

**HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING
Monday, March 10, 2008
7:00PM**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Richard J. Manfredi at 7:00PM and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Also present were: John B. McIlhinney, Vice-Chairman
Barbara A. Salvadore, Secretary/Treasurer
Christopher E. Engelhart, Chief of Police
Lynda S. Seimes, Admin. Asst. to Township Manager

A. CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The Board of Supervisors met in Executive Session on March 6 and March 7, 2008 to discuss employment matters and to interview Township Manager candidates. The Board also intends to meet in Executive Session at 7:30PM this evening in order to discuss legal, real estate, and employment matters.

2. The 18th Annual Hilltown Township Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, March 15, 2008 at 11:00AM at the Hilltown Civic Park, with a rain date of Saturday, March 22, 2008.

3. A Conditional Use Hearing has been scheduled for Monday, March 24, 2008 at 8:00PM to consider a request from Cricket Communications for an F6 Communications Tower and Cellular Telecommunication Facility Use, consisting of a proposed 4 ft. by 8 ft. equipment platform with mounted equipment cabinet within a proposed 10 ft. by 20 ft. leased area with a 6 ft. chain link fence, and antenna to be attached to the existing water tank owned by North Penn Water Authority. The location of the proposed use is TMP #15-1-58-3 in the Light Industrial Zoning District on Clearview Road.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY: None.

C. CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. Approve Minutes of February 25, 2008 Supervisor's Meeting.
2. Approve Bills List dated March 11, 2008.
3. Accept Financial Report as of February 29, 2008.
4. Accept Silverdale Fire Company Report for Dec. 2007 & Feb. 2008.
5. Accept Perkasio Fire Company Report for February 2008.
6. Accept Public Works Report for February 2008.
7. Accept Police Report for February 2008.
8. Accept Planning Commission Report for February 2008.

Motion was made by Supervisor McIlhinney, seconded by Supervisor Salvadore, and carried unanimously to approve items 1 and 2 on the Consent Calendar, and to accept items 3 through 8 on the Consent Calendar as noted above. There was no public comment.

D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Ridings at Hilltown – Request for Extension for Approved Development – The Township received correspondence dated February 11, 2008 from Mr. Ed Wild, legal counsel for Mr. Mark Funk, regarding a request to extend the five-year period allowed to permit required public improvements for the Ridings at Hilltown Subdivision Plan to be substantially completed on or before March 28, 2013. Mr. Wynn's review and recommendation dated March 4, 2008 was discussed.

Motion was made by Supervisor McIlhinney, seconded by Supervisor Salvadore, and carried unanimously to extend the five-year period to permit required improvements for the Ridings at Hilltown Subdivision to be substantially completed on or before March 28, 2013, as noted in Mr. Wynn's correspondence dated March 4, 2008. There was no public comment.

2. Consider Appointment to the Vacancy Board – At the last meeting, the Board had indicated that interviews for Vacancy Board would be conducted prior to this meeting, however that did not occur. It was Supervisor Salvadore's understanding that the Board hoped to have this position filled by February at the latest. There are two applicants for the Vacancy Board position.

Supervisor McIlhinney feels that public interviews of those two candidates should take place before nominations or an appointment is made. Supervisor Salvadore disagreed, and was ready to move forward with nominations, as she is very familiar with the two candidates. Further, she noted that the Board of Supervisors did not conduct interviews for any of the other appointments that were made at the Reorganization meeting in January. Supervisor McIlhinney was not comfortable with proceeding until public interviews of the two candidates takes place. Discussion took place.

Motion was made by Supervisor Salvadore to nominate Mr. John Bender to serve on the Vacancy Board. There was no second to the motion.

***7:08PM – Chairman Manfredi called for a brief recess.**

***7:10PM – Chairman Manfredi requested that the record reflect that the Board of Supervisors did not enter into Executive Session, and that discussion had continued. The regularly scheduled meeting of March 10, 2008 was reconvened at this time.**

Chairman Manfredi asked the two candidates, Mr. John Bender and Mr. Joe Marino, if they were comfortable in participating in public interviews. Both candidates consented to participating in public interviews.

Chairman Manfredi announced that public interviews for the Vacancy Board position would occur either at the Supervisor's meeting of March 24, 2008, or in the alternative, at an advertised special meeting to take place between now and the March 24th meeting.

E. BOARD MEMBER COMMENT:

1. Supervisor Salvadore suggested that the Board authorize the Township Solicitor to draft a revised Sign Ordinance to address changing technology, and then to provide it to the Township Planner for review. Discussion occurred. Chairman Manfredi and Supervisor McIlhinney were agreeable.

F. PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Mr. Al Crawford of 2622 Hilltown Pike expressed concern with erosion problems he is experiencing caused by water runoff from the neighboring Deep Run Valley Sports Association property. The increased runoff has been escalating for the past several years ever since Deep Run removed a fence between two open fields and cleared them for recreational use, apparently without providing any stormwater management measures. Mr. Crawford noted that the severe erosion caused by the runoff has also affected the property of his neighbor, Mr. Lloyd Bishop. Further, that water runoff is ponding on and sheeting across Hilltown Pike during heavy rainstorms. Mr. Crawford contacted the Zoning Officer, who indicated that the matter would be referred to Mr. Wynn, the Township Engineer, however he has not heard from either Mr. McLaughlin or Mr. Wynn since that time. Discussion took place. Supervisor McIlhinney will contact Mr. Wynn about the situation.

2. Mr. John Gillespie of 310 Moyer Road noted that a portion of an approximately 12 ft. wide creek flows through his property, and he is careful to keep that portion of the creek bed free of debris as much as possible. However, during last weekend's storm, tremendous amounts of debris from upstream flowed down the creek and became clogged just prior to the bridge on Callowhill Road, which turned the creek into a 200 ft. wide swath of water that encroached on private property. Mr. Gillespie wondered if property owners are responsible for removing debris from the streambed in order to prevent these types of clogs during storm events. Discussion took place.

3. Mr. Ed Rumer inquired about the procedure involved with applying for a variance to construct an addition to his home, which apparently would violate side yard setback requirements. Chairman Manfredi explained that Mr. Rumer should meet with

the Zoning Officer to determine whether or not a variance is required, and if so, Mr. McLaughlin would provide him with the necessary application to appear before the Zoning Hearing Board.

4. Mr. Henry Rosenberger of Rt. 113 wondered when discussions would occur with respect to Lansdale Catholic's proposal to construct a high school at the intersection of Rt. 152 and Rickert Road. Chairman Manfredi explained that the Arch Diocese is about to submit their land development plan, which would then go through the normal review process before the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors.

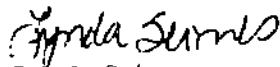
Due to the downturn in the economy, Mr. Rosenberger suggested consideration be given to the Township securing a Bond Issue to purchase development rights. Chairman Manfredi has been a proponent of and has supported the idea of a Bond Issue for the past three years. He did note, however, that the Board of Supervisors is actively pursuing certain properties at this time, which are very important, but which would not require a Bond Issue.

5. Mr. Kirk Hansen of Rt. 113 understands Mr. Gillespie's concern with maintenance of streambeds since approximately 2,000 feet of the Morris Run flows through his property. He too is conscientious about removing debris from the stream, and is thankful that the Township's Burning Ordinance permits him to dispose of the debris through controlled burns from time to time. Mr. Hansen stated that it is very important for farmers and other large landowners to be able to burn debris when necessary.

G. PRESS AND MEDIA TIME: A conference was held to address any questions of those reporters present.

H. ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion by Supervisor Salvadore, seconded by Supervisor McIlhinney, and carried unanimously, the March 10, 2008 Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors Meeting was adjourned at 7:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynda Seimes

Administrative Assistant to the Township Manager

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