

## **Nether Providence Township Board of Commissioners**

### **Meeting Minutes: February 26, 2026**

A public meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Nether Providence Township was called to order at 7:30 PM.

#### **PRESENT:**

- Commissioner Max Cooper (Vice President)
- Commissioner Kaitlin McKenzie (President)
- Commissioner Mike Keller
- Commissioner Beth Henry
- Commissioner Shaina Barnes
- Commissioner Robert O'Connor
- Commissioner Alex Hillemeyer

#### **ALSO PRESENT:**

- Maureen Feyas, Township Manager
- Charles Catania, Township Engineer
- Meghan Byrnes- on behalf of Bob Scott, Township Solicitor
- Chief Splain, Police Chief

**Executive Session:** Announced to be held after the meeting to discuss personnel and legal matters.

#### **Message from the Board President:**

- In PA, municipalities have the obligation to provide fire protection services for their residents, NPT has had two: SM and GC, and Swarthmore has had one.
- A fire study was initiated by the township and Swarthmore borough about 2-3 years ago after years of declining volunteers in the area, increased apparatus costs, and concerns about providing adequate fire protection, particularly during daytime hours. The current model in terms of staffing and apparatus maintenance and replacement were unsustainable.
- The study wrapped up in the fall of 2025 and was presented at a public meeting on **December 2<sup>nd</sup>** that was advertised on November 19<sup>th</sup> in the Daily Times, on the

township's website, and via social media. The study has been available on the township's website since then.

- That study confirms that there are funding and personnel concerns at all three houses and provides various recommendations for a future model that addresses these concerns.
- A unified command with consistent safety and training protocols and the pooling and appropriate distribution of fire apparatus were recommended. The three houses have various types of trucks, some aging, some duplicative.
- Taxes are going to go up because of skyrocketing fire truck costs, but we intend to allocate and replace apparatus in the most efficient way within our small region to limit that tax increase as best we can.
- Volunteerism is down nationwide; duty crews, or crews that get paid a set amount to devote their time, typically in 4 hour blocks, to being at a particular fire house and available for calls, versus responding from home, is an alternative to fully paid firefighters that can help localities fulfill their obligation to provide timely fire protection services.
- The study concluded that it is in the best interest of township and borough residents for the three fire houses, SM, GC and Swarthmore, to remain open and operational while unifying safety standards, training, appropriately allocating apparatus, and stationing duty crews strategically during low volunteer times.
- ***All the township is asking of its two fire houses at this time is whether they are on board with a unified command structure which will ensure that the houses all begin to work together as a team to provide residents with adequate fire protection services.***
- At this time, GC is on board. SM reiterates that their members have not had time to consider this initiative and that they have unanswered questions. The township has done its best to answer all questions and has consistently offered SM a seat at the table to help steer this initiative and provide valuable input and feedback on behalf of its members but SM has not engaged in any meaningful way.
- The fire study highlights the failures of the current model and the commissioners cannot continue to fund a model that is failing to provide adequate fire protection services to residents and will result in significant costs if status quo remains in place.
- The study was performed with data requested by the consultant from all of the fire houses. If SM is unhappy with the data utilized, it is the data that they themselves produced.

- GC is on the run cards for several municipalities including Swarthmore, the City of Chester, Parkside, Aston, Middletown and Brookhaven. SM is on the run card for Rose Tree, whereas other municipalities including their direct neighbor in Media, have removed them from their run cards.
- The concept of reliability is not subjective. It is based on SMFC's own data. Based on a review of the run card data obtained from the county, they have failed more than one run a month. This is a situation where a resident calls 911, SM is intended to be the primary responder, and the call was coded as "no response". This doesn't include calls that were coded "cancelled enroute" with no incident times completed, which can be an indicator of a failed response as well.
- ***It is the township's responsibility to ensure that if your house is on fire, a fire truck shows up in a timely manner with appropriately trained personnel. SM is unable to provide this service. This is evident in the company's own run card data that is on file with the county and which was the basis of the study performed by our fire consultant.***
- ***The township has spent the last decade, but much more so focused in the last 2-3 years, on trying to find a solution to fix this extremely serious public safety issue.***
- The regionalization of fire protection services was the recommended path to keep residents safe. There are no other alternatives offered by consultants, stakeholders, or those involved in these open-door conversations during this years long process.
- SM has been invited to engage but has not.

---

## PUBLIC COMMENT

- **Margaret Grover (Wallingford):** She expressed concern about the transparency of Township taxes, including Public safety. She said there was no discussion about Fire Department consolidation; the Message was vote or shut down. Older reports were sent, current numbers are different due to increased recruitment efforts and commitment to fire school training. She would like public discussion and saw that Pat O'Rourke was voted in as chief and doesn't know him. She feels she doesn't have enough information to vote on this. Report was misinterpreted. She is concerned about the way the Township presented this issue.
- **Linda Lawson, 439 Manchester Ave:** Leadership from SMFC did not ask us to be here. We volunteered to come speak. I'm here regarding the fire study and specifically the updates involving [South Media Fire Company](#). There is a deep concern among residents about what 'regionalization' actually means for our local

response times. A true cost-benefit analysis that prioritizes lives over just balancing the budget is necessary. Says new reports from 2024 showcasing the updated and improved numbers were offered but were not included in the study. We need a public town hall where the data from the fire study is presented clearly to the people who rely on these volunteers.

- **Alex Vasillescu, 17 Kershaw Road.** Highlights miscommunication between council and SM leadership. New marketing team helped build up the company. Concerned about losing members due to consolidation.
- **Gale Gill, 700 W Brookhaven Road.** Concerned about the age of the data. Current staff would be willing to engage.
- **Anita-** Concerned resident, concerned about SMFC consolidation. Companies are more than just a station, but a place that makes better citizens. Is there data that proves that consolidation will be able cover all the calls including the one missed run a month that SM has?
- **Tom Gallagher, 107 Mulberry Lane.** Concerned about the public knowledge of fire report information. Concerned about the tax and monetary implications of consolidation. No input from Rose Valley but that would impact everyone. Need for some committee and a back and forth where the community can better understand the report and potential consolidation.
- **Brian Rainville. I live at 801 Manchester Avenue.** Appreciates the work of the commissioners and the fire fighters. Says the study was not comprehensive enough, no financial implications- no long or short term financial model, no cash flow protections, funding source breakdowns, projected tax implications. Don't know the tradeoffs. No comparisons in similar PA townships, per capita benchmarking, fire service spending as a percentage of the municipal budget (ours nor other municipalities), structured financial scenarios. Probably will save money but there's no plan of that. No shared service cost reduction modeling, centralized maintenance financial impact, impacts on career staffing. Run car rate which seemed like a fundamental part of the report was not mentioned. Many statistics that should be included are not.
- **Resident at 200 Copples lane:** Doesn't know if it'll actually save money, plan was very flawed and unclear.

---

### **Solicitor's Report –None**

**Engineer's Report** –Henry Lane Phase 2 Drainage Project: Tentative bid date April, Utility location testing.

Houston Park Trail/Streambank: Bridge restoration – 75% done. Streambank Restoration – Bane set to start upon receipt of PADEP permit, should be mid march

Gouley Park: turf repair tentatively set to start the week of March 10. Field will be out of service for two weeks

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **1. Public Safety Committee Report (Max Cooper)**

- **Fire Study Updates:** The township is continuing to review the recommendations from the recent regional fire study to improve coordination between local volunteer companies. From the February meeting a couple of key points: Discussion about a recurring Interim based on a unified improved response time. And creating a commission, representatives of the various organizations involved as a starting point to create a framework for the future. Garden City, Swarthmore Fire, and Rose Valley have all accepted the offer to be a part of this commission. South Media Fire Company said they can't accept due to member votes. Nether Providence township wants SMFC to be involved and accept this offer. They want the important input from that fire company along with the others. Please reconsider.
- **EMS Updates-**
  - EMS Service Update: discussed the ongoing transition and regional cooperation for emergency medical services following the gaps left by the Crozer Medical System.
  - It was noted that the township continues to work closely with Swarthmore, Rose Valley, and Rutledge, Swarthmore Fire & Protective Association to ensure advanced life support (ALS) coverage remains stable for residents.
  - There was a brief mention of coordination regarding ambulance response times and ensuring that mutual aid agreements with neighboring municipalities are functioning as intended.
  - Discussion on leadership structure & legal framework is ongoing.
  - Dandelion company was chosen to help with communication about this regional organization. Help with website, flyers, and presentations.
  - Discussion of potential fee structures. Revenue generated exceeded expectations as of now.

### **DCED Letter of Understanding:**

- The Board reviewed a "Letter of Understanding" (or Letter of Intent) with the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED).
- This agreement is for technical assistance through the DCED to conduct a formal study of the regional EMS structure. The goal is to identify long-term sustainable funding and operational models for EMS delivery across the participating municipalities (Nether Providence, Swarthmore, Rutledge, and Rose Valley).
- **Motion:** Mr. Cooper made a motion to authorize Township Manager Maureen Feyas to create this letter of understanding with the DCED. With Technical Assistance by guiding the formation of an EMS/ Public Safety Authority. Ms. McKenzie seconded the motion, which **passed 7-0**.

**Stop Sign (Beaumont and Laurel):** The committee reviewed a request for a new stop sign at the intersection of Beaumont and Laurel to address speeding and visibility concerns. A traffic study or engineering review was recommended before final approval.

## **2. Parks and Open Space Committee (Beth Henry)**

### **Presentation – Dan Dehner**

- **Liquified natural gas:** urgent matter, other municipalities have passed proposed resolution. Detailed explanation of why LNG is harmful to the environment, residents, and the economy. Proposed location of LNG export facility is in Eddystone which would impact NPT residents.
  - Ms. McKenzie states that NPT commissioners would not be able to directly weigh into the discussion of an export facility in another municipality, but she has been in touch with Bob Scott (township solicitor) about resolutions for NPT and the board needs more time to research and vote. The topic will be put on the agenda for the next meeting.
  - Mr. Cooper says despite the board not historically weighing in on these discussions, as it would impact the health of residents it is important to consider.
- **Volunteer Efforts - "Free the Tree" Event:**
  - He promoted the upcoming "Free the Tree" event, explaining that the primary focus is the removal of invasive vines (such as English Ivy and Oriental Bittersweet) that threaten the health of the township's mature tree canopy.
  - He encouraged community participation, noting that these volunteer efforts help reduce maintenance costs for the Public Works department.
- **Park Maintenance & Long-term Goals:**
  - The presentation touched on the need for a long-term master plan for park equipment and infrastructure.

- He emphasized that the committee's role is to act as an advisory body to ensure that residents' requests for park improvements are prioritized based on safety and usage data.
- **Motion:** A motion was made to create a new **Junior Ad Hoc Member** position within the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC). **Vote:** The motion was seconded and **passed unanimously**.

### 3. Government Relations Committee (Mike Keller)

- **Palmers Lane Drainage:** Progress noted; delays due to recent weather.
- **2026 Street Resurfacing:** Review of the proposed list totaling \$497,595.
  - **Action:** Motion to authorize the Engineer to advertise and solicit bids for the 2026 road resurfacing project.
  - **Vote: Passed (7-0).**

### 4. Finance and Administration Committee (Kaitlin McKenzie)

- **Email SPF Policy:** IT reported South Media Fire Co. emails are being quarantined. The Township will reach out to the fire company to ensure they update their DNS/SPF records to prevent impersonation and ensure delivery.
- **Aqua Paving Contribution:** Aqua offered \$328,512 for trench/pavement restoration on Winding Lane, Penn Valley Rd, and Heathdale Lane.
  - **Action:** Motion to accept Aqua's contribution of \$328,512.00.
  - **Vote: Passed (7-0).**
- **Bills List:** Motion to approve the monthly bills list as presented.
- A/P Bills List TOTAL – \$153,871.08
- AP Interims List – TOTAL - \$2,168,910.22
- A/P Procurement Card - TOTAL –\$24,601.72
  - **Vote: Passed (7-0).**

### 5. Community, Health, and Environment Committee (Shaina Barnes)

- **EAC Updates:** Upcoming meeting March 3rd at 7:00 PM featuring Master Gardener Meghann Carter on English Ivy removal.

- **Summer Camp:** Dates set for June 22nd – July 23rd at NPE. Registration opens in April.

#### **6. Infrastructure and Public Works Committee (Robert O'Connor)**

- **Wallingford Ave Sewer:** Two of three defective areas repaired. The third is complicated by an abandoned concrete-filled manhole; engineering is developing a work-around.

#### **7. Building and Zoning Committee (Alex Hillemeyer)**

- **0 Providence Road:** The land development application for a group home was postponed to the March 2nd Planning Commission meeting at the request of the applicant.

---

#### **Manager's Report: Maureen Feyas**

- **Tax Collector In-Person Hours:** Announced that the Township Tax Collector, Kris Laubscher, will hold in-person hours at the Township Building (214 Sykes Lane) on select dates in March to assist residents with payments and questions.
- **Crum Creek Watershed Association:** promoted the 28<sup>th</sup> annual stream clean up.
- **E-Recycling Event:** Heavily promoted the upcoming Electronic Recycling Event scheduled for Saturday, March 28th.

**Adjournment:** 9:23 PM **Next Meeting:** Workshop Meeting, Thursday, March 12, 2026.