

TOWNSHIP OF BERN
BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

September 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
Bobby Turner, Road Foreman
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 Dr. Wagner **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

FINANCE REPORT

Balances as of September 2, 2025, General Fund: \$2,863,626.22, State Account: \$385,697.07, PLGIT: \$77,938.17, Certificate of Deposits: \$626,156.96, Expenses: \$135,650.13.

Treasurer's Report accepted subject to audit.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Charles Cooper, 165 Johnson Lane; Mr. Cooper rents this property and was told that rental owners that live outside of Bern Township were not given an application for the Yard Waste Facility. His property is large and requires a lot of clean up and it would be easier to take yard trimming to the Yard Waste Facility rather than burning. Mr. Cooper is inquiring if it is possible for him to acquire a Key Card. Mr. Potts replied that Mr. Cooper is correct, applications were

not mailed to rental owners that live outside of Bern Township, due to the fact they would have access to our facility, and they themselves do not live in our Township. Also, the Township does not know when renters move in or out, so keeping track of these cards would be difficult. It was suggested to put this topic on HOLD, till possible ideas can be looked at with renters. Attny. Mooney suggested possibly having the key card access run with a renter's lease or run on a yearly basis. Mr. Cooper provided his email address and asked if he could be updated as these discussions happen.

Representative from Schuylkill Valley Community Library – Provided information regarding the library activities. Book and Apple Dumpling Sale will be held on September 26th and 27th. Also, on October 12th they will be hosting a Music Bingo. Highlights from this year, have been 122 adults and 53 children's library cards have been issued. So far this year the library has offered 292 programs which had 7,335 participants. Summer Learning program had 71 more participants than 2024. There have been over 14,000 patrons visiting the library so far this year. Students had an opportunity to take part in a raffle; with this raffle they received a free book. There were 1,135 books given away with this raffle. Schuylkill Valley Library is 1 of 4 libraries in the county that are at the basic municipal support for funding. It is our goal to get to the adequate municipal support of 250 per capita. Any financial support would be greatly appreciated. The students created a canvas that was presented to the Township.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

Discussion / Approval of No Parking Ordinance – Mr. Potts stated the No Parking Ordinance for Cathy & Christina Drive is approximately Fifty (50) to Fifty-Eight (58) feet on one side of the road south bound from West Leesport Road. This is to resolve traffic congestion issues along these roads. The school bus stop has been moved to the church entrance, which allows the students to board and exit safely. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the No Parking Ordinance along Cathy and Christina Drive, seconded by Mr. Thompson **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion / Approval of Municipal Records Manual Resolution – Mr. Potts noted the last time the Township disposed of records was 2008. The State of Pennsylvania has developed the Records Retention Manual system by which Municipalities should follow. This manual gives a minimum requirement of years records/documents need to be saved and once it gets beyond those years, disposing of the records/documents is permitted. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve Municipal Records Manual Resolution, seconded by Dr. Wagner **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion / Approval of Disposition Resolution – Mr. Potts stated this is the disposal of certain records that meet the criteria of the Disposition Manual. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the Disposition Resolution, seconded by Dr. Wagner. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Mr. Potts provided a copy of the report. Mr. Potts added for public knowledge, since the trash and recycling bids have come in, the newsletter can be completed in the near future.

PUBLIC SAFETY & SERVICES

Muhlenberg Township Fire and Rescue - Chief Lupco stated there were 37 calls for service in Bern Township in August. Relatively slower month, which is great for the community. He also added that everyone had a great time at National Night Out.

Emergency Medical Services – Mr. Potts did not receive any reports.

Emergency Management – Supervisors received a copy of the report.

Police Department - Supervisors received a copy of the report. Chief Forry thanked the Community and the Board for another successful National Night Out.

Police Discussion / Approval to Accept Bid for 2018 Dodge Charger- Chief Forry is asking to accept the winning bid of \$6,700.00 for the 2018 Dodge Charger through Muncibid. Mr. Thompson made a motion to accept the winning bid for the 2018 Dodge Charger, seconded by Dr. Wagner **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Police Discussion / Approval for Officers to Purchase Current Firearms - Chief Forry is requesting permission ahead of time for Officers to purchase back their firearms. Currently Chief Forry is in budget talks for firearms and trying to get prices for the 2026 budget. The officer would pay exactly what the trade-in value would be and there would be no loss to the Township. This would allow the officer to keep his firearm. Mr. Eveland made a motion for officers to purchase their current firearms, seconded by Mr. Thompson. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

PLANNING/ZONING/CODE ENFORCEMENT

Engineer (SSM) – The Supervisors received a copy of the report.

Planning Commission

Discussion / Approval of Barber Subdivision Sketch Plan for Record – Mr. Potts stated the Planning Commission reviewed the plan and recommended approval contingent upon the SSM letter of August 8, 2025. Additionally, they will need to pay recreation fees since it's residential. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the Barber Subdivision Sketch Plan for Record based on the last SSM last letter, seconded by Mr. Thompson. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Time Extensions

None

Code Enforcement

Supervisors received a copy of the report.

STORMWATER MANGEMENT

MS4 Stormwater Report – Nothing to report.

ROADS

The Supervisors have a copy of the report.

Mr. Turner stated on Thursday, September 4, 2025, Old Bernville Road and Fairview Drive at the intersection, will be closed for pipe replacement. Road will be closed starting around 7:30–8:00 a.m. Mrs. Reed stated there is a detour map on the Township’s website. Mr. Tobias asked if Old Bernville Road will be accessible all the way through, Mr. Turner responded, yes.

SEWER/WATER/BERN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

Mrs. Reed mentioned a screwdriver was found in the system. The handle and shaft broke which got stuck and ended up stopping the pump.

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION

The Supervisors have a copy of the report.

Discussion / Approval for Chairperson to sign 2026-2030 Trash Collection Contract – Mr. Potts stated the Township received four (4) bids for the trash collection contract. The low bid came from Republic at \$1,152,915.00 for a five (5) year contract. This is using manual means. Automated collection was not bid by Republic, due to sending their truck to Texas because of the floods there. So, they are unable to provide this service at this time. Republic is currently our trash provider for the trash districts. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the chairperson to sign the 2026-2030 Trash Collection Contract, seconded by Dr. Wagner. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion / Approval for Chairperson to sign 2026-2030 Recycling Collection Contract – Mr. Potts stated the winning bid is A.J. Blosenski at \$800,483.64 for a five (5) year contract for automated service. A.J. Blosenski is currently our recycling collector. A.J. Blosenski also provided a bid for manual collection which is \$830,612.82. Which shows it is more expensive to collect with manual labor than automated. Mr. Potts calculated a \$25,809.00 difference from the current method to the automated method of collection, which will be an increase of about \$3.00 per household to stay with the current method instead of going to the automated. There are 1,942 homes on public streets in Bern Township for collection. Toters will be delivered to all 1,942 homes by the hauler, which is included in this price. More than likely the toter will be a 92-gallon container which is quite large. Republic has agreed to provide smaller totes if residents contact them. We do not know if A.J. Blosenski is willing to do the same. Question was raised, if a toters are damaged in the collection process, who replaces the toter? Mr. Potts stated he does not know the answer to this but would believe that the hauler would need to replace it, because

the toter must be a certain container for the automated service. An Education Campaign will need to be provided by either the Township or the haulers, so the community is educated on the collection processes. Mr. Thompson made a motion for manual means, seconded by Dr. Wagner. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. **NO:** Mr. Tobias. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATION

Discussion / Approval of the 2026 Uniform & Non-Uniform Minimum Municipal Obligation- Mr. Potts stated the calculations were completed and given to Girard, which they approved. Non-Uniform contribution for next year is \$131,971.00 and Uniformed is \$545,439.00. Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the 2026 Uniform and Non-Uniform Minimum Municipal Obligation, seconded by Mr. Thompson. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Ratify DEP Section 902 Grant Amendment – Mr. Potts stated with the Yard Waste Facility there is less land development costs but more publication costs. Within the Grant, DEP has approved, these items are just being categorized differently within the Grant. Mr. Thompson made a motion to ratify DEP Section 902 Grant Amendment, seconded by Dr. Wagner. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion / Approval of LSA Grant Support Letter to Northern Berks EMS – Mr. Potts stated the Maiden creek Township Manager is writing the grant for Northern Berks EMS, this is for an LSA Grant to finance a new ambulance and lift system. The total cost for the grant ask is \$328,928.44. Maiden creek has asked us for a letter of support since Northern Berks services part of our jurisdiction. Mr. Potts has prepared a letter upon the Boards approval to send to the Maiden creek Township Manager. Mr. Eveland made a motion in support of LSA grant letter, seconded by Dr. Wagner. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Discussion / Approval of 103 Cascades Lane 2025 Real Estate Tax Penalty Waiver – Mr. Potts noted, typically it is not the practice of the Board to give relief on late bills, but in this case, it was confirmed by the County that the property owner never received the bill. The property was sold last year and there was a disconnect at the County level that the old and new owner's names were not changed. The new owners are asking to waive the penalty amount. Mr. Eveland made a motion to approve the 103 Cascades Lane 2025 real estate tax penalty waiver, seconded by Dr. Wagner. **YES:** Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

Acknowledgement of Ag Security Applications for 2025 - Mr. Potts commented that none have been received.

Discussion of Budget Workshop Meetings – Mr. Potts stated he will be sending out an email to the Board within the next week or two with floating dates to schedule a Budget Meeting. Please let Mr. Potts know what dates will work for you to attend this meeting.

Next Meeting- The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, at 7:00 PM at the Bern Township Municipal Building.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

DISCUSSION OF TEAMSTERS UNION GRIEVANCE – Mr. Thompson made a motion to deny the Teamsters Union Grievance #36590 dated August 4, 2025, seconded by Mr. Eveland.
YES: Dr. Wagner, Mr. Eveland, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Thompson, and Mrs. Reed. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane DeJesus, Secretary/Treasurer