fee to be waived. Dr. Wagner made a motion to waive the zoning permit fee, seconded by Mr. Eveland. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

STORMWATER MANGEMENT

MS4 Stormwater Report – Mr. Conrad had nothing to add.

ROADS

The Supervisors have a copy of the report. Mr. Potts will answer any questions if there are any.

Discussion / Approval to Accept Bid for Maintenance Garage Ceiling Replacement - Mrs. Reed noted this is for partial replacement of the garage ceiling. Mr. Potts stated Berks Fire and Water quoted \$13,847.72, which is under the minimum bidding threshold and also under the prevailing wage rate threshold of \$25,000.00. The second bidder was Elite Fire and Water quoted \$17,195.78. The highest bidder was R&R Plaster and Drywall quoted \$20,300.71. For years the roof leaked and there are areas of concern for mold since it's constructed of pressed hardboard and bat insulation. Since we now have a secure watertight metal roof on the maintenance garage, the ceiling needs to be replaced. The decision was made to do this replacement in phases. The first phase would be the small portion of the garage, and parties agreed to coordinate work to be done in the springtime. Dr. Wagner made a motion to accept the bid from Berks Fire and Water for the maintenance garage ceiling replacement, seconded by Mr. Tobias. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

SEWER/WATER/BERN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

Mrs. Reed stated, nothing to report.

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION

The Supervisors have a copy of the report.

ADMINISTRATION

Discussion / Approval of 2026 General Fund Budget - Mr. Potts stated the budget is \$6,369,300.00 this is the Draft "B" portion which carries .56 mill increase. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the 2026 General Fund Budget, seconded by Mr. Thompson. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. **NO:** Mr. Tobias. Motion carried.

Discussion / Approval of 2026 Meeting Dates – Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the 2026 Meeting Dates, seconded by Mr. Thompson. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Next Meeting- The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 5, 2026, Reorganization Meeting at 6:30 PM and Supervisor Meeting at 7:00 PM at the Bern Township Municipal Building.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The executive session was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane DeJesus, Secretary/Treasurer