

TILDEN TRIBUNE

The Official Newsletter of Tilden Township

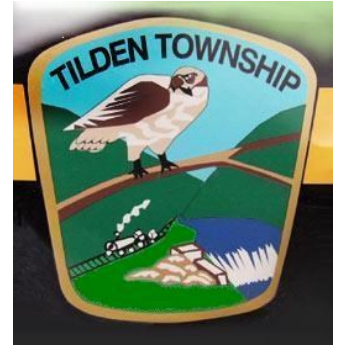
2021

A LOOK BACK AT 2020

Despite the challenges presented by the Coronavirus Pandemic, 2020 was again a busy and productive year in Tilden Township and for the Board of Supervisors. In addition to maintaining efficient operations of a routine nature, several noteworthy changes, improvements, and initiatives occurred. An Emergency Declaration Proclamation was enacted in March in response to the pandemic. It remains in effect and is intended to expedite response and recovery efforts. This is also a requirement to qualify for grants to offset related additional and unexpected costs. The playground and pavilion at our main complex and the basketball court at the Rhodes Park were closed on April 8th. Those facilities were reopened in June when a regular sanitizing protocol was introduced for the playground equipment and pavilion. Since there was no public access to the township building at the time, the Board of Supervisors meetings in April and May afforded public participation by telephone. Meetings with public participants physically present resumed in June with appropriate precautions.

It was with deepest regrets that we accepted the resignations of Anna Shollenberger as Planning Commission Secretary and Troy Hatt as Emergency Management Coordinator. Both served the township faithfully and effectively for many years. Lorraine Ramirez and Jarrod Emes, respectively, have been appointed to serve in these positions. In other personnel actions Sharon Enevoldson was reappointed to a 4-year term on the Planning Commission and Craig Moseman was reappointed to a 5-year term on the Zoning Hearing Board. We were pleased both these experienced people expressed a desire to continue to serve. Kathi Shaffer was appointed to fill Tilden Township's vacancy on the Hamburg Public Library Board of Trustees. Lastly, we were finally able to relieve Dave Gettle, at his request, of his duties as operator of the township's water system, again after many years of conscientious service. The water system serves our commercial area. You may recall from last year's report that the Board of Supervisors began the process of assessment and valuation of the system and exploring future options. We were unable to attract a buyer, but realized action was necessary to perform some upgrades and take responsibility for operations. It was decided to terminate the lease with The Blue Mountain Water Cooperative, which had been the body responsible for oversight and direction. Billing and accounting functions will now be handled by the township. A proposal by R. M. Schaeffer, LLC was accepted by the Board of Supervisors and that firm was appointed to take over day to day operations, to include monitoring, testing, maintenance, repairs, and improvements as necessary.

A formal fee for services agreement was reached with the Berks Animal Rescue League for comprehensive animal control services within our municipality. 2020 was the first year the ARL moved away from a donation based to a fee-based model. We felt it was important to continue to have adequate appropriate support available to our police and residents despite the cost. We were able to reduce the per capita fee for 2021 from \$2 to \$1 by eliminating the ARL transportation option except in emergencies. The 2020 and 2021 contracts included holding and emergency services for both cats and dogs; enforcement of dog law by a humane officer; priority access to shelter space for you and your residents; community cat and TNR services; hoarding case management; access to low-cost spay/neuter, microchip and vaccine clinics for your residents.



Tilden Township Municipal Office

www.tildentownship.com

874 Hex Highway
Hamburg, PA 19526
610-562-7410

Fax: 610-562-5490

Monday - Friday

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Email

mflower@tildentownship.com

lr Ramirez@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

police@tildentownship.com

Tilden Tax Collector

Alison Epting 610-562-9804

tildentwptaxes@tildentownship.com

A LOOK BACK AT 2020 (continued)

Our major capital upgrade in 2020 was the purchase of a 2020 Ford Super Duty F550 4 X 4 dump truck. It is suitable for snow plowing, towing, and various general-purpose uses. It replaced a high mileage 2004 truck in need of extensive and expensive repairs. The Board of Supervisors also authorized the purchase of three portable generators to power traffic signals at our major intersections in the event of electrical outages.

We were pleased to encourage and welcome new businesses in the township in 2020. A Boston Market Restaurant opened at the site of the former Pizza Hut. The former Poward Plastics Injection Molding facility was converted to Edge Self Storage along Hex Highway. The property is located in a residential zone and the new use is more compatible with this area than the previous manufacturing uses, which had been “grandfathered” over the years. Work resumed on the Tilden Ambulatory Surgical Center being constructed on Industrial Drive and is nearing completion.

Family friendly movie nights returned in 2020 with a very well attended screening of Sonic the Hedgehog. We appreciate the support of the event sponsors, Carbon Engineering and the Hamburg Jaycees. We also hosted a movie night organized and conducted by Hamburg Boy Scout Troop 184.

Several ordinances were enacted in 2020. An update of the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO), which was prepared by the Planning Commission and Township Engineer then reviewed by the Township Solicitor and the Board of Supervisors, replaced the previous version after over 10 years. The purpose of the SALDO is to provide uniform standards for the subdivision and development of land in the township in a manner to promote public health, safety, and general welfare. It is intended to insure orderly growth and development; the conservation, protection, and proper use of land; and provide adequate provisions for traffic circulation, utilities, and services. An ordinance to set standards for displaying and placement of street addresses and numbering buildings took effect to facilitate the response of emergency service providers. It was determined this was necessary in the interest of public safety, health, and welfare. An ordinance was passed to authorize fire departments and other emergency service providers to seek to recover costs incurred when responding to fires, auto accidents, hazardous incidents, and other safety or rescue incidents. This would involve recovery from insurance companies, not township residents or businesses. Finally, a new Street Excavations and Driveways Ordinance was enacted. This sets standards for street repairs and requires permitting, bonding, and inspection to assure excavations of township roadways are properly repaired. The driveway section of the ordinance is intended to provide for adequate minimum sight distances, specification of maximum grade, reduce erosion, stormwater damage, and deposit of foreign materials on township and private streets.

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. This began as an attempt to align the school curriculum with skills and knowledge needed for present day and future jobs here. It then became clear our efforts should expand to examining quality of life issues and developing strategies to retain our youth.

A major undertaking began in June 2020 to review and revise the Northern Berks Regional Joint Comprehensive Plan to bring it up to date. The existing version dates to 2005 so this project was long overdue. The regional plan outlines general guidelines for future growth, development, and services. It also enables municipalities to restrict less desirable uses so long as at least one party to the plan allows them. In addition to the Hamburg Area School District and Tilden Township the other participants are Perry Township, Upper Bern Township, Upper Tulpehocken Township, Windsor Township, and the Boroughs of Hamburg and Shoemakersville. The group meets monthly. Technical assistance and facilitation of the process has been provided by representatives from the Berks County Planning Commission. Tilden Township’s representatives are Supervisor Fred Herman, Planning Commission Member Greg Kozlowski, and Township Manager Monica Flower.

Finally, we are pleased to report the township’s financial position remains solid. A balanced \$2.8 million budget for 2021 was enacted with no tax increases and adequate funds to carry over to fund operations at the beginning of 2022. The latter is necessary every year because most revenue is received after the 1st calendar quarter. We also anticipate we will be able to retire the remaining debt on the township building. Lastly, our uniformed and non-uniformed pension funds are in a strong position. Both grew over the course of the year through municipal and state contributions as well as investment earnings.

2020 Tilden Township Planning Commission Report

During 2020, the Tilden Township Planning Commission met a total of nine times to review a number of plans and conduct other business. As all of our lives changed due to the pandemic, the Planning Commission conducted meetings in compliance with all guidelines, requirements and recommendations. This included the first meeting when the members attended in person while the public and those conducting business with the Planning Commission attended virtually.

This is the first annual report being prepared by someone other than Anna Shollenberger who served for many years as the Planning Commission secretary. In the fourth quarter of 2020 Anna shared her desire to retire from her duties. She continued to professionally and faithfully serve the Planning Commission and citizens of Tilden Township until the end of the year. Every member of the Planning Commission extends appreciation to Anna for her service.

During the review process of plans, most projects appear on the agenda for a number of meetings. This reflects the collaboration between the Planning Commission and developers. There are five members who serve a four year term on the Planning Commission. The current members are Josh Breslin, Sharon Enevoldson, Christopher Forte, Dale Keener, and Greg Kozlowski. In addition to these members appointed by the Board of Supervisors, the township engineer, Greg Haas, P.E. of Carbon Engineering, and the Planning Commission secretary meet on a monthly basis.

The plans reviewed by the Planning Commission during 2020 were as follows:

Walnut Acres – Development of the former Walnut Acres Golf Course into a residential cluster development.

Edge Self Storage – Development of a self-storage facility along Hex Highway.

Cabela's / Bass Pro – Modifications to the current building and site to allow for the repair and maintenance of boats.

Long Annexation – Request to combine two parcels into one.

WAWA – Request to construct charging spaces for Tesla vehicles and building expansion with remodel.

Pleasant Hills – Request from the owner to redesign lot 42 of the development.

Auto Zone Retail Auto Parts – Development of a retail auto parts store at the intersection of Cabela Drive and Wilderness Trail.

In addition to review of plans and subsequent recommendation to the Board of Supervisors, the Planning Commission also devoted considerable time to two major projects. The first project was revising / updating the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) which sets forth requirements for development within the township. The newly updated SALDO was enacted by the Board of Supervisors on November 11, 2020. The second project is the creation of a Planned Residential Development Ordinance (PRD). When enacted (anticipated during 2021), the PRD will address the development of community type multiple use projects within the township. The Planning Commission will begin work on revisions to the Zoning Ordinance following completion of the PRD.

As part of the responsibilities of Planning Commission, we also provide comments to the Zoning Hearing Board. The comments may be provided when a request for special exception or appeal are filed with the Zoning Hearing Board due to a request not conforming with the Zoning Ordinance. During 2020, the Planning Commission provided comments / feedback to the Zoning Hearing Board on four requests. They were as follows:

Jonathan Yeager and Mainland & Marine Motor Sales – Special Exception Request

PA Conference of Seventh Day Adventists – Notice of Appeal

Auto Zone – Notice of Appeal

Baljinder Singh and Savita Thakur – Notice of Appeal.

The public is welcome to attend Planning Commission meetings. They are held the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm in the Township Municipal Building. If a meeting is re-scheduled or canceled, a notice will be posted on the township's website and on the door of the Municipal Building. Detailed minutes of these proceedings are available on the township website or at the Municipal Building. The Planning Commission looks forward to welcoming Lorraine Ramirez as our new Planning Commission secretary in 2021.

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.



Proudly serving the residents of Tilden Township

Chief William J. McEllroy III
Officer Jordan D. Heckman

Sgt. Peter J. Witman
Officer Frank A. Cataldi

Officer Jose M. Quinones

With the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic in March of 2020, our police officers had to adapt to handling calls in an environment where information on the coronavirus was constantly changing. For the first time, we began wearing masks on duty, sanitizing equipment daily and making sure we had enough cleaning supplies. We went through this right along with everyone else in the community. In the "new norm", our officers were still out there doing their jobs. The department handled 1,416 incidents and patrolled over 20,000 miles in 2020.

As we are in the early months of 2021, I want to remind residents about some of the latest scams that are going on. These scammers prey on our residents of all ages and demographics.

Currently, a popular scam takes place where the scammer calls the resident and tells them there are back taxes due to the IRS. If they don't pay these back taxes over the phone right then, they are threatened with arrest and told that they will not receive their COVID-19 Relief Stimulus checks.

Another scam involves the scammer contacting the resident to let the resident know they can receive financial aid during the pandemic if they pay some processing fees upfront with a credit card or bank account over the phone. Residents should be suspicious of anything that sounds "too good to be true."

Scammers often call residents pretending to be businesses or government officials in order to coerce you into sending them money that you do not owe them. If you are not sure who is on the other end of that phone, do not provide them with any type of private information, especially financial. Get their name and phone number. Tell them you will call them back.

If you have a doubt about a call you received or you have become a victim of a scam, call our department right away. 610-562-9001

Thank you.

Chief William J. McEllroy III

2021 TAX COLLECTOR SITTING DATES AND TIMES

MARCH

Tuesday, 3/9 – 5:30 PM – 7 PM

Wednesday, 3/17 – 5:30 PM – 7 PM

Tuesday, 3/23 – 5:30 PM – 7 PM

APRIL

Monday, 4/5 – 5:30 PM – 7 PM

Monday, 4/19 – 5:30 PM – 7 PM

Tuesday, 4/20 – 5:30 PM – 7 PM

Wednesday, 4/21 – 5:30 PM – 7 PM

Monday, 4/26 – 5:30 PM – 7 PM

Tuesday, 4/27 – 5:30 PM – 7 PM

Don't Forget!

ACCEPTED:

Prescription medications in standard container or sealed bag
Over the counter medications
Vitamins
Drug samples
Pet medications
Liquid medications in plastic,
leak proof containers

NOT ACCEPTED:

Loose pills-Syringes
Thermometers
Bloody or infectious
waste-Medication from businesses
Hydrogen peroxide
or other cleaning agents
Aerosol cans
Inhalers



IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO GET YOUR STREET SIGNS ORDERED!

VERTICAL 6" X 12" (Displays up to 3 numbers) **HORIZONTAL 6" X 12"** (Displays up to 4 numbers) **\$10.00 each**



VERTICAL 6" X 18" (Displays up to 4 numbers) **\$13.00 each**

All signs are green with reflective white numbers.
Cash or check made payable to Tilden Township at time of order.

**TILDEN TOWNSHIP
BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
Ordinance No. 240-2020**

(Full Ordinance can be found at www.tildentownship.com)

Section 307. Requirements for Building Numbers.

- A. Building numbers shall be in plain, block numerical form. Script may be permitted if the building numbers are also Installed in plain, block numerical format.
- B. Building numbers placed on the building shall be a minimum of three inches (3") in height for all residential buildings, four inches (4") in height for all buildings with three (3) or more dwelling units, and ten inches (10") in height for all other buildings.
- C. The building numbers shall be reflectorized or illuminated. Numbers and background shall be of contrasting colors and visible to vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

Section 308. Placement of Building Numbers. Where the principal or an accessory structure is visible from the road or street of address, the building numbers required by this Part 3 shall be affixed in a manner as to be visible from the street. When a building is located within fifty feet (50') of the street line and is clearly visible from the street, the building numbers may be conspicuously placed immediately above or at the side of the main door of the building where practical, in such a manner that the number may be seen plainly from the street. When any building is situated more than fifty feet (50') from the street line, or is fifty feet (50') or less from the street line, but the building is not clearly visible from the street, the building numbers shall be placed near the walk, driveway, or common entrance to the property on which the building is erected or upon a gate, post, mailbox or fence so as to be easily discernable from the street line. Such numbers shall be at least two inches (2") in height. Additionally, numbering in compliance with Section 307.B shall be placed conspicuously on the building in cases where there are multiple dwellings along a private road, driveway, or lane. Building numbers shall not be permitted to be placed where they will be hidden at any time by obstructions, including but not limited to screens, storm doors, grass, shrubbery, and/or trees.

Tilden Township Environmental Advisory Committee is seeking groups and individuals to assist with our "Adopt A Roadway" Project for 2021!

Our goal is to have the township rid of trash along our roadways in 2021.
We would love to have more Tilden Residents volunteer on their own free time!
Take your morning or evening walks and pick up trash along the way!
We will supply vests, bags, and even grabbers!
Please call (610-562-7410) or stop in at the Tilden Township Municipal Building for information about the program and how you can help.

Help keep your township beautiful.



FREE OUTDOOR FAMILY MOVIE NIGHTS!

Saturday, July 17, 2021

(Rain Date: Saturday, July 24th)



Please practice social distancing

Blankets/chairs 6' apart per family group

Feel free to bring your own snacks and drinks

(no alcoholic beverages).

Behind the Tilden Municipal Building on baseball outfield.

Thank you to our sponsors!

Tilden Walmart Gander RV

Carbon Engineering

Joe Jurgielewicz & Son, LTD

Saturday, August 21, 2021

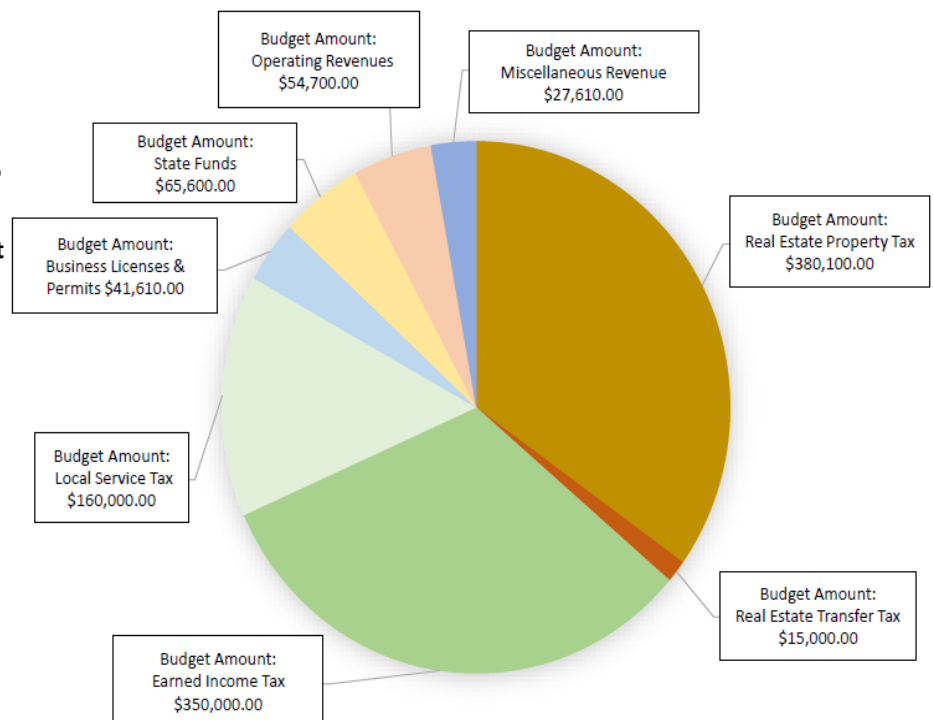
(Rain Date: Saturday, August 28th)



Budgeted 2021 General Fund Revenue

Where Does the Money Come From ?

General Funds	Budget Amount
Real Estate Property Tax	\$380,100.00
Real Estate Transfer Tax	\$15,000.00
Earned Income Tax	\$350,000.00
Local Service Tax	\$160,000.00
Business Licenses & Permits	\$41,610.00
State Funds	\$65,600.00
Operating Revenues	\$54,700.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$27,610.00



TILDEN TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF MEETINGS FOR 2021

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 2021 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 2022 will be prepared immediately following the October 2021 monthly meeting.

** The budget for 2022 will be adopted at the December 8, 2021 monthly meeting

BOS Workshops at 9:00 AM:

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

BOS Regular Meeting at 7:00 PM:

January 4
February 10
March 10
April 14
May 12
June 9
July 14
August 11
September 8
October 13 *
November 10
December 8 **

Planning Commission 3rd Tuesday at 7:30 PM

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

KEEPING YOUR STREAMS AND LAKE HEALTHY...

1. GET YOUR LAWN AND GARDEN OFF DRUGS!

- ✿ Limit the use of chemical pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers — and avoid using chemicals entirely in wet weather.
- ✿ Pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers run off into creeks and streams — and eventually into Lake Erie. Fertilizers add excessive nutrients to natural waters that lead to algae bloom, bad odors from lack of oxygen, and fish kills. Pesticides and herbicides kill fish and their food sources.
- ✿ Consider using compost instead of fertilizer and natural means to control pests and plant disease.

2. FEED YOUR STREAM RIGHT

- ✿ Never pour oil, grease, detergent from car washing, gasoline, antifreeze, paint products, carpet-cleaning chemicals, pesticides, herbicides, or other toxic substances down street storm drains. Storm drains flow directly into creeks, which flow directly into Lake Erie. All of these substances are toxic to fish and other stream-dwelling organisms. Grease and oil coat fish gills, deplete the oxygen supply, and smother bottom-dwelling organisms.

3. DON'T PLUG YOUR ARTERIES

- ✿ Dispose of garbage at your curbside pickup or landfill — not in creeks or streams. Some people think of creeks as garbage dumps. Look in our streams, and you'll find shopping carts, mattresses, car parts, plastic, cans, Styrofoam, yard debris, and paper litter. Debris creates dams that cause flooding and erosion. Litter is mistaken by wildlife for food and can be toxic or cause starvation. Backed-up water is a breeding place for rodents and mosquitoes. If you need help removing or disposing of debris, contact your Borough, Township, or Chamber of Commerce, who can direct you to local volunteer organizations.

This guide has been funded by the League of Women Voters of the Pennsylvania Citizen Education Fund through a Section 319 Federal Clean Water Act grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

For more information on stream health:
• <http://pa.lwv.org/wren/>
• <http://www.epa.gov/>
• <http://dep.state.pa.us/>

Printed on recycled paper.



Tilden Township
874 Hex Highway
Hamburg, PA 19526

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Remember to get your permit!

Driveway Permits – Required for the construction of a new driveway, to reconstruct, improve, pave, or blacktop an existing driveway, and to construct and/or pave a drainage area or other means of ingress or egress to property which connects to a Township road. Application for a permit can be picked up at the Township office. The fee is \$100.00, payable at the time of application submission. Driveways abutting a state road require a permit from PennDOT. Please contact the Temple PennDOT office at 610-929-0766.

Occupancy Permit – Upon completion of a dwelling, an occupancy permit must be obtained from the Zoning Officer prior to establishing residence.

On-Lot Sewage Permit – State and Municipal laws require permits for the installation of any new on-site sewage system or corrections/repairs to any existing on-site system. To obtain a permit, contact the Sewage Enforcement Officer at 484-662-3910.

Solicitation Permit – Anyone engaged in selling, soliciting, or taking orders for any goods or merchandise will need a solicitation permit before sales commence. Permit fee is \$10. Charitable organizations are required to obtain a permit, but the \$10 fee is waived. Application can be picked up at the Township office and is subject to review by the Township Police prior to issuance.

Zoning/Building Permits – Required for new construction, additions to existing structures, garages, porches and/or decks, accessory buildings (sheds), swimming pools, roof replacement, retaining walls, fences, and accessory farm buildings. A zoning permit is also required for home occupations.

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