Board of Commissioners of Nether Providence Township

Meeting Minutes — October 8, 2026

Roll Call & Opening

- **Attendees:**
    - Township Manager: Maureen Feyas
    - Solicitor: Bob Scott
    - Engineer: Charles Catania
    - Police Chief: David Splain
    - Commissioners: Mike Keller (Ward 2), Beth Henry (Ward 3), Shaina Barnes (Ward 5), Robert O'Connor (Ward 6), Alex Hillemeyer (Ward 7)
    - President: Kaitlin McKenzie (Ward 4)
    - Absent: Commissioner Max Cooper (Ward 1)
- **Executive Session:** Announced that an executive session would be held following the meeting.

Public Comment

- **Darlene Cerillo** (755 West Brookhaven Road) spoke alongside fellow residents regarding pedestrian safety and walkability concerns on Brookhaven Road. She stated that the side of Brookhaven Road near Waterville and Edgemont feels underserved, noting that Moore Road is essentially the only walkable street, and even the sidewalks there are in disarray. She would like to see it connecting to their side of Brookhaven Road to the Putnam Village area, which is one of the most densely populated parts of the township. She offered her community organizing background to assist the township.
- **Elizabeth Lure** (1230 Putnam Village) shared that due to narcolepsy she cannot drive, making walking her primary mode of transportation. She highlighted the safety challenges and accessibility barriers when crossing roads to access local businesses like Wawa.
- **Patrick** (resident of Brookhaven Road for 6 years) spoke about past accidents on local roadways/bridges and expressed a desire to collaborate with the board on traffic and pedestrian safety improvements.

Approval of Minutes

- **Action:** Motion made and seconded to approve the meeting minutes from **August 13, 2026** and **September 24, 2026**.
- **Vote:** Carried 6–0 .

Reports & Presentations

Solicitor's & Engineer's Reports

- Nothing additional reported outside of the agenda.

Budget Presentations

1. **Public Works Department (Presented by Nick, Public Works Director):**

   Staffing & Budget Options:

- Presented two budget proposals: **9% increase** (with a 10th full-time employee) vs. **4% increase** (keeping 9 employees).
- Adding a 10th worker ensures cross-training before upcoming senior retirements and guarantees a stable two-person on-call rotation.

   Key Cost Drivers:

- Increased solid waste disposal costs driven by rising township brush volume and higher county/inland dumping fees.
- Maintained funding for tool replacements, vehicle repairs, and park supplies.

   Operational Efficiencies:

- **Hook-Truck Dumpsters:** Adding specialized brush/leaf dumpsters to the existing hook truck cuts brush disposal trip times from an 8-hour manual load down to about 1 hour.
- **Equipment Upgrades:** Planning to purchase a skid-steer brush cutter attachment to clear park trails in half the time with fewer workers.
- **Infrastructure Progress:** Continuing town-wide street sign cleaning/replacements and addressing storm inlet repairs (15 fixed this year).
- **Street Sign Replacement Initiative:** Building on last year's progress, crews cleaned the majority of road name signs across the township this year.

- An upcoming order will replace a large batch of road name signs, with plans to finish the road sign list early next year and subsequently transition focus to stop signs.

  Storm Inlet Repairs: Maintained funding levels to address ongoing infrastructure challenges.

- Successfully repaired **15 storm inlets** this year due to sinkhole and storm sewer issues, with two more scheduled before year-end.

2. **Police Department (Presented by Chief):**
    - Proposed 2027 budget totals **$3,667,261** (including pension contribution), representing a ~5% increase over 2026. Net township support requested is **$3,604,261**.

      Personnel & Salary Breakdown:

    - **Administrative Salaries:** Budgeted at $218,101.
    - **Union Salaries:** Budgeted at $1,868,829. *(Note: Includes a 3% planning allowance, but does not represent an anticipated or proposed collective bargaining settlement, as current contracts expire December 31)*.
    - **Crossing Guard Wages:** Budgeted at $45,228.
    - **Employee Benefits:** Health insurance is budgeted at $384,429 (incorporating a provisional 8% increase); life insurance remains at $17,000; employer HSA contributions remain at $54,000.

      Overtime Analysis:

    - **Regular Overtime Request:** Budgeted at $110,000.
    - **Year-to-Date Context (2026):** Addressed why 2026 actuals trended higher (around $141,000). Shift coverage accounted for nearly 59% of overtime due to a 7-month vacancy (filled in July by Officer Williams) and an officer out for 8 weeks during the summer due to emergency surgery. Minimum shift staffing requirements (2-3 officers) drove mandatory overtime replacements.

      Task Force Participation (Reimbursable Accounts):

    - **County Drug Task Force:** $15,450.
    - **Homeland Security Task Force:** $25,750.

- **Child Abuse Task Force:** $24,000 *(Note: Increased due to rising case volume in the wake of post-COVID spikes, averaging multiple disclosures per week)*. All task force expenditures are fully reimbursable.

Supplies, Equipment & Operations:

- **Uniforms & Gear:** Office supplies ($8,000), uniforms ($12,000), protective vests ($4,000), and guns/supplies ($9,000). Vests are custom-fitted to individual officers and have a strict 5-year expiration cycle.
- **Legal & Contract Negotiations:** $15,000.
- **Technology & Communications:** Computer equipment ($4,000), radio maintenance ($4,000), landlines ($5,500), cell phones ($1,000), and internet ($2,200). Radio maintenance costs were higher in 2026 due to the county's transition to a new radio system.
- **Animal Control & Prisoner Lodging:** Animal control proposed at $20,000 (utilizing regional SPCA services). Prisoner lodging increased to $5,000 to accommodate higher arrest activity driven by a younger, more active roster of officers.
- **Training & Community Relations:** Staff development/training budgeted at $18,000 to maintain departmental accreditation standards; professional dues ($7,000) and public relations ($2,000).

Capital Purchases & Vehicles:

- **Vehicle Maintenance:** $20,000 for repairs and $4,000 for tires. Noted high repair costs in 2026 (including an engine replacement for Car 2).
- **Vehicle Replacement Plan:** Plans to replace two vehicles (the 10-year-old detective Dodge Ram pickup truck and the aging Car 2), pending a final financial review with township management regarding leasing versus purchasing options.
- **Pension Contribution:** Remains at $378,600, pending final state certification of 2027 numbers

Committee Reports

1. Public Safety Committee Report (Presented by President McKenzie)

- **EMS Updates:** Meetings scheduled for October 28 and November 5.

- **Fire Committee:** Meeting scheduled for October 20.
- **Walkable Wallingford 2:** Discussions ongoing with interested residents.
- **Governors Drive Safety:** Preliminary review conducted; further discussion upcoming.

2. Government Relations Report (Presented by Mike Keller)

- **700 Block Brookhaven Road Pedestrian Crossing:** Addressed resident concerns. Explored flexible delineators, though as a state road, implementation requires coordination with PennDOT. Manager Maureen scheduled a meeting with PennDOT.

3. Parks and Open Space Committee Report (Presented by Beth Henry)

- **Houston Park Trail Restoration Project:** Work is in progress; trails are temporarily closed during construction.
- **Next Parks Meeting:** Rescheduled to Monday, October 19, 2026, at the township building due to the holiday.

4. Finance and Administration Committee Report (Presented by Kaitlin McKenzie)

- **Turner Road Guiderail:** Work scheduled to start October 16; fencing installation is complete.
- **DCNR Grant:** Successfully secured a $70,600 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources grant for trail improvements (including Locust and the trolley path/bridge).

5. Community, Health, and Environment Report (Presented by Shaina Barnes)

- **EAC Updates:** Meeting moved from November 3 to **Tuesday, November 10** due to election day. Guest speaker Jonathan Winder (True Advisor) will present on the circular economy.
- **Historical Commission / Leiper House:** Next meeting is October 21 at 7:00 PM at the township building.
- **Family Fun Day:** Scheduled for Saturday, October 10, from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM. Food purchases will be cash-only.

6. Infrastructure and Public Works Committee Report (Presented by Robert O'Connor)

- **Public Works Updates:** Road painting underway on Putnam Boulevard (center lines, walkways, speed humps, stop bars). Stormwater inlets repaired on Wiltshire Road and Green Valley Road. Meadow Lane sidewalk project underway.
- **Stormwater Repair (Possum Hollow Rd & Providence Rd):**
    - Required extensive manual excavation due to complex underground utilities (fiber optics, gas main, aqua water main).
    - **Voting Action:** Motion made by Robert O'Connor to accept the Co-Stars bid from **Lanzetta Landscaping** in the sum of **$17,750** to complete the work.
    - **Vote:** Carried unanimously **6–0**.

7. Building and Zoning Committee Report (Presented by Alex Hillemeyer)

- **Zoning Hearing Board:** Meeting scheduled for **Monday, October 19, 2026**. Applications include:
    - *101 Lombardi Drive:* Variance for front and rear yard setbacks to install a carport.
    - *3 Church Road:* Variance for side yard and aggregate setbacks to install an outdoor fireplace.
- **Bicycle Safety Reminder:** Highlighted PA state laws regarding cycling safety (4-foot passing rule, pedestrian status when walking bikes across crosswalks, helmet requirements for children under 12).

Manager's Report & Announcements

- **Curbside Leaf Collection:** Starting next week for Wards 2, 3, and 4; following week (October 19) for Wards 1, 5, 6, and 7.
- **Delaware County Household Hazardous Waste Event:** Scheduled for Saturday, October 17, at the Emergency Services Training Center (registration required at delcohw.eventbreak.com).

Adjournment

- **Next Meeting:** Workshop Meeting on **October 22, 2026**.