

## **Tilden Township**

### **Municipal Office**

[www.tildentownship.com](http://www.tildentownship.com)

874 Hex Highway  
Hamburg, PA 19526

610-562-7410  
Fax: 610-562-5490

Monday - Thursday  
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Friday by Appointment Only

Email  
[office@tildentownship.com](mailto:office@tildentownship.com)

### **Tilden Police Department**

870 Hex Highway  
Hamburg, PA 19526

If there is an emergency dial  
911

Dispatch: 610-655-4911  
Office: 610-562-9001  
Fax: 610-562-9148

Email  
[police@tildentownship.com](mailto:police@tildentownship.com)

### **Tilden Tax Collector**

Dorothy McLaughlin  
610-562-9804

Email  
[taxcollector@tildentownship.com](mailto:taxcollector@tildentownship.com)

### **Road Department**

610-562-8073

Email  
[mquick@tildentownship.com](mailto:mquick@tildentownship.com)

### **Animal Control**

Safety Net Sanctuary  
610-944-8099

# Tilden Tribune 2026

## Township Supervisors

**Richard DeLong, Chair**

**Chris Forte, Vice-Chair**

**Gene Schappell, Member**

The Board of Supervisors shall ensure sound fiscal management and act to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the township. Supervisors are elected to serve a 6 year term and must reside in the township continuously for at least one year before their election. The Supervisors gather for public meetings twice a month. The Regular Meetings are held on the second Wednesday at 7 PM every month. The Thursday before each Regular Meeting, at 3 PM, the Supervisors hold a Workshop Meeting for discussion on important items. All residents of the Township are welcome to these public meetings and are given the opportunity to be heard.

## Taxes for 2026

Real Estate Tax = 1.95 Mills

Fire Tax = 0.4 Mills

# Community Resources

## Food, Clothing & Hygiene Help

### **Northern Berks Food Pantry**

Hamburg Middle School  
610-562-8250

4th Tuesday of the month 6PM—7PM

### **Hamburg Community SDA Church**

22 Willow Rd, Hamburg  
610-562-7200

Food: 3rd Sunday of the month from  
12PM—6PM

Clothing: Monday & Thursday 1PM—6PM

### **Keystone Military Families**

331 Main Street, Shoemakersville  
610-698-2122

Food: Wednesday & Saturday 10AM—1PM

### **Bern Reformed UCC Mobile Market**

3169 Bernville Rd, Leesport  
610-926-5802

Food: 2nd Friday of the month  
from 1PM—3PM

### **St. Thomas Church**

North Main Street, Bernville  
610-488-6702

Food: 3rd & 4th Fridays of the month  
10AM—12PM

### **Zion Blue Mountain UCC**

6573 Old Route 22, Strausstown  
610-488-7361

Food: 3rd Thursday of the month from  
4:30PM—6:30PM

## Housing Help

### **Berks County Housing Authority**

1803 Butter Lane, Reading  
610-370-0822

Walk In Hours: Mon- Thurs 7AM—12PM

### **Rent & Utility Assistance**

610-373-3323 X 102

## Safety

### **Safe Berks—Services for Domestic Violence Survivors**

255 Chestnut St, Reading  
Hotline 844-789-7233

Text SAFE BERKS to 20121

### **Berks County Children & Youth**

633 Court Street, Reading  
610-478-6700

### **Suicide & Crisis Lifeline**

Call or Text 988

### **Veteran's Crisis Line**

988 Press 1  
Text 838255

### **Salvation Army Hamburg 700 South 4th Street, Suite C**

**Amy Shanaman**  
**610-562-8440**

# Private Well Water Testing Recommended

Residents of Tilden Township are encouraged to periodically test private drinking water wells to help ensure water quality and protect public health.

Private wells are not regulated or routinely monitored by public agencies. Regular testing can identify potential contaminants such as bacteria, nitrates, metals, or other substances that may affect water safety.

## Who Should Consider Testing

- Homes served by private wells
- Residents who have not tested their well within the past year
- New property owners with wells
- Households noticing changes in water taste, odor, color, or clarity

For additional information about private well testing, residents may contact the Berks County Department of Agriculture or visit the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection website.

## Tax Collector Sitting Hours

April 20 @ 9:30AM — 11:00AM  
April 22 @ 6:30PM — 8:00PM  
April 25 @ 9:30AM — 11:00AM  
April 27 @ 6:30PM — 8:00PM  
April 29 @ 9:30Am — 11:00AM

July 20 & 30 @ 6:30PM — 8:00PM  
July 27 @ 9:30AM — 11:00AM  
August 18, 20 & 27 @ 6:30PM — 8:00PM  
August 11, 22, 25, 29 & 31 @ 9:30AM — 11:00AM

## Emergency Medical Services

This past year, our crews responded to approximately **3,000 emergency calls**, providing care when our community needed it most.

Membership subscriptions play a vital role in keeping our service strong. Membership support helps fund essential needs such as **equipment, insurance coverage, and daily operational costs**—allowing us to remain ready 24/7. If you need a subscription mailed to you, please call our office. You may also subscribe online at [www.hamburgems.com](http://www.hamburgems.com).

In addition to emergency response, we also provide non-emergency medical transportation and wheelchair transports for medical appointments, discharges, and other scheduled needs.

To schedule transportation, please call **610-955-1596**.

Your commitment directly supports the safety and well-being of our neighbors, friends, and families. We are grateful for the trust you place in us and are proud to serve this community.

Thank you for helping us continue our mission of providing dependable, high-quality emergency medical care.

Sincerely,  
Leslie Herring (*chief*)



## Pennsylvania's Move Over Law

**Drivers approaching an emergency response area must safely move over or slow down.**



# 2025 Planning Commission Report

During 2025, the Tilden Township Planning Commission (PC) met a total of 9 times in the municipal building. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend all meetings. One of the very first items on the agenda of every meeting is public participation. The members during 2025 were Richard DeLong, Christopher Forte, Luke Kamp, Dale Keener, and Greg Kozlowski. In addition to these members appointed by the Board of Supervisors, the township engineer and PC secretary meet monthly. During the meetings, plans for subdivision and land development are reviewed, comments are prepared for items before the Zoning Hearing Board, and ordinance revisions are discussed. Each one of these three items results in the PC making recommendations to the Board of Supervisors or the Zoning Hearing Board.

## **Ordinance Review and Development:**

During the January 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, the Planning Commission completed its review and final compilation of the entire amended Zoning Ordinance. The engineer completed making the edits to the draft and provided the finalized draft to the Board of Supervisors on February 20<sup>th</sup>. This project is the culmination of several years of discussion, work and review. The PC stands ready to work with the Supervisors through the adoption process of the overall amendment. At the March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, the PC discussed the proposed ordinance by the Board of Supervisors to increase the building height maximum to 50' in the L-2 Industrial District. The PC is not in favor of the proposed ordinance and recommended the Board of Supervisors not make the revision.

## **Plans reviewed by the Planning Commission in 2025 included the following:**

Lee Gougler Ag Operations – Land Development plans were submitted for construction and expansion of an agricultural building. A recommendation for approval was made to the Board of Supervisors.

GSP Management (Pleasant Hills) – A lot consolidation plan was submitted by the owner to incorporate two lots into the Pleasant Hills development. Several time extensions were requested by the developer.

Lucas DeTurk Ag Operations – A Land Development plan was submitted for the construction of five chicken growing houses. A recommendation was made to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

Baidwan Holdings – A Land Development plan was submitted for the construction of a corporate office, maintenance, and truck wash facility on Lowland Road. During a few meetings, the concept plan, preliminary plan, and engineer comments were reviewed.

## **Recommendations to the Zoning Hearing Board in 2025 included the following:**

Todd Lonergan Validity Challenge – The PC reconfirmed its position to not increase the building height maximum to 50' from the current 35'.

West Wind Farms LLC – The PC recommended the request for a home along Mountain Road be permitted to be a Multi Family home.

The PC appreciates the service of Margaret Wursta, Monica Flower, and Samantha Hartman who served as secretaries to the PC during 2025.

As a result of his election as a township supervisor, Christopher Forte will not continue to serve as a member of the PC as another supervisor, Richard DeLong, is currently serving on the PC. Two supervisors cannot serve at the same time as it would represent a quorum of the Board of Supervisors. We expressed our appreciation to Chris for his years of service to Tilden township and wished him good luck in his new role.

Detailed minutes of the Planning Commission meetings are available on the township website or at the Municipal Building. Members of the Planning Commission volunteer their time in service to the community with the goal of enhancing and keeping Tilden Township a great place to live, work, and enjoy.

# Family Movie Night

**Saturday, August 22**

Behind the Tilden Municipal Building on the baseball outfield.  
874 Hex Highway, Hamburg, PA 19526

**Thank you to our Sponsors & Volunteers!**

**MOVIE TITLE  
TO BE  
ANNOUNCED  
AT A LATER  
DATE.**

**The Tilden Park is open for public use from dawn to dusk daily, closing no later than 9pm.  
Bathrooms are open and available to use during that time as well.  
Bathrooms are closed over the Winter months.**

## **PAVILION & CONCESSION STAND RENTAL**

The pavilion area includes separate men's & women's restrooms which remain open during the rental season. The concession area provides running water, refrigeration and freezer space. There is NO grill or stove provided. You may provide your own grill or stove if it is used out from under the pavilion and concession stand areas.

There are twelve (12) picnic tables under the pavilion, with seating for approximately 10 people at each table. The pavilion occupant load capacity is 154 persons.

### **2026 Pavilion / Concession Stand Rental Fees**

<b><u>Rental</u></b>	<b><u>Tilden Township Resident</u></b>	<b><u>Non-Township Resident</u></b>
Pavilion only	\$ 75.00	\$ 100.00
Pavilion and Concession Stand	\$ 125.00	\$ 175.00
Refundable Key Deposit	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00
Refundable Security Deposit	\$ 70.00	\$ 70.00

There is a Pavilion / Concession Stand Rental Application on our website. Upon confirming your requested date is available, please fill out the application and return it to the Township Office with the applicable payment.

## CODE RED

Code Red Alerts are critical alerts sent right to your phone.

With the CodeRED Mobile Alert app enables subscribers to receive these notifications directly to their mobile device whether at home, on the road, or traveling around



## SPECIAL ASSISTANCE

If you or someone in your household requires special assistance during an emergency due to a medical condition, please complete the special assistance form, and turn it in to the Tilden Township Office. Even if you have completed this form previously, you will need to complete & submit it to the Tilden Township Office with updated information annually.

# Tilden Township Police Chief's Message

## Community Safety Tips from Your Police Department

The Tilden Township Police Department is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all residents. As we navigate through the seasons, we want to share some essential safety tips to help you and your loved ones stay protected.

### Home Security:

- Always lock your doors and windows, even when you are home.
- Install and use security cameras or motion sensor lighting around your property.
- Avoid leaving valuables in plain sight from windows and doors.
- If you plan to be away, use timers for lights to make your home appear occupied.

### Vehicle Safety:

- Never leave your car running unattended, even for a few minutes.
- Lock your doors and do not leave valuables in your vehicle, especially in plain sight.
- Park in well-lit areas and be aware of your surroundings when entering or exiting your vehicle.
- Keep your vehicle's registration and insurance information in a secure location rather than the glove box.

### Online & Phone Safety:

- Never share personal information with unknown callers or through suspicious emails.
- Be cautious of scams asking for money or personal details.
- Monitor your children's online activities and discuss internet safety with them.
- Use strong passwords and enable two-factor authentication on important accounts.

### Neighborhood Awareness:

- Get to know your neighbors and watch out for each other.
- Report suspicious activity to the police immediately.
- If you see something, say something—your vigilance helps keep our community safe.

By taking these simple precautions, we can work together to create a safer environment for everyone. If you have any concerns or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our department. Stay safe and stay aware!

Chief William J. McEllroy III  
Tilden Township Police Department



# HAMBURG FIRE CO. NEWS



## Inside The Home

- Test your home's smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.
- Don't use electrical appliances with frayed cords.
- Check for water around electrical appliances.
- Clean debris from your clothes dryer lint trap and exhaust duct.

## Outside The Home

- Remove dead leaves and other debris around foundations, decks, porches, and stairs.
- Check grills for rust, worn parts, insects, grease, and other debris before use.
- Grills should only be used when at least 10 feet away from your house or any building.

## 2025 Year Review

- 2025 was a busy year for members of the company:
  - Total of 914 calls responded to by the company
  - Fire prevention provided to over 600 youth in our community!

## FIELD HOUSE RENTALS

Field House is available for rent. Email [hamburgfieldhouse@gmail.com](mailto:hamburgfieldhouse@gmail.com) or visit our website at <https://hamburgfireco.com/community-resources/field-house-rental/>

## Recent Achievements and additions:

- **Awarded PA state grant \$13,000 for various equipment to outfit the new rescue truck**
- **Addition of Ipads on trucks for required incident reporting navigation, and call resources**
- **Awarded PA gaming grant to outfit station bunk room.**
- **Electric vehicle plugs to aid in the ability to de-energize an electric vehicle**
- **Purchase 5 new sets of turnout gear at a cost of \$25,000**

## SPRING FORWARD ONE HOUR Daylight Savings Time

**SPRING FORWARD SAFELY:** This is also a good time to **test your smoke alarms** and **change replaceable batteries**, if needed.



**DONATE TO YOUR 100% VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT SINCE 1832**



## DID YOU KNOW??

**Every 10 years you should replace your smoke alarm!**

**Residents often have less than 2 minutes to escape a home fire safely.**



[www.hamburgfireco.com](http://www.hamburgfireco.com)



610-562-9195



127 S 4th St. Hamburg, PA 19526

# Shartlesville Fire Company

## Did You Know?

The Shartlesville Community Fire Company provides fire protection to the residents and businesses in Upper Bern Township & western Tilden Township. We receive mutual aid assistance from fire companies in Hamburg, Strausstown, Centerport, Bernville, and other companies. In addition, mutual aid is provided for any company or agency that requests it.

## Fundraisers!

### **Monthly Sandwich Sale**

Order on the 2nd Wednesday  
Pick up on the 3rd Thursday.  
Order & Pickup in the Social Quarters.

### **Monthly Breakfast**

Always the 3rd Sunday  
of the month  
at the Social Quarters.  
7:30am—12:00pm

### **Hall Rentals**

The hall can accommodate  
250 people!  
Pricing available online.  
Please call 610-488-6482

**September 26, 2026 is the Annual Block Party & Lights Siren Parade  
On Main Street in Shartlesville!**

## *Dog Licensing*

*All dogs must be licensed when you buy or adopt them (earliest is 8 weeks old) and every year you have the dog by January 1st.*

*Failure to have your dog licensed may result in a fine of up to \$500 plus court costs.*

*Licensing is available at the Hamburg Borough Office and Mountain View Supply. You can also apply online.*



## **Ordinances Adopted in 2025**

### **256-2025**

This Ordinance amended the maximum building height to 50' for L-2 Industrial Zoning District.

### **257-2025**

This Ordinance authorized the execution of a cable franchise agreement between the Township and Comcast

### **258-2025**

This Ordinance is to approve, adopt, and enact an Ordinance Codification.

*All Ordinances are available on the Township website under "Complete List of Ordinances" and in the office by request.*

# Code Enforcement Review

## Do I Need A Permit?....

**Yes, if you are doing any of the following projects permits are necessary!**

Driveway (New & Paving Projects)  
Swimming pools (Temporary & Permanent)  
Accessory buildings  
Porch/Deck  
Fences  
Solar panels

Demolition or Addition  
Any type of Structural Change  
Mechanical or Electrical Work  
Retaining Walls  
Home Occupations  
Solicitation

If you are unsure of your permitting needs, contact the Township Office prior to beginning your project.

Please allow a minimum of one week for the issuance of the permits.

## General Property Reminders....

**GRASS**—All premises and exterior property shall be maintained free from weeds, grasses, and plant growth in excess of six inches. This does not include cultivated flowers and gardens. While maintaining your yard, no litter is to be thrown/deposited into the streets, this includes yard waste (such as grass clippings) as it creates a danger to public safety. For more information please reference Ordinance # 129-2000, Ordinance # 130-2000, and Ordinance # 214-2013.

**HOUSE NUMBERS**—In the event of an emergency, it is important that Emergency Services can find your house, apartment, business, etc. Building numbers must be a minimum of 3 inches in height for all residential buildings, 4 inches in height for all buildings with 3 or more dwelling units, and 10 inches in height for all other buildings. For more information please reference Ordinance # 240-2020.

**BURNING**—If you live in Zoning Districts R-3 & R-4 there are burning restrictions in place, in addition to the Township wide restrictions on burning trash and rubbish. For more information please reference Ordinance # 251-2023.

**RENTALS**—All dwellings that are not owner occupied must be registered with the Township as a rental. The process is easy! Please refer to Ordinance # 247-2022 and call the Township Office for assistance with the process.

To schedule UCC inspections please call our Building Code Official.

Bill Murphy 570-499-7204

The Zoning Officer is Jim Macort with Keystone Consulting Engineers, Inc.

He is in the Township Office every Tuesday morning.

## What Is Stormwater Management?

Stormwater is the surface runoff generated by precipitation reaching the ground surface.

The purpose of stormwater management is to promote the public health safety and welfare within the Schuylkill River Watershed by maintaining the natural hydrologic regime by minimizing the many possible negative impacts.

When you are making plans to build or add a structure to your property, consider is a Stormwater Management Permit Required?

See Chapter 25 Stormwater Management under Township Ordinances on our website for more information.

*Tilden Township has continued partnership with No Nonsense Neutering for 2026. Call the Township Office for more information on how to obtain a discount voucher for spay/neutering of feral cats.*

## Roadway Safety



Our Road Crew works in all weather, all year to maintain safe roadways. Please provide a safe workspace for them by paying attention, slowing down, and maintaining a safe distance when entering their work zones.

Always maintain a safe distance behind plows and other equipment if you happen to approach or drive behind one.

**REMINDER:** In the winter months if you choose to place snow stakes, please keep them one foot back from the edge of the road.

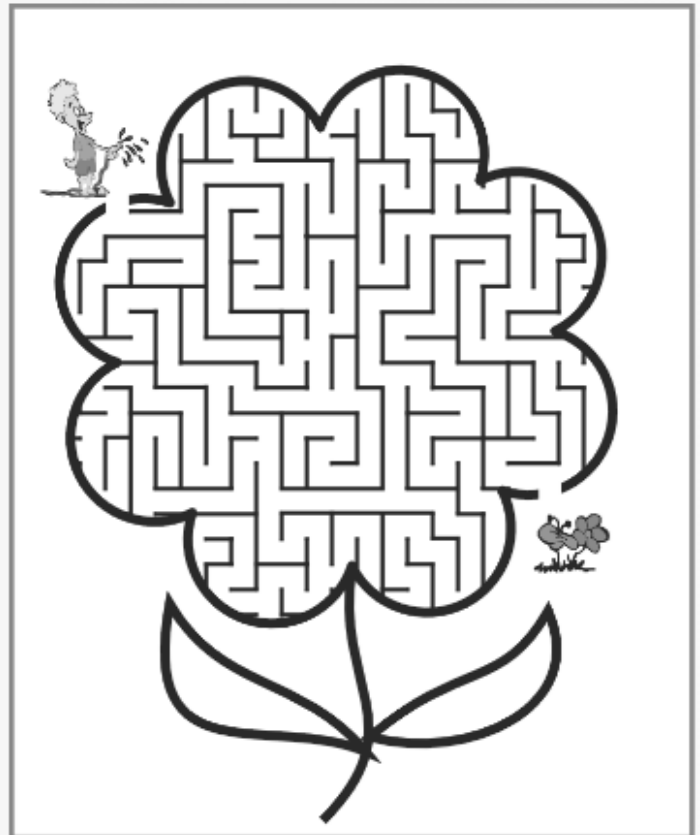
# Storm Water

Did you know that when rain and other water flows across grass or pavement it is called storm water? This water runs through pipes and drains and will eventually end up in a stream, lake, or other body of water. When you leave trash on the ground instead of throwing it in a garbage can, it is picked up by the water and carried into our streams and lakes. The next time you're outside, make sure you put your trash where it belongs or you may see it again!

**DRIVEWAY**  
**LAKE**  
**OCEAN**  
**RAIN**

**STREAM**  
**SNOW**  
**TRASH**  
**WATER**

W T G U F W S I O N S T  
L A G H T C N R C C E F  
M P O R Z A M A E R T S  
P E Z A T C E O A T R N  
S N A T Y I L C N E A O  
D I A E F N J T I A S W  
X F P H G E A O E E H R  
F H U N S H E K R I I C  
W R Q G A I A E T Z S N  
I P D S Q L N G T S I U  
F I A E S S M O P A A Q  
L I Y A W E V I R D R O



Here is something you can do to help protect the environment in our area:

Don't use more water than you need!  
Turn off the water while you brush your teeth or wash your hands!



# 2026 Meetings

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Act 175 of 1974, that the Regular Meetings of the **Board of Supervisors** of the Township of Tilden for the 2026 calendar year will be held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM.

All meetings are open to the public and are held in the Township Municipal Building, 874 Hex Highway, unless otherwise specified. On a rare occasion a meeting date will need to be changed. Changes are advertised in the Legal

Notices section of the Classified Ads in the Reading Eagle. Any person with a disability requiring special accommodations to attend township meetings should notify the secretary at 610-562-7410 as early as possible, but not later than three working days prior to the scheduled meeting. The governing body will make every effort to provide a reasonable accommodation.

\* **The budget for 2027 will be prepared immediately following the October 2026 monthly meeting.**

**\*\* The budget for 2027 will be adopted at the December 9, 2026 monthly meeting**

## BOS Workshops at 3:00 PM:

February 5  
 March 5  
 April 2  
 May 7  
 June 4  
 July 2  
 August 6  
 September 3  
 October 8  
 November 5  
 December 3

## BOS Regular Meetings at 7:00 PM:

January 5  
 February 11  
 March 11  
 April 8  
 May 13  
 June 10  
 July 8  
 August 12  
 September 9  
 October 14\*  
 November 12  
 December 9\*\*

## Planning Commission Meetings 7:30 PM

January 20  
 February 17  
 March 17  
 April 21  
 May 19  
 June 16  
 July 21  
 August 18  
 September 15  
 October 20  
 November 17  
 December 15

**There is a medication drop box in the lobby of the Township Municipal Office.**

### ACCEPTED:

- Expired or unused medications, both prescription and over-the-counter in a standard container or sealed bag
- Pet medications
- Drug samples
- Vitamins & Ointments
- Powders & Patch medications
- Liquid medications in plastic, leak proof containers
- Inhalers



### NOT ACCEPTED:

- Loose pills
- Syringes & Needles
- Thermometers
- Bloody or infectious waste
- Medication from businesses
- Cleaning agents
- Aerosol cans
- Hydrogen Peroxide
- Skin cream & Sunblock
- Personal care/hygiene items

Visit [cocaberks.org](http://cocaberks.org) for more information