

BERN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY
Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting of Bern Township Municipal Authority
January 28, 2026

ATTENDEES: Jay Field, Treasurer; Fred Gurman, Chairman; Irene Reed, Secretary; Gloria Heffner, Asst. Treasurer; Alice Hinkle, Assistant Secretary; Solicitor, Daniel Becker, Kozloff Stoudt; Kevin Conrad, Engineer, SSM Group

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Gurman, Chairman at 11:10 AM.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS: Ms. Heffner made a motion to amend the agenda to authorize signature of the Stinson Drive Sanitary Sewer Request.

Ms. Heffner made a motion to amend the agenda to authorize signature of the Stinson Drive Sanitary Sewer Contract. Seconded by Ms. Reed. Motion Carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 17TH, 2025: *Ms. Reed made a motion to approve the monthly minutes of the December 17th, 2025 Meeting.* Seconded by Ms. Heffner. Motion Carried.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: None.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mr. Field presented the water bill list for January in the amount of \$62,091.90 consisting of \$10,056.36 to Empire Services for the water main break repair and cold patch on Leiscz's Bridge Road; \$41,339.71 to WBWA; and \$5,929.53 to RAWA.

Mr. Field made a motion to pay the January water bills as presented. Seconded by Ms. Reed. **VOTE:** Yes – Mr. Field, Ms. Heffner, Mr. Gurman, Ms. Reed, Ms. Hinkle. Motion Carried.

Mr. Field presented the sewer bill list for January in the amount of \$97,034.04 consisting of \$1,616.75 to GenServe for repairs of PS#2 and Stonehedge PS; \$2,298.55 to SSM; \$6,001.03 to Miller Environ., which includes the contracted maint., annual walkthrough inspections, and PS cleanings; \$2,258.00 to OmniSite for the yearly fee; \$41,562.99 to the City of Reading for the qtrly. billing; and \$32,484.67 to RRAA for the quarterly T&T.

Mr. Field made a motion to pay the January sewer bills as presented. Seconded by Ms. Reed. **VOTE:** Yes – Mr. Field, Ms. Heffner, Mr. Gurman, Ms. Reed, Ms. Hinkle. Motion Carried.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Year End – Mr. Field updated the board with the Final 2025 Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual reports. Many of the income and expense items were budgeted close to actual. BTMA no longer has a sewer loan debt to pay off.

Water Rate – There was a discussion of the rate increase of 10% received from WBWA. There will be further discussion at the next meeting to consider whether or not to raise the water rate for residential and commercial customers.

PROJECT COMMITTEE: RRAA – Tenant Advisory Committee Report – None.

PERSONNEL: None

ENGINEER: Pump Stations Update – The cranes have been ordered for PS#7 & 8. No delivery date was given. SSM has an email to Axiom, however no response was received before the meeting.

C&B Development Project – C&B would like 27 EDU's from the Greater Berks Development Fund EDU's.

Penske District Services Facility (Hartman South) – None.

Penske Truck & Collision Repair Center – None.

Reitnouer Property on Stinson – None.

Bernville Business Center – None.

High Billed Usage vs. Usage Billed – No word was received from the leak detector or Mr. Scholl.

Pump Station Blocks – SSM and BTMA reps. met with a representative from Aqua Jet to discuss the rags found in the televised video of the sewer lateral on their property. White paper towels are used in the bathroom with a trash can under the towel receptacle.

It was decided that the BTMA chairman should write an email to Aqua Jet asking for permission to televise their sewer laterals within the building before the cleanout. In the email would state that BTMA would pay for the televising if no ragging issues are found, however, if an issue is found, Aqua Jet would be billed the entire amount of the televising and required to make any necessary repairs.

Ms. Reed made a motion to have BTMA's Chairman compose an email to Aqua Jet for permission to televise their sewer lines inside the building and the terms as to who would pay for the televising and any future repairs. Seconded by Ms. Heffner. Motion Carried.

The Engineer reported data for the new sewer pump stations now that they are in service for a whole year. PS #7 since 2003 averaged 19,592 GPD, today the average is 9,084 GPD. PS #8 averaged 21,056 GPD since 2003 and now the average is 8,022 GPD. A significant improvement for actual sewer flows.

Stonehedge – A quote was sent to BTMA for an extra pump to have on hand if one of the two pumps would stop working at the PS. The Engineer did not advise having an extra pump on hand due to parts on the extra pump going bad before the pump would need to be replaced. The board agreed to wait to purchase a new pump until one breaks down and is needed.

SSM Authorization of Services – SSM presented a quote of \$1,800 for each of the 4 Chapter 94 reports SSM does for 2026, for a total of \$7,200.

Mr. Field made a motion to pay \$7,200.00 to SSM for the four Chapter 94 reports for 2026. Seconded by Ms. Reed. **VOTE:** Yes – Mr. Field, Ms. Heffner, Mr. Gurman, Ms. Reed, Ms. Hinkle. Motion Carried.

Stinson Dr. Depressed Manhole – The engineer brought the Stinson Drive Sanitary Sewer Contract to be signed and authorized by BTMA.

Ms. Heffner made a motion to authorize the signing of the Stinson Drive Sewer Contract contingent on the validity of the Bonds. Ms. Reed Seconded. Motion Carried.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: LBA Agreement – LBA is reviewing the agreement.

Penske District Services Facility (Hartman South) – The final copies of all documents, including the sewer easement agreement, bill of sale and assignment of easement agreement should be ready after February 2nd, 2026. They should be ready to sign by the February meeting.

Penske will need 15 EDU's for their sewer capacity.

RRAA Agreement – Nothing new to report.

Diversified Technology – The merchant agreement was reviewed by the Solicitor, and nothing needs to be changed as it is a standard agreement. No further action needs to be taken.

GBDF – Greater Berks Development Fund would like to extend the original EDU agreement to March 28, 2028 as they have not developed all the land before the previous agreement expired.

Ms. Heffner made a motion to approve the first amendment of the Sewer Capacity Reservation Agreement extending GBDF's expiration date to March 28, 2028. Seconded by Ms. Reed. Motion Carried.

The amount of EDU's left with GBDF was discussed. G&T has 6 EDU's, UGI has 2 EDU's and C&B would like 27 EDU's which will eventually be sold to the new owner, leaving 15 EDU's unassigned.

Barley Snyder Letter – This letter was to advise BTMA of the conditional use application for a property on Stinson Drive. BTMA does not need to take any action on this matter.

OLD BUSINESS: Water Main Break – The water main break on Leiscz's Bridge Rd. in December 2025 has been repaired and the cold patch done. The final patch on the road will be done in the spring.

NEW BUSINESS: Fire Hydrant Damaged at Hospital – On December 14, 2025, a fire hydrant was damaged and knocked off its base. The total expenses for repairing the hydrant including the payroll timesheets was submitted to the insurance company and full reimbursement was received.

Mr. Gurman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:18 PM. Seconded by Ms. Hinkle. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Irene Reed, Secretary