



## **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.

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 2024

## **A LOOK BACK AT 2023**

2023 was again a busy and productive year in Tilden Township and for the Board of Supervisors. Significant progress was made in several areas.

There were a number of personnel changes in 2023. It was with regret that we accepted the resignation of part-time Police Officer Ronald Mohl, who left to take a full-time position. Assistant Township Secretary Samantha Hartman was appointed Assistant Treasurer and also assumed the duties of Planning Commission Secretary and Zoning Hearing Board Clerk. In other actions Mike Quick was appointed to a 4-year term on the Planning Commission and Jody Klinger was appointed to a 5-year term on the Zoning Hearing Board. The Supervisors appreciate the years of dedicated service given by Joshua Breslin and Ron Arndt on the Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Board, respectively. Karl Hayle was elected as chairman of the Zoning Hearing Board by the members of that body. Dr. Duane Crider was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board of Township Auditors. Finally, Greg Haas, now with Keystone Consulting Engineers, returned as Township Engineer.

The township continued to exercise full responsibility for oversight and direction of the water system, which serves our commercial area. There were further upgrades to the system to optimize the quality of the water, improve operational safety, and continue toward full compliance with all PA Department of Environmental Protection requirements. The system is generating revenue in excess of expenses while still offering a very reasonable price. Necessary mapping of the system, as well as our sewer lines is planned.

## A LOOK BACK AT 2023 *(CONTINUED)*

An updated Emergency Operations Plan was adopted. The purpose of the plan is to specify activities to be taken by Tilden Township and other community officials to protect the lives and property of our citizens in the event of a natural or human-caused emergency or disaster. It satisfies our requirements under the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code. It includes a Notification and Resource Manual and addresses all activities in the emergency management cycle including prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery.

Implementation of the Rental Housing Ordinance took place in 2023. A contractor was hired to perform inspections when warranted.

Due to significant increases in costs announced by the Animal Rescue League a different animal control contractor was sought. These services are now being provided by Safety Net Sanctuary, Fleetwood, at considerable savings.

The township has received approximately \$380,000 in American Rescue Plan funds. We are using this windfall in a judicious manner. For example, aging equipment is being replaced, to include a zero-turn mower, two tractors, and a police vehicle. Further, operational efficiency will be enhanced by the wheel loader, which was purchased, conversion to an electronic record storage system, and obtaining a license plate reader system for the police. Additional contributions to Hamburg EMS, the Hamburg and Shartlesville Fire Companies, and the Hamburg Library were also made.

Along with Hamburg Borough and Windsor Township, Tilden Township contributed to the cost of an independent consultant's study to develop an Organizational Assessment and Strategic Recommendations document concerning Union Fire Company No. 1 of Hamburg. It provided guidance for changes and new initiatives going forward. The key areas assessed included organizational governance, budget and finance, and capital assets. The recommended objectives include establishing a community fire-rescue advisory board, establishing consistent and reliable funding, adopting an apparatus fleet plan, and completing desired station upgrades.

Supervisors Gene Schappell and Fred Herman and Township Manager Monica Flower continued involvement with the Northern Berks Development Initiative, "On Ramps to the Future", hosted by the Hamburg Area School District and involving officials from municipalities within the school district, the county, and the state. The primary thrust of this group is examining quality of life issues and developing strategies to retain our youth. To that end this group will be conducting the required regular reviews of the Northern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan.

There were two summer open air, family friendly movie nights this year. Super Mario and The Mitchells vs The Machines were shown. We are grateful to the movie sponsors: Joe Jurgielewicz & Son, Edge Self Storage, Kozloff Stoudt, BIU, and Camping World.

Finally, we are pleased to report the township's financial position remains solid. We finished 2023 under budget. A balanced budget of approximately \$2.7 million for 2024 was enacted with only a small increase, .15 mill, in the fire tax to further assist the Hamburg and Shartlesville Fire Companies. This equates to an additional \$15 on a \$100,000 property. The budget provides adequate funds to carry over to fund operations at the beginning of 2025. The latter is necessary every year because most revenue is received after the 1st calendar quarter. Lastly, our uniformed and non-uniformed pension funds continue to be in a strong position.

# Board of Supervisors

Gene Schappell, Chair

Fred Herman, Vice-Chair

Richard Delong, 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 Friday before each Regular Meeting, at 9 AM, 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.

*In 1740, the first Amish congregation in America established themselves 1 mile West of Hamburg, in what is now Tilden Township.*

## Tax Collector Sitting Hours

Tuesday, March 19 & 26  
6:30PM—8PM

Tuesday, April 2, 16, 23 & 30  
6:30PM—8PM

Thursday, April 18 & 25  
6:30PM—8PM

Saturday, April 20 & 27  
9:30AM—11:00AM

**More sitting dates and times are to be announced and will be posted on the Township Website.**

## Fire Tax

**What is Fire Tax?** Monies collected by the Township Tax Collector for the dedicated purpose of supporting the Volunteer Fire Departments to provide emergency services to the community and residents of Tilden Township.

**How much do I pay in Fire Tax?** The Tilden Township Fire Tax is 0.40 mils, which amounts to \$40 per \$100,000 of assessed value. This is a .15 mil increase from 2023 to provide further funds for the fire department to assist not only in recovering from losses incurred through the COVID pandemic but also to help offset the cost of replacing needed equipment and apparatus. This millage only accounts for 1.06% of your total Real Estate Taxes being collected.

**What can it be used for?** Fire Tax Funds collected are restricted to fire department's operational, equipment and apparatus expenses only.

**Who receives the Fire Tax?** The Fire Tax is distributed to the Volunteer Fire Departments that provide emergency services in Tilden Township which are the Union Station No. 1 of Hamburg and Shartlesville Fire Department.

# 2023 Planning Commission Report

During 2023, the Tilden Township Planning Commission met on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm in the municipal building. The members appointed by the Board of Supervisors were Dale Keener (Chairman), Greg Kozlowski (Vice-Chairman), Sharon Enevoldson, Christopher Forte, and Michael Quick. Members of the Planning Commission volunteer their time in service to the community with the goal to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the Township. In addition to the Planning Commission members the Planning Commission Secretary, Samantha Hartman and the Township Engineer, Greg Haas also attend the monthly Planning Commission meetings. Members of the public are welcome to attend all meetings and are given the opportunity to speak during public participation. At the meetings, plans for subdivisions 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 Planning Commission making recommendations to the Board of Supervisors or the Zoning Hearing Board. All meeting agendas and minutes are posted on our Township website.

## **Plans reviewed by the Planning Commission in 2023 included the following:**

**LeadCar Honda Land Development Plan** – Discussed at three meetings, resulting in the Planning Commission offering their recommendation for Conditional/Final Plan approval. This plan is for a future Honda dealership to be built on the vacant lot on Industrial Drive between Microtel and Camping World.

**Jurgielewicz Duck Hatchery Development Plan** – Discussed at five meetings, resulting in the Planning Commission offering their recommendation for Conditional/Final Plan approval. This plan is for a future duck hatchery to be built at 57 Jalappa Road.

**Sensenig Minor Subdivision** – Discussed at two meetings, resulting in the Planning Commission offering their recommendation for Conditional/Final Plan approval. This plan is to subdivide 2.5 acres off of the original parcel, located at 93 Fisher Dam Road, creating 2 lots. The original lot holds one existing home and the new lot of 2.5 acres will have one home built.

**Wilderness Trail Hotel Site** – A revised site plan was discussed at one meeting. No official resubmission has occurred. This plan is in reference to a hotel to be built on the vacant lot on Wilderness Trail between McDonald's and Lowe's.

**Shollenberger Lot Line Adjustment** – This plan, involving 2004 & 2012 Mountain Road, was discussed at two meetings. The Township was notified the owners no longer had intentions to pursue the plan, no formal withdrawal letter was received. The Planning Commission then recommended to the Board of Supervisors to reject the Plan.

## **Recommendations to the Zoning Hearing Board in 2023 included the following:**

**LeadCar Honda** – Request for special exception to allow motor vehicle sales establishment. Planning Commission Members unanimously had no objections to the Zoning Hearing Board granting this special exception.

**LeadCar Honda** – Request for a variance to allow smaller parking spaces. Planning Commission Members provided comments to the Zoning Hearing Board with concerns regarding discrepancies between the plans submitted with the Zoning Hearing Board application. These plans did not correspond to the latest Land Development Plan submitted. The Applicant also did not provide justification for the requested decrease in parking space size. With these reasons Planning Commission recommends that the variance request be denied if sufficient evidence is not provided to satisfy these comments.

**LeadCar Honda** – Request to clarify the previous decision made by Zoning Hearing Board. Planning Commission did not provide additional comments.

**Wicks Outdoor Advertising** – Request for a variance to allow a shorter distance than required between off premise signs (billboards). Planning Commission Members unanimously agreed they see no issue with the proposed spacing being less than the current requirement. However, they recommended that any lighting for the new billboard be directed downwards from the top of the sign as required in the Zoning Ordinance.

## **Ordinance Review and Development:**

At six meetings, the Planning Commission members worked on Zoning Ordinance review. This review was guided by Township Engineer, Greg Haas. A use regulation spreadsheet has been utilized to review what uses are allowed in specific Zoning Districts. While reviewing and discussing changes they recommend, some updates were also suggested to the language describing these uses. New uses to add were also discussed. The Zoning Ordinance review process is so important to the function of the Township to ensure the future development of the Township remains consistent with the Joint Comprehensive Plan. This plan is to manage rather than react to growth, work to retain the vitality of its existing settlements, and protect its many assets and resources.

# Family Movie Nights

Saturday, July 20th

Saturday, August 17th

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

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

**Movies are TBA**

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 male and female 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 as these items are not permitted to be used inside or under the pavilion. 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.

### 2024 Pavilion / Concession Stand Rental Fees

<u>Rental</u>	<u>Tilden Township Resident</u>	<u>Non-Township Resident</u>
Pavilion only	\$ 50.00	\$ 60.00
Pavilion and Concession Stand	\$ 90.00	\$ 100.00
Refundable Deposit	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00

There is a Pavilion / Concession Stand Rental Application Form. Upon confirming your requested date is available, please fill out the application form 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 the country.



## 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 for previously, you will need to complete & submit it to the Tilden Township Office with updated information annually.

## Tilden Township Police Chief's Message

As we continue to prioritize community safety and well-being, I want to share some important tips and reminders to help keep you, your loved ones, and your property safe.



- **Stay Alert, Stay Safe:** Be aware of your surroundings at all times, especially when walking alone or in unfamiliar areas. Trust your instincts and if something feels off, don't hesitate to seek assistance or change your route.
- **Secure Your Home:** Ensure that all doors and windows are locked when you leave your home, even if it's just for a short period. Consider installing deadbolts, security cameras, and outdoor lighting to deter potential intruders.
- **Protect Your Valuables:** Keep valuables such as laptops, smartphones, and wallets out of plain sight in your vehicle. If possible, take them with you or lock them in the trunk before leaving your car unattended.
- **Practice Safe Driving:** Follow traffic laws, obey speed limits, and avoid distractions such as texting or using your phone while driving. Always wear your seatbelt and never drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- **Report Suspicious Activity:** If you notice any suspicious behavior or activity in your neighborhood, don't hesitate to report it to the authorities. Your vigilance could help prevent crime and keep our community safe.
- **Emergency Preparedness:** Familiarize yourself with emergency procedures and have a plan in place for you and your family in case of an emergency or natural disaster. Make sure to have essential supplies such as food, water, medications, and first aid kits readily available.
- **Stay Informed:** Stay updated on local news and developments through official channels such as the Tilden Township Police Department Facebook page. Knowledge is key to staying safe and informed.

Remember, the partnership between law enforcement and the community is essential in maintaining a safe and thriving environment for everyone. By working together and staying vigilant, we can continue to make Tilden Township a great place to live, work, and play.

**Thank you for your ongoing support and cooperation.**

Sincerely,

Chief William J. McEllroy III  
Tilden Township Police Department



# Hamburg Fire Co News

## Department Accomplishments

### 2023 Year in Review

- Company responded to a total of 694 calls in 2023
- 175 calls in 2023 in Tilden twp
- Welcome resident Greg Kozlowski to our community board for 2024



Thank you, Kelly Toyota, for your gracious donations in 2023 to help finish the 2nd floor addition project!

- Grant to purchase 5- MSA multi-gas Meters and charging bases.
- PA State Grant \$15,000 to purchase updated Thermal Imaging Cameras
- 10 sets of new turnout gear purchased \$50,000.
- Awarded drone Grant as we bring this updated technology to Northern Berks County



### ARE YOU READY TO SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY?

We had 4 new members make this commitment and join the ranks in 2023. Are you ready to see how you can serve your community? Stop by the fire house on a Tuesday evening to find out how you can become a vital part of your community!

### CHANGE YOUR BATTERIES:

As we spring ahead and look forward to warmer days be sure to check and change your batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.

Did you know these detectors have a 10-year life span and need to be replaced?

If you don't have these live saving tools in your home be sure to contact the fire department to get them into your home!



Thank you for your continued support and commitment to your 100% Volunteer Fire Department. Proudly serving the residents and community of Tilden Township, Hamburg Borough, and Windsor Township



scan to donate!

## Ordinances Adopted in 2023

### 251-2023

This Ordinance placed restrictions to outdoor fires/burning and adopted the International Fire Code, 2018 Edition.

### 252-2023

This Ordinance established specific standards and regulating principal and accessory solar energy systems within the Township. This Ordinance amended the Zoning Ordinance.

### 253-2023

This Ordinance amended Chapter 32 Sewers and Sewage Disposal, Part 1 Public Sewage Disposal System, Subpart L. This Ordinance was enacted to regulate the requirements of having and maintaining grease and oil interceptors/traps.

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

*Tilden Township was named after Democrat, Samuel J. Tilden, who was a presidential candidate in 1876, running against Republican, Rutherford B. Hayes.*



## Be Kind To Our Road Crew

Our Road Crew works long hours through the cold winter storms to maintain safe roads for the public.

In the winter months if you choose to place snow stakes, please keep them 1 foot back from the edge of the road.

Always maintain a safe distance behind a snow plow if you happen to be driving behind one.



# 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)  
Accessory buildings (garages & sheds)  
Swimming pools  
Porch/Deck  
Solar panels  
Fences

Mechanical or Electrical Work  
Demolition or Addition  
Any type of Structural Change  
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 to occur.

To schedule inspections please call our Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer, Bill Murphy at 570-499-7204.

## 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 further 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 proper procedure through the process.

# 2024 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 2024 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 2025 will be prepared immediately following the September 2024 monthly meeting.**

\*\* **The budget for 2025 will be adopted at the December 11, 2024 monthly meeting**

### BOS Workshops at 9:00 AM:

February 9  
 March 8  
 April 5  
 May 3  
 June 7  
 July 5  
 August 9  
 September 6  
 October 4  
 November 8  
 December 6  
 December 27

### BOS Regular Meetings at 7:00 PM:

January 2  
 February 14  
 March 13  
 April 10  
 May 8  
 June 12  
 July 10  
 August 14  
 September 11\*  
 October 9\*  
 November 13  
 December 11\*\*

### Planning Commission Meetings 7:30 PM

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

**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