

**HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL MEETING TO CONDUCT 2010 BOARDS/COMMISSION INTERVIEWS
Monday, December 14, 2009, 6PM**

A special meeting for 2010 Township board/commission vacancy interviews was called to order by Chairperson Barbara A. Salvadore at 6:10PM and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Also present were: John B. McIlhinney, Vice-Chair
 James C. Groff, Supervisor Elect
 Christopher S. Christman, Township Manager

A. 2010 BOARD/COMMISSION CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS:

 a. Planning Commission (1 seat for 4-year term – Incumbent seeking reappointment – Joe Marino) Additional Candidate: Mr. Andrew Mele: Mr. Andrew Mele has resided in the Hilltown Ridge development for approximately 3 years, and has an interest and desire to serve the Township. He is a real estate developer by trade and is knowledgeable in land planning, land use, and plan review, and is also very familiar with the Municipalities Planning Code. It would be Mr. Mele's desire to focus on ways to retain a low cost of living in the Township and making Hilltown a great place for families to live, work and play, while balancing the use of land between commercial and residential.

Supervisor McIlhinney asked Mr. Mele's area of expertise in the real estate field. Mr. Mele replied that he is most familiar with industrial development of what is termed as "big box" distribution facilities, particularly in the Lehigh Valley, Carlisle and Harrisburg markets.

Supervisor Elect Groff asked if Mr. Mele has experience with grant rehabilitation of former industrial buildings as well. Mr. Mele works for the largest real estate services company in the world, which is based in Dallas Texas, however the company does not do much work related to grants or government funding.

Chairperson Salvadore asked what specific skills Mr. Mele possesses that would most benefit the Planning Commission. Mr. Mele believes he would provide a developer's prospective and would help to create a mindset that would encourage and attract the kind of developments best suited to Hilltown Township. Mr. Mele also maintains a working knowledge of plan review, as well as a keen understanding of zoning and land development issues

 b. PROS Committee (3 seats – 1 for 1-year term, 2 for 3-year terms – Incumbent seeking reappointment – Linda Cherry) Additional Candidate: Ms. Anh Bixby – Ms. Anh Bixby is a mother with young children, who has participated in several of the recreational programs offered by Hilltown Township. She would encourage the addition of more recreational activities for toddlers, would support more affordable programs and activities, encourage more sports camps, and resurrect the Fall Festival. Supervisor McIlhinney explained that Deep Run Sports Association, who maintains a good relationship with the Township, provides most if not all of the sports activities to Hilltown residents, thereby saving the use of Township funds for

other recreational opportunities. Ms. Bixby suggested that summertime sports camps be offered at a reduced cost through the Township as well.

Supervisor Groff asked which recreational activities Ms. Bixby participated in. Ms. Bixby participated in Tennis Camp this past summer, and intends to enroll her daughter in that class next year. She had considered joining the Ladies Boot Camp however due to the times of the classes she would have required childcare, which would have incurred an additional cost. Ms. Bixby also felt that the cost was prohibitive for this and other recreational classes, considering the amount of taxes paid by the residents of Hilltown. Supervisor McIlhinney noted that the Township's entire recreation program was established on the premise that it would be self-sustaining and would not be subsidized by tax dollars. Ms. Bixby encouraged the Board to consider less expensive, more affordable recreational programs and classes for all age groups. Chairperson Salvadore felt the comments, suggestions and ideas offered by Ms. Bixby with respect to cost and scheduling of programs would certainly be a benefit if she were to be appointed to the PROS Committee.

c. Vacancy Board (1 seat for 1-year term – Incumbent seeking reappointment – D. Brooke Rush) – Additional Candidate: Mr. John Wietecha (who was unable to be present this evening): Mr. D. Brooke Rush is a life-long resident of Hilltown Township, who previously served on the Planning Commission for many years, and would like to continue in his capacity on the Vacancy Board.

On an unrelated matter, Mr. Rush expressed his displeasure with the remodel of the reception area for the Administrative Department. Chairperson Salvadore explained that the remodel was a result of advice from the insurance carrier and for the security of Township staff.

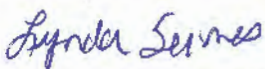
B. SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS: None.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

D. PRESS AND MEDIA TIME: No members of the press were in attendance at this time.

E. ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion by Supervisor McIlhinney, seconded by Supervisor Elect Groff, and carried unanimously the December 14, 2009 Special Meeting to interview candidates for 2010 Board/Committee vacancies was adjourned at 7:26PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynda Seimes
Asst. Secretary 

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

**HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING
Monday, December 14, 2009
7:00PM**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairperson Barbara A. Salvadore and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Also present were: John B. McIlhinney, Vice-Chair
 Richard J. Manfredi, Senior Member
 Christopher S. Christman, Township Manager
 Christopher E. Engelhart, Chief of Police
 Lorraine E. Leslie, Finance Director
 Lynda S. Seimes, Asst. Secretary

A. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The regularly scheduled Supervisor's meeting of December 28, 2009 has been cancelled. The next meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be the Reorganization meeting to be held on Monday, January 4, 2010 at 7PM.

2. Supervisor McIlhinney announced he and Supervisor Manfredi met in Executive Session on October 26, 2009 to discuss personnel, the Public Works Contract, and the Human Resources Manual. Chairperson Salvadore was not present for that meeting.

B. PRESENTATION OF COMMENDATION: In recognition of his last meeting while in office, a Commendation and an engraved plaque expressing appreciation for his six years of service as a Hilltown Township Supervisor was presented to Supervisor Richard J. Manfredi.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

1. Mr. John Engel, representing Chal-Brit EMS was present this evening asking the Board of Supervisors to consider disbursing the \$40,000.00 earmarked in the 2009 Budget to the servicing EMS squads prior to the end of the year. He advised that the three major municipalities serviced by Chal-Brit EMS, including New Britain Township, New Britain Borough, and Chalfont Borough, have all elected to divide their LST revenue – 50% to Public Works/Police, 25% to the servicing fire companies, and 25% to the EMS services, distributed on a proportionate basis of an equitable nature of real estate value or coverage area. Mr. Engel noted that Chal-Brit EMS would certainly welcome a similar type donation from Hilltown Township if available in the 2010 Budget.

D. CONSENT CALENDAR:

- Minutes of the November 23, 2009 Supervisor's meeting.
- Bills List dated December 15, 2009.
- Financial Report for November 2009.

- 2010 Fire Protection Agreements for Signature – Silverdale, Souderton, and Telford Fire Companies.

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

E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Adoption of FY2010 Budget – Motion was made Supervisor McIlhinney, and seconded by Supervisor Manfredi to adopt the FY2010 Budget as presented this evening. Chairperson Salvadore was opposed. There was no public comment.

2. Acceptance of 2010-2013 Public Works Department Agreement – Motion was made by Supervisor McIlhinney, seconded by Supervisor Manfredi, and carried unanimously to accept the 2010-2013 Public Works Department Agreement. There was no public comment.

3. Discussion of Human Resources Policy – Motion was made by Supervisor McIlhinney, and seconded by Supervisor Manfredi to adopt and approve the Human Resources Policy as presented. Prior to a vote, discussion took place.

Supervisor McIlhinney was satisfied with the document the attorneys have produced. Supervisor Manfredi agreed that the document before the Board was well-crafted by legal counsel, and is certainly an improvement over the policy currently in place today. He had previously commented about specific benefits he would prefer to see changed, however he is comfortable with adopting the document before the Board this evening. Chairperson Salvadore agreed that this document is much better than the document in place at this time, but does believe that certain improvements to the document should be considered in the future.

Original motion carried unanimously. There was no public comment.

4. Report on Ambulance Service Area Meeting – At the November 23, 2009 meeting, Mr. Christman was directed to schedule a meeting with the four ambulance squads to discuss EMS services. As of 4PM this afternoon, only Grandview EMS has not responded to his repeated attempts at contact. The other three EMS squads agreed to meet with Mr. Christman tomorrow evening to begin dialogue on EMS coverage.

With respect to answers he has been seeking from Medicare, Supervisor McIlhinney is waiting for a response to the message he left with the Office of the Inspector General in Washington, DC. From the research he has accomplished to date, it appears to Supervisor McIlhinney that the request for the various EMS services to bonor each other's subscription is not expressly

prohibited, nor is it a violation of any Medicare policy. He intends to keep the Board informed of any progress he makes with regard to Medicare.

Supervisor Manfredi is happy to see the EMS issue finally progressing, but was disappointed that action couldn't have been taken during his tenure on the Board of Supervisors.

Public Comment:

1. Mr. John Gillespie, who will be the Deputy Chief of the Silverdale Fire Company in 2010, wondered how the EMS Agreements and designated coverage areas would affect existing QRS units. Chairperson Salvadore commented that the volume of QRS responses between the Silverdale and Hilltown Fire Companies is significant however this issue has not been addressed to date. It was her personal opinion that both QRS squads should be considered and included in the progress of the EMS issue.

There was no further public comment.

5. Human Resources Policy - Supervisor Manfredi noted that the motion to accept the Human Resources Policy should have included the adoption of a Resolution.

Supervisor McIlhinney amended his original motion, which was seconded by Supervisor Manfredi, and carried unanimously to **adopt Resolution #2009-34, to accept and approve the Hilltown Township Human Resources Policy, as presented this evening.** There was no public comment.

6. This past Friday, Mr. Christman received correspondence from Attorney Gundlach concerning the Hilltown Walk (aka: Guttman Tract) sketch plan and request for rezoning. The applicant is requesting an additional sketch plan staff meeting to discuss the project in further detail. Supervisor McIlhinney wished to confirm that the staff meeting would include the Township's Planner, Engineer and Solicitor as is usually the case. Mr. Christman replied that was correct. Supervisor Manfredi asked if it is the applicant's intent to only discuss the design, but not the rezoning request. It appears to Mr. Christman that the applicant wishes to discuss the entire project.

Supervisor McIlhinney would be amenable to authorizing the staff meeting if the topic for discussion is limited to the sketch plan only, and if it is made clear to the applicant that no discussion regarding the rezoning request would occur. Supervisor Manfredi agreed, and noted that the proper escrow should also be posted prior to the scheduling of any staff meeting, as is required of all applicants. Mr. Christman believes the applicant's escrow account is slightly in arrears at this time, but they will be required to replenish the account prior to scheduling the meeting. Chairperson Salvadore was agreeable to the meeting with the conditions as outlined above. She also hopes the applicant will come prepared to discuss what the Planning

Commission previously requested of them, including the issues of design and traffic. Further, Supervisor McIlhinney asked that the applicant be directed to once again review the adopted TND Ordinance in order to understand the true spirit of it; not just attempt to maximize the number of units they can garner.

F. SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:

1. Quite some time ago, Supervisor Manfredi had initiated the process for the Pennridge Area Coordinating Committee (PACC) to adopt a more formal structure and become a more formal organization. Various municipalities and boroughs throughout the Pennridge School District have recently adopted an Intergovernmental Ordinance and Agreement to do just that and to recognize their participation in PACC. Supervisor Manfredi asked that when this issue comes before the new Board in the future, the Supervisors consider it with an open mind, and look favorably upon the request, which he feels is good for not only Hilltown Township, but for its neighboring communities as well.

2. Supervisor Manfredi hopes the completed Hilltown Village Study and the Blooming Glen Village Study, on which the respective committee's expended considerable effort, are accepted and considered for implementation in the future.

3. Supervisor Manfredi commented that these past six years serving as a Hilltown Supervisor has been very enjoyable. He is honored and truly appreciative to have had the opportunity to serve the public by representing their interests, and not his own. Supervisor Manfredi once again thanked his fellow Board members and wished them well in future endeavors.

G. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

H. PRESS AND MEDIA TIME: Members of the press in attendance had no questions or comments at this time.

I. ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion by Supervisor McIlhinney, seconded by Supervisor Manfredi, and carried unanimously, the December 14, 2009 Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors meeting was adjourned at 7:22PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynda Seimes
Assistant Secretary

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