

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP**  
**December 11, 2025**

A public meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Nether Providence Township was called to order at 7:30 PM on Thursday, December 11, 2025.

**ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:**

Commissioner Cooper  
Commissioner McKenzie  
Commissioner Henry  
Commissioner O'Connor  
Commissioner Garson  
Commissioner Barnes

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Caity Kennedy	Assistant Township Manager
Charles Catania	Township Engineer
Bob Scott	Township Solicitor
Chief Splain	Police Chief

**EXCUSED:** Commissioner Carbone  
Maureen Feyas, Township Manager

**Executive Session** Announced to be held after the meeting.

**Public Comment** There was no public comment.

**Committee Openings** Commissioner McKenzie announced openings on the Historical Commission and a mid-term opening on the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) expiring in 2027.

**Approval of Minutes**

- **Motion:** Commissioner McKenzie moved to approve the minutes of the October 23, 2025, and November 13, 2025, meetings.
- **Vote:** 6-0 in favor. Motion passed.

**Solicitor's Report** No report.

**Engineer's Report** No report.

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## 1. Government Relations Report by Max Cooper

- **a. EMS Updates:** Commissioner Cooper reported that the working group has retained Ben Reid as counsel for the creation of the new EMS authority, with all six participating municipalities contributing funds. He noted that November ALS revenue was approximately \$61,000, nearly double that of October, and current revenue projections are positive.

## 2. Parks and Open Space Committee Report by Beth Henry

- **a. Parks Committee Updates:** No report.

## 3. Public Safety Committee Report by Matt Garson

- **a. Resolution 2025-29 (Resolution to Consolidate Fire Companies):**  
Commissioner Garson read the resolution supporting the consolidation of Garden City, South Media, and Swarthmore Fire Companies into a single unified fire company to serve Nether Providence, Swarthmore, and Rose Valley.

**Motion:** Commissioner Garson moved to adopt Resolution 2025-29: A Resolution Of The Township Of Nether Providence, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, Recognizing The Many Contributions Of The Fire Companies Currently Serving The Township, And Supporting Consolidation Of The Garden City, South Media, And Swarthmore Fire Companies So As To Create A New Unified Fire Company To Be Designated As The Sole And Exclusive Fire Company Serving And Recognized By The Township

WHEREAS, for generations, the brave and devoted volunteers and members of the South Media Fire Company, Garden City Fire Company, and Swarthmore Fire and Protective Association (collectively, the “Legacy Companies”) have provided fire services to Nether Providence Township, Swarthmore Borough, and Rose Valley Borough and its grateful citizens and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Township recognizes, and appreciates, the significant contributions that the Legacy Companies have provided to the Township throughout that time; and

WHEREAS, under Section 1502.52 of the First Class Township Code, the Township is statutorily responsible for ensuring that fire and emergency medical services are provided within the Township by such means, and to such extent, as the Township determines, including appropriate financial and administrative assistance for such services; and

WHEREAS, the Township recognizes that Pennsylvania law expressly authorizes intergovernmental cooperation among municipalities, and pursuant to the Intergovernmental Cooperation Law, 53 Pa. C.S. § 2301 et seq., municipalities may jointly exercise powers and enter into cooperative arrangement for the provision of municipal services, including fire and emergency medical services; and

WHEREAS, by ordinance of the Township, South Media Fire Company and Garden City Fire Company are the volunteer fire companies formally recognized and financially supported by the Township; and

WHEREAS, the Township and the Legacy Companies recognize the challenges that the Legacy Companies, and volunteer fire services in general, continue to face in providing adequate and efficient firefighting and emergency services to the Township, its citizens and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the primary hospital and trauma center serving the region—Crozer-Chester Medical Center—abruptly ceased operations, eliminating a major source of basic life support (BLS) and advanced life support (ALS) services that had long been provided to many municipalities at little or no cost, thereby creating a significant gap in emergency medical

coverage and placing additional financial and operational burdens on the Township and the surrounding fire-based EMS organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Township, in conjunction with Swarthmore Borough, commissioned a Fire and EMS Protection Study by Longwood Fire Company Chief A.J. McCarthy, and a report was published on October 1, 2025 by A.J. McCarthy recommending the consolidation of the Legacy Companies in order to strengthen and sustain the provision of fire and emergency services; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to confront and overcome the aforementioned challenges, and to continue and to enhance the fire and emergency services provided to the Township by the volunteers and members of the Legacy Companies, the Board of Commissioners believes it is in the best interest of the Township that the Legacy Companies be consolidated so as to create and form a single, unified fire company, such newly-created fire company to be named by the duly authorized leadership in accordance with its governing procedures, and such newly-created fire company to be designated as the sole and exclusive fire company serving, recognized by, and supported by Nether Providence Township; and

WHEREAS, the Township anticipates that the newly-created fire company will provide fire protection and emergency medical services not only to the Township but

also to Swarthmore Borough and Rose Valley Borough, and recognizes that other municipalities currently served by the Legacy Companies may, if they choose, participate in and receive services from the newly-formed fire company; and

WHEREAS, the Township anticipates that, upon the Legacy Companies voting to consolidate and forming a single unified fire company, such newly-created fire company will be incorporated by the Legacy Companies as a non-profit fire company that will exist as a separate business and corporate entity under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, independent of the Township, and governed by its own charter, bylaws, directors, and leadership, and that, like the Legacy Companies before it, will work together with the Township to provide fire protection and emergency services for the health, safety, and welfare of the Township in accordance with the applicable provisions First Class Township Code and the Code of Nether Providence Township;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Nether Providence Township, Delaware County, Pennsylvania hereby adopts this Resolution in recognition of its concurrence with, and support of, the consolidation of the South Media Fire Company, Garden City Fire Company, and Swarthmore Fire and Protective Association, so as to create and form a single, unified fire company; and

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Manager and Township Solicitor are authorized to prepare, execute, and/or file any documents, and to prepare and advertise any ordinances, necessary to implement the intent and purposes of this Resolution; and are further authorized to coordinate and work collaboratively with the administration of Swarthmore Borough, which will also support and be served by the newly-created fire company, and to negotiate and execute agreements regarding cost-sharing, contributions, and operational

responsibilities with Swarthmore Borough and Rose Valley Borough, as well as any other municipality currently served by the Legacy Companies that elects to participate, in order to facilitate the provision of fire protection and emergency medical services.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Resolution is approved as of the 11th day of December, 2025.

Township Of Nether Providence

- **Vote:** 6-0 in favor. Motion passed.

#### **4. Community, Health, and Environment Report by Shaina Barnes**

- **a. EAC Updates:** The EAC is partnering with the Parks Commission for the 2026 Ivy Removal Campaign.
- **b. Historical Commission:** Still seeking a Chair.

#### **5. Infrastructure and Public Works Committee Report by Robert O'Connor**

- **a. Curbside Leaf Pick Up:** Commissioner O'Connor commended the Public Works Department for an excellent job this season.

#### **6. Building and Zoning Committee Report (Presented by McKenzie)**

- **a. 17 Green Valley Rd:** Variance request for rear yard setback (28 ft vs 35 ft) and impervious coverage (30% vs 25%) for a two-story addition.
- **b. 225 Sykes Ln:** Variance request for side yard width (60 ft vs 70 ft) for a garage addition.
- **Other:** Mentioned the Garden City Fire Company float this weekend.

#### **7. Finance and Administration Committee Report by Kaitlin McKenzie**

- **a. Resolution 2025-27 (Amending MMOs):** The 2026 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) was reduced due to positive investment performance.
  - **Motion:** Commissioner McKenzie moved to adopt Resolution 2025-27, allocating \$378,600 to the Police Pension Plan and \$88,452 to the Non-Uniform Pension Plan.
  - **Second:** Seconded.
  - **Vote:** 6-0 in favor. Motion passed.
- **b. Public Works Contract (One Year):**
  - **Motion:** Commissioner McKenzie moved to extend the contract with the Teamsters Union covering the Public Works Department for one year with a 4% wage increase and no other changes.
  - **Second:** Seconded.
  - **Vote:** 6-0 in favor. Motion passed.
- **c. Approve Bancorp Master Lease Agreement:**

- **Motion:** Commissioner McKenzie moved to approve the Master Lease Agreement with Bancorp Bank for fleet management and to obtain a payoff statement from Enterprise.
- **Second:** Seconded.
- **Vote:** 6-0 in favor. Motion passed.
- **d. Resolution 2025-22 (Close/Consolidate Bank Accounts):**
  - **Motion:** Commissioner McKenzie moved to adopt Resolution 2025-22 to close five accounts (PEMA/FEMA Grant, ARPA, Admin Office Equipment, Police Officer Equipment, Road Resurfacing Loan) and consolidate four others (Fire Protection Capital, Highway Capital, Parks Capital, Stormwater Capital) into a new Capital Reserve Fund.
  - **Second:** Seconded.
  - **Vote:** 6-0 in favor. Motion passed.
- **e. Resolution 2025-24 (CDBG Fiscal Year 2026):**

CDBG Public Hearing & Resolution Discussion: Commissioner McKenzie provided an overview of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, reminding the Board and public that these grant funds are restricted specifically to projects within the Garden City Manor neighborhood. She noted that while recent grant awards have been utilized primarily for infrastructure needs such as road resurfacing, the 2025 grant award is designated for parking lot improvements at Hepford Park to be completed in early 2026.

For the Fiscal Year 2026 application, Ms. McKenzie detailed the Township's Priority Project: improvements to the walking path surrounding Hepford Park. The proposed scope of work includes widening and resurfacing the existing path to enhance safety and accessibility for residents. Additionally, Ms. McKenzie stated that if the budget allows, the project proposal will also include the installation of lighting improvements along the path.

Public Comments: Ms. McKenzie opened the floor for public comment regarding the CDBG application. There being no members of the public present, there were no comments.

Action: Following the explanation of the proposed project eligibility and scope, Resolution No. 2025-24 was presented to the Board for a vote to authorize the submission of the 2026 CDBG application.

**Motion:** Commissioner McKenzie

**Second:** Seconded

**Vote:** 6-0 in favor

- **f. Resolution 2025-28 (Change Permit and Zoning Fees):**

- **Motion:** Commissioner McKenzie moved to adopt Resolution 2025-28, effective January 1, 2026, increasing fees including the minimum building permit to \$250, roofing permit to \$250, U&O reinspection to \$65, residential zoning applications to \$1,200, and commercial zoning applications to \$1,500.
- **Second:** Seconded.
- **Vote:** 6-0 in favor. Motion passed.

- **g. Bills List:**

- **Motion:** Commissioner McKenzie moved to approve the
- Bills List (\$152,862.07)
- Interim Bills List (\$35,530.97)
- AP Card List (\$24,358.31)
- **Second:** Seconded.
- **Vote:** 6-0 in favor. Motion passed.

- **h. Ordinance 866 (Adopt 2026 Budget)** Assistant Manager Caity Kennedy presented the 2026 Budget overview.

- **Revenues:**

- Over 66% of revenue comes from property taxes. The aggregate value of assessed properties decreased by \$6 million due to successful appeals.
- Real Estate Transfer Tax revenue projection increased by \$25,000.
- Cable franchise fees were reduced by another \$50,000 as residents "cut the cord."
- Notably, the township did not rely on the fund balance to supplement revenue in the 2026 budget.

- **Expenses:**

- **Increases:** Significant new expenses included approximately \$200,000 to fund ambulance services through Swarthmore Fire & Protective Association and increased contributions to the Garden City Fire Company (including a

stipend previously covered by a SAFER grant). Computer system monitoring also saw an increase of ~\$60,000 due to software consolidation.

- **Decreases:** The Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for pensions decreased due to positive investment performance. Property and liability insurance decreased by \$30,000. Road resurfacing funds were reduced, with some reallocation to sidewalk connectors.
- **Community Support:** Contributions to non-profit partners (NPAA, Furness Library, Leiper House, Historical Society) increased by 2.5%.
- **Debt:** \$300,000 in General Obligation Notes will be paid off in 2026, significantly reducing annual debt service.
- **Tax Impact:** The budget includes a tax increase of **3.49%**, setting the millage rate at **3.7206 mills**. For a home assessed at \$400,000, this equates to roughly a \$50 annual increase. The projected year-end fund balance is \$1.3 million (approx. 14% of expenditures).

**Motion:** Commissioner McKenzie moved to adopt Ordinance 866, fixing the tax rate for 2026 at 3.7206 mills on each dollar of assessed value. The general purpose expenditures were allocated as follows:

- **General Government:** \$1,179,588.93
- **Public Safety:** \$4,181,527.61
- **Codes and Inspections:** \$310,726.76
- **Recycling and Waste:** \$498,254.00
- **Public Works/Highway:** \$1,718,336.64
- **Recreation and Parks:** \$271,577.50
- **Debt Service:** \$413,048.00
- **Insurance:** \$436,847.00
- **Grant Matches/Misc:** \$110,500.00
- **Total General Fund Expenditures:** \$9,120,406.44

The motion also included the following Non-General Fund expenditures:

- **Grant Fund:** \$2,661,399.00
- **Liquid Fuels Fund:** \$460,428.88
- **Sewer Fund:** \$4,120,154.47

**Second:** Seconded.

**Vote:** 6-0 in favor. Motion passed.

- **i. Resolution 2025-25 (Recycling Fee):**

- **Motion:** Commissioner McKenzie moved to adopt Resolution 2025-25, setting the annual recycling fee at \$116 per resident.
- **Second:** Seconded.
- **Vote:** 6-0 in favor. Motion passed.
- **j. Resolution 2025-26 (Sewer Rent Fee):**
  - **Motion:** Commissioner McKenzie moved to adopt Resolution 2025-26, maintaining the sewer rental charge at \$688 per unit.
  - **Second:** Seconded.
  - **Vote:** 6-0 in favor. Motion passed.

### **Manager's Report**

- **Blood Drive:** December 23, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Garden City Fire Hall.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is the Reorganization Meeting on Monday, January 5, 2026.