

BERN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting of Bern Township Municipal Authority

February 25, 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 11:00 AM.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

MINUTES OF JANUARY 28TH, 2026: Ms. Heffner made a motion to approve the monthly minutes of the January 28th, 2026 Meeting. Seconded by Ms. Reed. Motion Carried.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: None.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mr. Field presented the water bill list for February in the amount of \$55,601.52 consisting of \$41,215.00 to WBWA; and \$6,912.10 to RAWA.

Mr. Field made a motion to pay the February 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 February in the amount of \$31,379.47 consisting of \$8,077.55 to SSM of which \$3,158.52 will be reimbursed by developers; \$7,211.40 to Xylem for pump repair at SH; and \$7,072.50 to the LBA for the qtrly. T&T.

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Water Rate – There was a discussion of the rate increase of 10% received from WBWA which is an additional \$48,000 expense to BTMA; however, the County pays for most of that additional cost since their minimum payment increases as well.

There was discussion as to how much to increase, by a percent or a set amount. More info is needed and the treasurer and office admin. will get together to look at history of bank balances and past rate increases before the next meeting.

Budgets – The Water and Sewer Budgets were reviewed and discussed. Several expenses are a wild guess since there is no way to know how many water main breaks will occur in the year. Those expenses are at a higher number in case several breaks occur.

Ms. Reed made a motion to approve the Water Budget for 2026. Seconded by Ms. Heffner. Motion Carried.

Mr. Field made a motion to approve the Sewer Budget for 2026. Seconded by Mr. Gurman. Motion Carried.

CD's – Two Sewer CD's are coming due in March, one with Riverfront CU and one with First National Bank of Ohio. Rates are coming down but Mr. Field would like to renew both CD's at either \$240,000 or \$245,000 for at least a 12 to 15 month period at 3% or better.

Mr. Field made a motion to renew the two Sewer CD's coming due for a period of at least 12 months and a rate of 3% or better. Seconded by Ms. Heffner. **VOTE:** Yes – Mr. Field, Ms. Heffner, Mr. Gurman, Ms. Reed, Ms. Hinkle. Motion Carried.

PROJECT COMMITTEE: RRAA – Bi-Monthly Meeting – None.

PERSONNEL: Letter of Resignation – Dave Scholl submitted his Letter of Resignation as of October 31, 2026. Mr. Scholl is retiring.

There was some discussion as to who would be qualified to do the job. Miller Environmental and WBWA can do the work. A scope of services would need to be compiled so BTMA can ask Miller and WBWA for a quote.

Ms. Reed made a motion to have Mr. Scholl compile a scope of services to communicate to the Engineer so a proposal can be written. Seconded by Mr. Field. Motion Carried.

ENGINEER: Pump Stations Update – The cranes will be installed on 3/16 for PS#7 & 8 as well as the baskets.

Penske District Services Facility (Hartman South) – discussion under Solicitor.

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. Office Admin. had asked Mr. Scholl to try and get in touch with Mr. Bonkovitch again.

Pump Station Blocks – The pump station has not had any clogging issues for several months. The Engineer does not think televising at Aqua Jet will show any issues at this time. If clogging starts happening again at the pump station televising might be an option at that point. All Board members agreed to wait and see if anymore issues arise.

An email will be sent to AquaJet on the Board decision.

Miller Agreement – A draft of the agreement is being reviewed, it is similar to the past agreement and the Hospital's pump station will be added since BTMA will be taking it over during the agreement period.

Ms. Reed made a motion to authorize the approval of the Miller Agreement subject to the staff and Engineering review. Seconded by Ms. Heffner. Motion Carried.

Chapter 94 Reports – The reports for the four sewer plants is completed and signatures are required.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: LBA Agreement – Agreement is completed and approved by LBA.

Ms. Hinkle made a motion to approve the execution of the LBA Agreement. Seconded by Ms. Reed. Motion Carried.

Penske District Services Facility (Hartman South) – At a meeting with Atty. DeLuce, Atty. Masano, and Atty. Hartman the discussion ensued that Penske would like to connect to the BTMA system by April and will need 15 EDU's for their sewer capacity.

The Easements and Bill of Sale are all signed and held by the Hospital. The Improvements Agreement and Cost estimates are done and held by Bern Township which includes the sewer improvements.

The MOU between the Hospital, RRAA and BTMA states in paragraph 7C that BTMA will take dedication when a new customer (Penske) connects to the Hospital's collection system. The question is what does connect mean, is it just the connection or is it when it flows? Before that dedication takes place a Resolution will need to be signed which will accept the Bill of Sale and a Reimbursement Agreement. The Reimbursement Agreement will be for 10 years and the hospital gets part of the \$4,034 capacity fee for every EDU purchased by anyone outside of the Hospital.

There was some discussion of collecting a non-connected rate from the Hospital after dedication is made. More info needs to be read on those past rules.

There is a pipe under the roadway which will probably end up belonging to BTMA since the east interceptor is where the Hospital is connected and that interceptor is on Airport property.

RRAA Agreement – A meeting on 3/11 is setup to discuss a new agreement.

GBDF – There is a Memorandum of Transfer between Greater Berks Development Fund, BTMA and the Land Developer (C&B) that needs to be approved. C&B is selling the land to PNK. 27 EDU's will be deducted from the original 50 that GBDF purchased, of which UGI bought 2 and G&T bought 6 leaving 15 remaining.

Ms. Reed made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Transfer and the Joinder and Consent needed for the transfer of ownership from GBDF, C&B and PNK. Seconded by Ms. Heffner. Motion Carried.

OLD BUSINESS: Xylem quote for maintenance was revised for \$2500/yr. for 3 years. This is maintenance for Stonehedge and Bern West Ridge Pump Stations.

Ms. Hinkle made a motion to accept the Xylem's revised quote for maintenance at two Pump Stations. Seconded by Ms. Reed. **VOTE:** Yes – Mr. Field, Ms. Heffner, Mr. Gurman, Ms. Reed, Ms. Hinkle. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Acct. 30027 requesting approval of \$13.10 penalty, the bill was received after the due date and the daughter had just started taking over paying the bills of her parents.

Ms. Heffner made a motion to reverse a \$13.10 penalty for acct. 30027. Seconded By Ms. Reed. **VOTE:** Yes – Mr. Field, Ms. Heffner, Mr. Gurman, Ms. Reed, Ms. Hinkle. Motion Carried.

Acct. 2872400 requesting a \$6.50 reversal of a January penalty due to the bill coming back to BTMA in February.

Ms. Heffner made a motion to reverse a \$6.50 penalty for acct. 2872400. Seconded by Ms. Hinkle. **VOTE:** Yes – Mr. Field, Ms. Heffner, Mr. Gurman, Ms. Reed, Ms. Hinkle. Motion Carried.

Ms. Reed made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:45 PM. Seconded by Ms. Hinkle. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Irene Reed, Secretary