

**EASTERN DELAWARE COUNTY JOINT RECREATION DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING – BERKSHIRE TOWNSHIP
November 12, 2025**

Call to Order

Halli Watson called the Eastern Delaware County Joint Recreation District meeting to order on Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. inside Berkshire Township Hall.

Roll Call

Those answering roll included Mr. Greg Elliott, Ms. Jody Greiger Ms. Halli Watson, Mr. Todd Musacchio, and Mr. Bernie Kooi. Ms. Maria Sobota arrived at 6:37pm. Others in attendance included Sunbury City Administrator Daryl Hennessy.

New Business

Mayor St. John provided background on the formation of the Joint Recreation District (JRD). Sunbury, Berkshire Township, and the Village of Galena agreed to collaborate based on shared priorities and strong historical voter support for community projects. He emphasized that the goal is to develop a fiscally responsible, community-driven plan to create a community center. He also noted the importance of clear communications and transparency, referencing a past community center effort that failed due to miscommunications. He concluded his remarks by encouraging the JRD to create a strong, data-supported proposal that reflects the needs of all residents.

Representatives from Pizzuti Solutions and MSA Design provided an overview of the community center feasibility study, which runs from September 2025 through March 2026. The study includes market analysis, cost modeling, benchmarking, and extensive community engagement. A public survey is now open to receive input. The consultants shared examples of comparable facilities and emphasized that no site or design decisions have been made; public input will guide the project's priorities. Three public meetings and additional engagement opportunities are planned as the study continues.

During public comment, residents expressed strong support for creating a community center and emphasized the need for both indoor and outdoor recreational and social spaces. Common requests included indoor and outdoor pools, fitness areas, gymnasiums, turf or court space for youth sports, multipurpose rooms, senior activity areas, walking tracks, child watch spaces, and flexible rooms for programs. Several residents highlighted the shortage of youth sports facilities in the Big Walnut area and urged consideration of indoor turf and multi-use courts. Others encouraged inclusion of co-working areas, indoor play spaces, and potentially a small performance or theater area.

Attendees also stressed the importance of accessibility for seniors, affordability, and designing the facility to grow with the community. Some raised questions about funding, tax impacts, and long-term operations. The consultants noted that the study will evaluate various financing options, partnerships, sponsorship opportunities, and both public and third-party management models. Overall, public sentiment was supportive, with residents emphasizing inclusive programming, financial sustainability, and ongoing communications throughout the process.

Adjournment

There being no further business for the Board, **Ms. Watson** moved to adjourn the meeting, and it was seconded by **Mr. Elliott**. The motion was approved 6-0.