

**HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING
Monday, November 8, 2010
7:00PM**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman John B. McIlhinney at 7:02PM and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Also present were: Barbara A. Salvadore, Vice-Chairperson
James C. Groff, Supervisor
William E. Wert, Asst. Manager/Dir. of Parks, Recreation & Open Space
Francis X. Grabowski, Township Solicitor
C. Robert Wynn, Township Engineer
Christopher E. Engelhart, Chief of Police
Lorraine E. Leslie, Township Treasurer
Lynda S. Seimes, Township Secretary

A. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1) Chairman McIlhinney announced that Township Manager Chris Christman would not be in attendance this evening since he and his wife became first-time parents to a daughter today.

2) The Board met in Executive Session prior to this meeting for informational purposes and for legal matters.

3) Two separate Conditional Use Hearings will be held this evening: (1) 7:30PM – New Cingular Wireless PCS – to construct a telecommunications tower on 6.34 acres owned by PECO on Diamond Street; and (2) 7:45PM – Liberty Towers, LLC (T-Mobile) to construct a telecommunications tower on 11.49 acres owned by Hilltown Township on Keystone Drive.

4) A second Prescription Drug Collection will take place in the lobby of this building on Saturday, November 13, 2010 between 10AM and 2PM. This event is a partnership with the American Medicine Chest and the Bucks County District Attorney's Office. For additional information, please contact the Hilltown Township Police Department's non-emergency number.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

1. Mr. Terry Kames urged the Board to use a common sense, realistic approach to balance the 2011 Budget by cutting spending, not by raising taxes and/or fees.

2. Mr. Mike Sandt of 4 South Valley View Road understands that consideration is being given to laying off two police officers to balance the budget. He previously resided in a community that relied on State Police coverage, and often experienced lengthy delays in

response times. Mr. Sandt is very happy with the service he receives from the Police Department, and would be extremely disappointed if the compliment of officers was decreased in any way.

3. Mr. Charles Baker 902 Rt. 113 is most concerned with the anticipated 37% increase in school taxes. He provided the Board with a copy of a chart compiled by the Cato Institute showing percentage change in public school employment and enrollment since 1970, and the inflation-adjusted federal spending per pupil and achievement change since 1970.

4. Ms. Linda Brown-Crouthamel of 406 Rt. 152 is a 30 year resident and understands the reluctance to raise taxes. However she noted that Hilltown has not raised taxes in six years. The proposed 2.5 mill increase would equate to approximately \$108.00 per dwelling annually on an average property assessment. A gradual increase over time is ideal in her opinion, and Ms. Brown-Crouthamel would support a fair and reasonable tax increase in 2011.

5. Mr. John Snover of 226 Dorchester Drive noted that many residents are retired and on fixed incomes, and suggested the Board consider charging each resident their fair share through Income Tax. Chairman McIlhinney replied that the Township does collect Earned Income Tax, in addition to property taxes.

6. Ms. Jean Vandergrift is retired and on a fixed income. She suggested the Supervisors actively pursue other ways to cut costs in each department and to live within their budget, rather than increasing taxes.

7. Mr. Bruce Walters of 615 Redwing Road is opposed to a tax increase, but not at the expense of cutting the number of police officers. If a small tax increase is required to continue with the current compliment of officers, Mr. Walters is willing to pay it.

8. Mr. Bob Hipp of 963 Callowhill Road understands the difficulties of those on fixed incomes or those that are unemployed however he feels the prospect of decreasing staffing of the police department would result in an issue of public safety, which he personally is not willing to compromise.

9. Ms. Jackie Walker of 956 Bypass Road is a businesswoman who must budget and cut costs during these difficult financial times. She suggested that the Board consider a 10% pay cut for employees, a more careful look at cost saving measures in each department, and the mindset of running the Township as though it were a business.

10. Mr. David Christ of 426 Schoolhouse Road referred to the Liberty Towers Conditional Use scheduled for consideration this evening. He and his wife are opposed to the construction of a 150 ft. high cell phone tower in a residential neighborhood, which will reduce property values throughout the area, and will cause an erosion of the tax base.

11. Mr. Fred MacConnell of 37 Narothyn Road suggested that the Board appoint a committee to review and audit the Township's balance sheet and come up with ideas for increasing fees or additional revenues to eliminate the budget shortfall. He would not recommend that the police force be reduced in any way.

12. Mr. Joe Musiowski is an 8 year resident of the Township who disagrees with reducing the police force and would even be willing to pay additional taxes to increase the number of officers.

13. Ms. Patricia Miller owns rental properties in the Township, and is aware that renters are not required to pay school taxes. She suggested that the Supervisors promote the idea of requiring renters to pay school taxes to the Pennridge School District.

C. CONDITIONAL USE HEARINGS - **7:30PM – Chairman McIlhinney adjourned the Supervisor's meeting of Nov. 9, 2010 in order to enter into two advertised Conditional Use Hearings.

1. NEW CINGULAR WIRELESS PCS CONDITIONAL USE HEARING - Solicitor Grabowski presided as moderator for this Hearing. The applicant for the first hearing was represented by Mr. Jack D. Wuerstle, Esquire, along with witnesses for the applicant Mr. Scott Pilecki-Site Acquisition Specialist, Mr. John Baptista-Site Engineer, and Mr. Brock Riffel-Radio Frequency Engineer. Ms. Gail McCarthy, court stenographer, was present as well. Solicitor Grabowski provided the offer of "party status" to those present, which gives the individuals the right to file an appeal to Bucks County Court from the Supervisor's eventual decision, whatever that might be. It was noted that no one requested party status for this first hearing.

The applicant, New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC proposes to construct a telecommunications (F6) use including attaching a 150 ft. high "FWT Power Mount" on an existing PECO Transmission Tower on a 6.34 acre parcel owned by PECO located along the east side of Diamond Street on TMP #15-22-229-1 within the RR Zoning District. An 11.5 ft. X 20 ft. equipment shelter is proposed at the base of an existing PECO Transmission Tower to be contained within a 17.5 ft. X 20 ft. fenced compound. Access to the facility is proposed via use of an existing "field drive" between Diamond Street and the base of the tower. In addition to the proposed facilities, the site contains existing overhead electric transmission lines and wooded areas along the perimeter of the overhead utility right-of-way. No water or sanitary sewer facilities are proposed, as the facility is to be unmanned. The applicant is proposing \$3,500.00 fee in-lieu-of buffer plantings. The completed application packet, plans, and exhibits are available for public inspection at the Township office.

Supervisor's Comments/Questions:

1. Supervisor Salvadore questioned the additional coverage area that would be provided by this co-location.
2. Chairman McIlhinney asked if the \$3,500.00 fee in-lieu-of buffer plantings would be sufficient. Mr. Wynn stated that it would noting that the same offer was accepted by the Supervisors when Metro PCS made a similar proposal for this location last year.

Public Comment:

- 1) Mr. Ken Reen of 928 Green Street expressed concern with health issues from the radio frequency that may be detrimental to citizens of the Township.

There was no further public comment.

Motion was made by Supervisor Salvadore, seconded by Supervisor Groff, and carried unanimously to approve the application of New Cingular PCS for their site located on Diamond Street, based upon the testimony given at this evening's Conditional Use Hearing, pending completion of any outstanding items as noted within Mr. Wynn's Oct. 8, 2010 and Nov. 4, 2010 engineering reviews, and to accept the offer of \$3,500.00 for fee in-lieu buffer plantings as specified above. There was no public comment.

Motion was made by Supervisor Salvadore, seconded by Supervisor Groff, and carried unanimously to waive land development procedures for the New Cingular PCS for their site located on Diamond Street, as noted above. There was no public comment.

****7:58PM – Chairman McIlhinney adjourned the first advertised Conditional Use Hearing and called for a brief recess prior to the start of the second advertised Conditional Use Hearing.**

****8:12PM – Chairman McIlhinney reconvened the Conditional Use Hearings of November 8, 2010.**

2. LIBERTY TOWERS, LLC (T-MOBILE) CONDITIONAL USE HEARING - Solicitor Grabowski again presided as moderator for this second Hearing. The applicant was represented by Mr. Richard Lemanowicz, Esquire, along with witnesses for the applicant Mr. Michael Bohlinger, Engineer, Mr. Michael Fischer, Radio Frequency Engineer, and Mr. Michael Davis, Land Planning Consultant. Ms. Gail McCarthey, court stenographer, was present as well. Solicitor Grabowski offered "party status" to those present, which would give the individuals the right to file an appeal to Bucks County Court from the Supervisor's eventual decision, whatever that might be. The following individuals requested party status: Raymond Stock, Tony and Kelly Wilwert, Duane A. Derstine, Francis Weiss, Justin C. and Christina L. Lockman, Corbin

and Gwendolyn Williams, Gerard J. Christoff, Sidney O. Smith, Jean Vandegrift, Dave and Charlotte Christ, Robin Yorczyk, Julie Gallucci, Tawnee Muldowney, Earl Smith, Tom and Joan Price and George S. Gelegonya

The Applicant, Liberty Towers LLC (T-Mobile), proposes to construct a telecommunications (F6) use including a 150 ft. high monopole and associated equipment cabinetry on the 11.49 acre parcel owned by Hilltown Township, which is located on the west side of Keystone Drive within the Light Industrial Zoning District. The 150 ft. high monopole will provide a platform for attachment of nine T-Mobile antennas as well as five potential additional users. A stone access driveway is proposed to be constructed between Keystone Drive and a 70 ft. by 80 ft. fenced compound within the site. In addition to the proposed facilities, the site contains existing natural features including forest and 100-year floodplain associated with an unnamed tributary, and an existing 100 ft. wide PP&L easement containing high tension poles. As the facility is proposed to be unmanned, no water or sewer facilities are proposed. The completed application packet, plans, and exhibits are available for public inspection at the Township office.

Mr. Davis explained that a balloon test was performed on site, which consists of the launch of a helium balloon, approximately 4 ft. in diameter, from the exact site and to the height of the proposed tower, which in this case is approximately 150 ft. Once the balloon is airborne to the proper height, Mr. Davis drove around the area looking for the balloon and noting from where it can and cannot be seen, and photographing the locations from which the balloon is seen. Those photographs are then used to photo-simulate what the proposed tower would look like from a specific location. It was Mr. Davis's opinion that the result from the simulated photographs is an accurate depiction of what the tower would look like on the property. Of the eleven views taken during the balloon test, the balloon was visible in just six of those shots. Mr. Davis presented photographs of the balloon from various locations.

Solicitor Grabowski cautioned those present that the Board of Supervisors are precluded during a Conditional Use Hearing from answering questions put forth by the general public, nor can they provide any personal comment. The Supervisor's role this evening is to act as a judge, hearing the testimony of both sides, before reaching a conclusion.

Public Comment/Questions:

1. Mr. Raymond Stock of 512 Keystone Drive suggested that the antennae be co-located on the nearby Hilltown Water and Sewer Authority property on Highland Park Road.
2. Mr. Tony Wilwert of 49 Narothyn Road asked how and what the most current FCC standards and guidelines for health, safety and welfare measure. Mr. Fischer replied that the FCC adopted standards created by international and national organizations such as IRPA (International Radiation Protection Association), IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers), ANSI (American National Standards Institute), and NCRP (National Council on

Radiation Protection and Measurements) that require compliance with all applicable exposure limits and guidelines governing human exposure to radiofrequency electromagnetic fields. Mr. Wilwert referred to the potential list of illnesses from exposure to radiofrequencies, and questioned the reliability of statistics available concerning the possible affect on humans during heavy peak usage times. In terms of usage, Mr. Fischer explained that T-Mobile and any other wireless carriers only have so much frequency spectrum that they may use, so even during peak usage, they can only transmit a certain number of frequencies at a certain power level. It was noted that the FCC also mandates the power level that they can transmit at. Mr. Fischer stated that the applicant's proposal is compliant with the FCC guidelines and standards.

3. Mr. Duane Derstine of 612 Schoolhouse Road questioned the use of this specific property, since there is a sign posted on site which states that the property is Hilltown Township Open Space to be used for open space and/or recreational purposes.

4. Mr. Francis Weiss of 533 Keystone Drive suggested that the Township hire an expert to testify that the construction of such a tower in a residential neighborhood is safe, and asked that the Board delay making a decision until all the facts have been attained.

5. Mr. Justin Lockman of 524 Keystone Drive expressed concern with the issue of use and ownership of the property, referring to earlier comments about the sign on the site proclaiming that the land is open space to be used for recreational and open space purposes.

6. Mr. Corbin Williams of 702 Keystone Drive lives directly adjacent to the site, bordering two sides of the property. Mr. Williams commented that his five year old son found the balloon used in the sight testing on his property, which he noted would be considered littering.

According to the additional coverage area that would be gained, it does not appear to Mr. Williams that there is any purpose for a new tower, other than financial gain. Mr. Fischer explained that this tower would greatly improve coverage for the residential properties as well as the cell phone/vehicle coverage along Rt. 113 and Bethlehem Pike. PennDot data shows that traffic counts along Rt. 113 in that area sees approximately 8,300 vehicles per day, with approximately 12,000 vehicles traveling Bethlehem Pike, and along Rt. 309, approximately 34,000 vehicles per day. Mr. Fischer advised that there is also significant emergency services benefit to providing coverage since over 50% of 911 calls come from mobile phones.

Mr. Williams expressed concern with how far the proposed tower would be from the existing power lines. He noted that there are wetlands and a creek flowing through the site, and fears the environmental issues that could destroy the habitat for the animals living on the site.

7. Mrs. Gwendolyn Williams further reiterated the environmental impact the construction of this tower, along with the accompanying driveway and destruction of the woods, would have on the existing wildlife.

8. Mr. Gerald Christoff of 623 Keystone Drive asked if it would be feasible to co-locate this tower on the water tank located on Bethlehem Pike. Mr. Fischer replied that the coverage area will only cover a half-mile to a mile at most, and there is already a T-Mobile site right next to that water tank.

9. Mr. Sidney Smith of 126 Pheasant Hill Road is most concerned with the possible health issues caused by cell towers, citing the belief that increased RF exposure can compromise immune systems, nervous systems, brain disorders, organ problems, tumors and cancer, noting that some literature claims the closer to a radiating antennae, the higher the health risk.

10. Ms. Jean Vandegrift of 219 Dorchester Drive requested a photograph of what the proposed tower might look like, which was provided by Mr. Lemanowicz. Ms. Vandegrift asked how much money the Township would receive by leasing this property. Solicitor Grabowski explained that the Township Manager, who negotiated the lease, was very cautious not to provide the monetary value to the Board of Supervisors so that it would not, in any way, color their decision on this matter. Ms. Vandegrift wondered if the lease would be conditioned upon approval of this proposal. Solicitor Grabowski replied that a redacted copy of the executed lease agreement is available for public inspection as an exhibit.

Ms. Vandegrift asked how many additional antennas could be co-located on this tower. Mr. Lemanowicz explained that Hilltown Township Ordinance requires the applicant to design a tower that will accept an array of antennae.

****9:29PM – Chairman McIlhinney called for a five minute recess.**

****9:38PM – The Conditional Use Hearing was reconvened.**

11. Mr. David Christ of 426 Schoolhouse Road asked if Mr. Bohlinger represents Liberty Towers or T-Mobile. Mr. Lemanowicz explained that Liberty Towers is leasing space on their proposed tower to T-Mobile, and Mr. Bohlinger has been contracted to provide expert testimony. According to previous testimony, Mr. Christ wondered how the other five positions which are located lower on the proposed tower would be able to provide sufficient signal.

Mr. Christ advised that his home is not shown on the aerial location photographs provided by the applicant's witnesses. Construction on Mr. Christ's home began in the fall of 2004 and received a Certificate of Occupancy in April of 2005. That being the case, he feels the first aerial photograph presented this evening is outdated. Further, with respect to Exhibit A-8, the aerial photograph shows Mr. Christ's home under construction, which again is evidence that many of the photographs presented this evening are outdated and defective.

Mr. Christ inquired as to the weather conditions on the date the balloon test was conducted. Mr. Davis replied that the weather was clear with little wind at less than 5 mph. Mr. Christ was

disappointed that there is not a requirement for the Township to notify neighboring residents prior to the balloon test being conducted.

12. Ms. Beverly Slifer of 1019 Orchard Road is a 36 year resident who also owns an apartment building at Keystone Drive and Bethlehem Pike. This proposed tower will be clearly visible from both of her properties. She is opposed to this cell tower due to its location in a populated area. Ms. Slifer has excellent cell phone coverage through AT&T and wondered why T-Mobile does not co-locate their antennae array on one of their existing towers. Ms. Slifer implored the Board not to ruin this beautiful forested area of the Township, citing the potential health issues that could affect present and future generations.

Mr. Lemanowicz objected to Ms. Slifer's party status since neither of her properties are located within 500 ft. of the site.

13. Ms. Robin Yorczyk moved to a new development in Hilltown for its rural nature and open space. She is the mother of a 17 month old son and is very concerned about the potential health hazards of radio frequency exposure levels over time. Ms. Yorczyk is also concerned with decreasing property values that she and neighboring property owners will surely experience if this proposal is approved.

Mr. Lemanowicz objected to Ms. Yorczyk's party status since her property is not located within 500 ft. of the site.

14. Ms. Tawnee Muldowney strongly objects to this tower being constructed and presented a petition with 182 signatures of individuals opposing this proposal as well. She has done extensive research and has discovered that cell phone towers emit high frequency radiation, which affects functions in cells and other living organisms. Ms. Muldowney prepared a flyer citing quotes, comments and studies conducted by prominent physicians, researchers, and ecology groups, all of whom contend that there is evidence of damage to cell tissue and DNA, as well as links to brain tumors, cancer, leukemia, suppressed immune function, depression, miscarriage, Alzheimer's disease and numerous other serious illnesses. Ms. Muldowney asked the Board to deny the applicant's request for Conditional Use for the health, safety, and welfare of all residents.

Mr. Lemanowicz objected to the submission of a petition at this time.

15. Mr. Earl Smith has lived at 608 Keystone Drive for 30+ years and is opposed to the location of this proposed tower due to its proximity to residential properties, and its proximity to the existing high tension lines. He advised that the property in question was initially donated to the Township by the Eschelman family and he does not know if an agreement had been made regarding a stipulation for the use of that property as open space.

16. Ms. Joan Price, a 40+ year resident of 626 Keystone Drive lives 250 ft. from the proposed tower and expressed great concern with this proposal due to the potential health issues. Ms. Price asked the Board of Supervisors to reject this request for Conditional Use.

17. Mr. George Gelegonya is opposed to this tower being constructed in his neighborhood. He cited the safety issues involved with driving while using a cell phone, and stated that he has never had a problem with a dropped call on the rare occasion he has used a cell phone in the area. Mr. Gelegonya's main concern is the potential risk of health, safety and welfare of Township residents.

There was no further public comment.

The Conditional Use Hearing concluded. The Board decided to take the issue under advisement and provide a decision on this Conditional Use Application at the November 22, 2010 meeting.

****10:10PM- Chairman McIlhinney adjourned the second advertised Conditional Use Hearing.**

****10:16PM – Chairman McIlhinney reconvened the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Supervisors of November 8, 2010.**

D. CONSENT CALENDAR:

- Minutes of the October 25, 2010 Supervisor's Meeting
- Bills List dated November 9, 2010

Motion was made by Supervisor Salvadore, seconded by Supervisor Groff, and carried unanimously to approve and accept the Consent Calendar as noted above. There was no public comment.

E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1) Discussion of FY2011 Budget – Mr. Wert provided a brief synopsis of the 2011 proposed Budget. At the October 24th meeting, the Supervisors discussed and presented three scenarios to fund the General Fund Budget for FY2011. Supervisors Groff and Salvadore (with Chairman McIlhinney opposed) recommended and approved the following:

- Transfer of 0.30 mills from Park and Recreation Fund to General Fund (\$63,231.60).
- Transfer of 0.30 mills from Road Equipment Fund to General Fund (63,231.60).
- Transfer of \$152,000.00 from Operating Reserve Fund to General Fund
- Utilize 0.20 mills for funding EMS Services - \$42,154.00

Even with these recommendations, Mr. Wert advised that there would still be a remaining operating shortfall balance of \$414,019.00.

Supervisor's Comments:

1) Supervisor Salvadore is a passionate proponent of supporting emergency services, including police, fire departments, and EMS companies. While none of the Supervisors would be happy with a tax increase, she stated that a rather steep deficit remains, and if the Township hopes to go into next year with a reserve fund intact, a tax increase may be warranted. Initially, Supervisor Salvadore proposal was for a 1 mill tax increase, however after careful consideration, she would agree to a 2 mill tax increase, as long as 0.25 mills is dedicated specifically to the four EMS companies.

2) Supervisor Groff has no interest in laying off police officers, as proposed by Chairman McIlhinney at the last meeting. Nor would he be interested in taking dollars from the Capital Projects Fund. Supervisor Groff reminded the Board that taxes have not been increased in six years. He further noted that as of January 10, 2010, 1 mill of tax in Hilltown generated \$221,000.00, however as of October, the value of 1 mill has dropped by \$11,000.00 to \$210,000.00. Therefore, the tax money anticipated to be collected will be less than projected, and the amount of money generated per home is less. Supervisor Groff feels that Hilltown Township, which is comprised of 27 square miles, operates quite well with a relatively bare-bones staff in all departments on a \$4.9 million dollar budget that provides for police coverage, ambulance services, road maintenance/plowing, parks and recreational activities, and open space. After much consideration, Supervisor Groff would now recommend a 2 mill increase instead of his initially considered 2.5 mill increase. Therefore, on an average home assessment of \$36,000.00, a 2 mill tax increase would amount to approximately \$70.00 per property.

3. Chairman McIlhinney repeated his objection to any tax increase. Due to a recent police arbitration award, it would be his recommendation to reduce the employee compliment in the Police Department by two officers (lowest seniority employees), which would generate a total savings of \$268,631.00. Chairman McIlhinney explained that when the Supervisors entered into contract negotiations with the PBA in 2009, they were offered a 3% salary increase which is the same amount offered to administrative employees and public works employees. Had the PBA accepted that initial 3% salary increase offer, Chairman McIlhinney does not believe a tax increase would even be considered. However, as a result of what is basically a 27% raise over a four year period as awarded by the arbitrator, the Township is now committed to an additional \$552,000.00 payment. He is a firm believer in those that brought the Township to this dilemma be held responsible to assist with solving the problem, which means either through attrition, or retirement or through a reduction in the police department workforce. This solution, in Chairman McIlhinney's opinion, would resolve a major shortfall in the 2011 budget

4. Supervisor Salvadore would not support a reduction of police officers, and she intends to do everything in her power to insure that police, fire and ambulance services are adequately funded.

Motion was made by Supervisor Groff and seconded by Supervisor Salvadore to increase the millage of General Fund by 2.0 mills, along with the other proposed recommendations agreed upon by a majority of the Board of Supervisors at their October 25, 2010 meeting, by transferring 0.30 mills from Park and Recreation Fund to General Fund (\$63,231.60), transferring 0.30 mills from the Road Equipment Fund to the General Fund (\$63,231.60), transferring \$152,200.00 from the Operating Reserve Fund to the General Fund, and utilizing 0.25 mills for funding of EMS Services. Prior to a vote, public comment was heard.

Public Comment:

1. Mr. Terry Karnes is opposed to a tax increase. Since the population has not grown as expected due to the economy, Mr. Karnes wondered if safety is even an issue, or if retaining the two lowest seniority police officers has become a luxury the Township can no longer afford. Supervisor Groff commented that the fact Mr. Karnes has not heard that Hilltown is unsafe is an absolute compliment to the Police Department, and further, he is unwilling to take the chance of compromising the safety of the residents by laying off two officers.

2. Mr. Dave D'Agostino, a 16 year resident, is totally opposed to any tax increase. He suggested that all but necessary snow plowing overtime be eliminated for 2011, and that all waste be cut from the budget in order to avoid a tax increase.

3. Mr. Dan French of Diamond Street, a 15 year resident, is currently unemployed. His wife has gone without a salary increase this year and the company she works for is considering a 3% employee reduction for 2011. He is extremely concerned with the thought of a tax increase, and certainly understands that it is difficult for individuals to lose their jobs. However Mr. French recognizes that he must control his own expenses, as he hopes the Township will do as well. Mr. French suggested that the Board consider abolishing the open space tax or re-prioritizing the Township's wants versus needs going forward. Supervisor Salvadore is a proponent of open space, however she agrees that perhaps the Township needs to consider repealing the open space tax in order to keep the millage as low as possible.

4. Mr. Jim Kotch has lived in Hilltown for five years, and would not like to see his taxes increased, however he is not in favor of laying off police officers. He encouraged the Board to trim the 2011 budget of all but necessary spending in order to keep a tax increase, if necessary, to a minimum.

5. Mr. Tim Kelly, a 25+ year resident of Silverdale Borough, would be opposed to reducing the Township's police force.

6. Mr. Terry Karnes questioned Supervisor Salvadore's reference to supporting EMS, and asked for clarification as to whether or not EMS services are actually provided through Township taxes.

7. Ms. Jean Vandegrift also questioned the funding provided to EMS, noting that she has paid to join an ambulance service.

Supervisor Salvadore explained that the Township provides a donation to the four ambulance squads, and a donation to the seven fire companies who serve Hilltown Township. Mr. Wert added that there is a .75 mill fire tax as well. Lengthy discussion took place.

There was no further public comment.

Motion was made by Supervisor Salvadore, and seconded by Supervisor Groff to make the necessary changes to the proposed FY2011 budget as recommended by a majority of the Board of Supervisors this evening, and to authorize the advertisement of the amended proposed FY2011 budget, which will be available for public inspection for twenty days and for possible adoption at the December 13, 2010 meeting. Chairman McElhinney was opposed. Motion carried. There was no public comment.

F. NEW BUSINESS:

1) Office Lease Renewal Agreement with State Representative Katharine Watson – Motion was made by Supervisor Salvadore, seconded by Supervisor Groff, and carried unanimously to approve the two-year lease Agreement for office space rental with State Representative Katharine Watson. There was no public comment.

0

2) Haines and Kibblehouse Request for Extension of Hours of Operation – Motion was made by Supervisor Groff, seconded by Supervisor Salvadore, and carried unanimously to approve the extension of hours of operation for H&K Quarry through November 30, 2010 for the concrete batch plant and asphalt plant as noted in correspondence from Haines and Kibblehouse dated November 2, 2010. There was no public comment.

G. ZONING HEARING BOARD ADVISORIES: None.

H. SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:

1. Supervisor Salvadore appreciates the emails and correspondence received from Hilltown residents expressing their opinions and offering suggestions for the Township going forward.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Mr. Mike McMackin, a Hilltown resident, is a member of the Lower Delaware River Wild and Scenic Committee representing concerned Pennsylvania residents by raising public awareness of the devastating, permanent, and negative impact of gas well fracking on

public and private water supplies in the Delaware River region. Mr. McMackin presented a copy of a Resolution adopted by the Borough of Stockton, NJ and asked that Hilltown Township adopt and follow a similar Resolution in support of this important issue.

2. Mr. Bob Hipp was shocked that the Board would consider the Conditional Use application for the cell tower on Keystone Drive when the plan and application provided by the applicant obviously contained inaccurate information, since one resident's home was not shown on the aerial photographs. Chairman McIlhinney explained that the measurements to property lines are done by tax map parcels, not by dwelling placement/location.

J. PRESS CONFERENCE: There were no questions asked by those reporters present.

K. ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion by Supervisor Groff, seconded by Supervisor Salvadore, and carried unanimously, the November 8, 2010 Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors meeting was adjourned at 11:13PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynda Seimes
Township Secretary

(*These minutes were transcribed from recordings and are not considered official until approved by the Board of Supervisors at a public meeting).