

**HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULARLY SCHEDULED WORKSESSION MEETING
Monday, December 9, 2002
7:30PM**

The regularly scheduled worksession meeting of the Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairperson John S. Bender at 7:30PM and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Also present were: Kenneth B. Bennington, Vice-Chairperson
Betty P. Snyder, Supervisor
Gregory J. Lippincott, Township Manager
Thomas A. Buzhy, Director of Public Works
Lt. Christopher Engelhart, Hilltown Police
Lorraine E. Leslie, Township Treasurer

Chairperson Bender announced the Board met in Executive Session following the November 25, 2002 meeting to discuss real estate; and also met in Executive Session prior to this meeting in order to discuss personnel matters, and will meet following this meeting to discuss personnel matters.

A. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY: None.

B. APPROVAL OF BILLS LIST – Chairperson Bender presented the Bills List dated December 10, 2002, with General Fund payments in the amount of \$201,324.52 and State Highway Aid Fund Payments in the amount of \$160,237.88; for a grand total of all payments in the amount of \$361,562.40.

Motion was made by Supervisor Snyder, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to approve the Bills List dated December 10, 2002. There was no public comment.

C. TREASURER’S REPORT OF OCTOBER 31, 2002 – Chairperson Bender presented the Treasurer’s Report with the following balances as of October 31, 2002:

General Fund Checking	\$ 148,232.45
Payroll Checking	\$ 106.83
General Reserve Fund	\$ 118,130.44
Open Space Fund	\$ 468,477.21
Fire Fund Checking	\$ 57,484.23
Debt Service Checking	\$ 179,227.69
State Highway Aid Checking	\$ 201,281.39
Escrow Fund Checking	\$ 826,367.10
Capital Projects Fund	\$1,158,779.82

Supervisor Bennington noted that even though the cover sheets for the Treasurer's Reports dated October 31, 2002 and November 30, 2002 are different, the contents of both Treasurer's Reports are the same.

Motion was made by Supervisor Snyder, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to approve the Treasurer's Report dated October 31, 2002, subject to audit. There was no public comment.

TREASURER'S REPORT OF NOVEMBER 30, 2002 -- Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, and carried unanimously to table the Treasurer's Report of November 30, 2002 until the next meeting. There was no public comment.

D. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT -- Mr. Thomas A. Buzby, Director of Public Works -- Mr. Buzby presented the Public Works Report for the period of November 3 through December 7, 2002; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

The Supervisors commended Mr. Buzby for the fine job he and the Public Works Department did clearing the roads during the last snow storm.

Chairperson Bender noted that when PennDot plows the intersection of Rt. 152 and Hilltown Pike, there is a triangle of snow in the middle of the intersection, which melts during the day and then causes an icing problem in the evening. Mr. Buzby explained that when the Township's Public Works Department clears intersections, they actually push the snow across the road or tuck it into a corner in order to avoid this situation. The Board directed Mr. Lippincott to contact PennDot about this situation.

E. POLICE REPORT -- Lt. Christopher Engelhart -- Lt. Engelhart read the Police Report for the month of November 2002; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

F. BUILDING REPORT -- Mr. Taylor was not present. A copy of the Building Report for the month of November 2002 is on file at the Township office.

G. HILLTOWN FIRE COMPANY REPORT -- Mr. Bill Devlin - Mr. Devlin read the Hilltown Fire Company Report for the month of November, 2002; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

H. SILVERDALE FIRE COMPANY REPORT -- Mr. John Gillespie, Fire Chief -- Mr. Gillespie read the Silverdale Fire Company Report for the month of November, 2002; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

The Silverdale Fire Company recently met with representatives of the Heritage Executive Campus and the Kiddie Academy Day Care and went through a pre-plan walk-through for fire escape routes, etc. The day care will be licensed for a maximum of 143 children.

Supervisor Bennington asked for a status report of the recent gas leak at the Blooming Glen Mennonite Church. Mr. Gillespie advised a troop of scouts were using the church's kitchen, and inadvertently left the gas stove on without the pilot being lit. This happened on a Wednesday, and the church was not used again until that following Friday. The pastor arrived, smelled gas, and immediately contacted the fire department. Discussion took place.

I. PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT – Mr. John Kachline, Chairperson – Mr. Kachline read the Planning Commission Report for their worksession meeting of December 2, 2002; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

Mr. Jeff Marshall of the Heritage Conservancy will be present at the Planning Commission's February 3, 2003 worksession meeting to discuss the issue of possible barn conversions.

J. PARK AND RECREATION BOARD REPORT – No one was present. Mr. Lippincott advised that the Park and Recreation Board is seeking direction from the Board as to the next step for planning of the Forest Road Park. Chairperson Bender had assumed that the Park and Recreation Board would provide a plan for raising funds and/or obtaining grants in order to continue on with the park.

K. OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE REPORT – No one was present.

L. ZONING HEARING BOARD REPORT – Mr. John Snyder, Chairperson – Mr. Snyder read the Zoning Hearing Board Report for the month of November 2002; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

Public Comment:

1. Mrs. Marilyn Teed of Mill Road suggested the Board consider appointing an alternate member to the Zoning Hearing Board in order to expedite hearings, which may help with the scheduling problems noted by Mr. Snyder at the last meeting. The Supervisors will take that suggestion under advisement.

M. HILLTOWN WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY REPORT – Mr. James C. Groff, Authority Manager – Mr. Groff read the Hilltown Authority Report for the month of November, 2002; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

Mr. Groff anticipates that the sewage treatment facility will be completed by the beginning of March, 2003.

N. CONFIRMED APPOINTMENTS: None.

O. MANAGER'S REPORT – Mr. Gregory J. Lippincott, Township Manager --

1. The Supervisors received a copy of the Terms of Office listing, with those individuals whose term expires on December 31, 2002. A response has been received from the following individuals seeking reappointment at the January 6, 2003 Reorganization Meeting:

Feryl Spaninger – 1 Yr. Term – Vacancy Board
D. Brooke Rush – 5 Yr. Term – Planning Commission
David Miller – 1 Yr. Term – Emergency Management Personnel Coordinator
William Devlin – 1 Yr. Term – Emergency Management Coordinator
Keith Nace – 1 Yr. Term – Emergency Management Agricultural Officer
John Snyder – 3 Yr. Term – Zoning Hearing Board
Frank Beck – 5 Yr. Term – Water and Sewer Authority

Regrettably, Nancy Gillespie has decided not to seek another five-year term on the Park and Recreation Board due to health reasons. No response has been received from Keith Seifert for an additional 1-year term as Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator.

Supervisor Bennington was saddened to hear that Mrs. Gillespie couldn't continue as a member of the Park and Recreation Board due to health reasons. He noted that she is one of the nicest people he has ever met, and is a real credit to civilization as a whole.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, and carried unanimously to authorize the advertisement of the vacancy on the Hilltown Township Park and Recreation Board. There was no public comment.

2. The advertised proposed 2003 Budget is available for the Board's consideration and adoption this evening. The General Fund Budget is proposed at \$5,224,290.00, the Fire Fund Budget is proposed at \$127,501.00, the Debt Service Fund Budget is proposed at \$345,000.00, and the State Highway Aid Fund Budget is proposed at \$294,605.94.

The major item is an additional \$300,000.00 for the construction of the new Public Works building, which was budgeted at \$1,000,000.00, but came in at \$1,300,000.00. Health benefit increases also accounts for an additional \$100,000.00 with a 20% increase from last year.

Supervisor Bennington noted the proposed 2003 Budget includes no tax increase for Hilltown Township.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, and carried unanimously to adopt the 2003 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$5,224,290.00. There was no public comment.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, and carried unanimously to adopt the 2003 Fire Fund Budget in the amount of \$127,501.00. There was no public comment.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, and carried unanimously to adopt the 2003 Debt Service Fund Budget in the amount of \$345,000.00. There was no public comment.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, and carried unanimously to adopt the 2003 State Highway Aid Fund Budget in the amount of \$294,605.94. There was no public comment.

3. The Zoning Report for the month of November, 2002 is on file at the Township office.

4. Solicitor Grabowski has provided the written decision of the AT&T Wireless Conditional Use Hearing for the Board's signature following this meeting. This hearing was held before the Board of Supervisors on Monday, November 25, 2002 at 7:00PM, prior to their regularly scheduled meeting.

P. CORRESPONDENCE – Mr. Gregory J. Lippincott, Township Manager –

1. Correspondence was received from State Representative Kathy Watson, thanking the Board for their opposition to amending Senate Bill 596, which would have limited land preservation in the Commonwealth. Representative Watson noted that a number of bills and amendments that would have hampered open space preservation efforts were brought before the House during the last three days of the two-year session. Fortunately, neither Senate Bill 596 or its amendment were taken up by the House, due to lobbying by Representative Watson and several other southeastern legislators. Additionally, neither Senate Bill 1413 nor Senate Bill 406, which would have hampered municipal governments' efforts to establish local ordinances, were brought before the full House for a vote.

Q. MYLARS FOR SIGNATURE:

1. Car Sense Land Development
2. Souder and Souder Subdivision

R. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

S. SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:

1. Discussion took place concerning the proposed Comprehensive Plan. Supervisor Bennington would prefer to hold the Public Hearing concerning the Comprehensive Plan prior to or during a worksession meeting, since there is less business to conduct. He suggested that the Public Hearing be scheduled for the February 10, 2003 worksession meeting. Chairperson Bender and Supervisor Snyder were in agreement.

T. PRESS CONFERENCE: A conference was held to answer questions of those reporters present.

U. ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion by Supervisor Snyder, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously, the December 9, 2002 Supervisor's Worksession Meeting was adjourned at 8:10PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynda Seimes

Township Secretary

(*These minutes were transcribed from tape recordings taken by Mrs. Lorraine Leslie, Township Treasurer).