

**HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULARLY SCHEDULED WORKSESSION MEETING
Monday, November 13, 2000**

The regularly scheduled worksession meeting of the Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairperson Kenneth B. Bennington at 7:50PM and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Also present were: John S. Bender, Vice-Chairperson
E. Diane Parks, Supervisor
Gregory J. Lippincott, Township Manager
Thomas A. Buzby, Director of Public Works
David W. Taylor, Code Enforcement Officer
Kerry L. Trauger, Chief of Police
Lorraine E. Leslie, Township Treasurer

Chairperson Bennington apologized for the late start of this meeting, and announced that the Supervisors met in Executive Session prior to this meeting to discuss personnel matters. Specifically, the Supervisors interviewed candidates for the Township Engineer and Township Solicitor positions for the year 2001.

A. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY: None.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES -- Action on the minutes of the October 9, 2000 Worksession Meeting -- Motion was made by Supervisor Parks, seconded by Supervisor Bender, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2000 Worksession Meeting, as written. There was no public comment.

C. APPROVAL OF CURRENT BILLING -- Chairperson Bennington presented the Bills List dated November 14, 2000, with General Fund payments in the amount of \$54,094.40, Debt Service payments in the amount of \$53,456.49, State Highway Aid Fund payments in the amount of \$2,837.57, and Escrow Fund payments in the amount of \$7,500.00; for a grand total of all payments in the amount of \$117,888.46.

Supervisor Parks questioned the bills for radio repair for storm damage in the total amount of \$607.25. Mrs. Leslie explained that these bills have been turned over to the insurance company for reimbursement.

Motion was made by Supervisor Parks, seconded by Supervisor Bender, and carried unanimously to approve the Bills List dated November 14, 2000. There was no public comment.

D. TREASURER'S REPORT -- Chairperson Bennington presented the Treasurer's Report with the following balances as of October 31, 2000:

General Fund Checking	\$ 99,487.60
Payroll Checking	\$ 1,121.79
General Reserve Fund	\$ 458,603.69
Fire Fund Checking	\$ 61,378.88
Debt Service Checking	\$ 138,269.41
State Highway Aid Checking	\$ 180,290.60
Escrow Fund Checking	\$ 276,609.62
Capital Projects Fund	\$ 139,903.51

Motion was made by Supervisor Parks, seconded by Supervisor Bender, and carried unanimously to approve the Treasurer's Report dated October 31, 2000, subject to audit. There was no public comment.

E. HILLTOWN WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY REPORT – Mr. James C. Groff, Authority Manager – Mr. Groff read the Authority Report for the month of October, 2000; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

The Citizen Liaison Committee met on November 9, 2000 to discuss the current status of the Treatment Facility. Three of the five members were in attendance, and the other two remaining members will be receiving minutes of that meeting. The Committee will be meeting once a month from now on. Supervisor Parks heard comments at the polls last week from Quiet Acres residents who are still concerned about the possible odor of the proposed Sewage Treatment Facility, and asked Mr. Groff to address that issue at his next Citizen Liaison Committee meeting.

With regard to the MTBE contamination in the Rt. 113/Rt. 313 area, Mr. Lippincott provided a copy of DEP's report to Mr. Groff, who forwarded it on to the Authority's Engineer for review and a brief summary.

F. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – Mr. Thomas A. Buzby, Director of Public Works – Mr. Buzby read the Public Works Report for the period of September 24 through November 4, 2000; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

Mr. Buzby received the blueprint for the South Perkasio Road project from Mr. Wynn, and he intends to install one pipe this year, with the second pipe to be installed in 2001.

Supervisor Parks asked the status of the two locations on Hilltown Pike that ice over during the winter months. Mr. Buzby has made three attempts to contact Mr. Tosi of PennDot to meet once again concerning the site near Mr. Miketta's property, however he has been unable to reach Mr. Tosi. Mr. Buzby discovered that if the Township were to purchase an open grate for that site, the cost would be \$115.00 per foot at approximately 25 to 30 ft. Chairperson Bennington noted that it would be setting a precedent if the

Township were to purchase the grate for a State road. Mr. Buzby noted that another alternative, though not as good as the open grate, would be to install a new pipe. It would also help if the property owner would partially re-grade his driveway to direct the water flow down either side rather than down the middle of the driveway. A lengthy discussion took place.

G. POLICE REPORT – Chief Kerry L. Trauger – Chief Trauger read the Police Report for the month of October, 2000; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

The Police Department had previously recommended that PP&L move the pole back at Green Street and Hilltown Pike due to a sight distance problem, which has been accomplished.

Supervisor Parks asked the status of the Township's appeal for use of radar by local police departments. Chief Trauger explained that the Penna. State Police were forwarded a copy of the Township's letter, and they have since responded that they would support the case for local use of radar for full-time police departments. A lengthy discussion took place.

H. BUILDING REPORT – Mr. David W. Taylor, Building Inspector – Mr. Taylor read the Building Report for the month of October, 2000; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

Mr. Taylor advised that a final occupancy approval has been issued for the Grasse Elementary School project. Mr. Taylor is currently reviewing plans for a Papa John's Pizza Shop to occupy the vacant Little Caesar's shop at the Souderton Square Shopping Center. It is anticipated that a meeting will be held next month to review the status of the Statewide Building Code.

I. HILLTOWN FIRE COMPANY REPORT – Mr. John Snyder – Mr. Snyder read the Hilltown Fire Company Report for the month of October, 2000; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

J. SILVERDALE FIRE COMPANY REPORT – Mr. Keith Seifert, Chief – Mr. Seifert read the Silverdale Fire Company Report for the month of October, 2000; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

K. PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT – No one was present. A copy of the Planning Commission Report is on file at the Township office.

L. PARK AND RECREATION BOARD REPORT – Mr. Nick Lupinacci, Chairperson – Mr. Lupinacci read the Park and Recreation Report for the month of October, 2000.

Mr. Lupinacci thanked the Supervisors and those that helped support the Open Space Referendum that was on the ballot last Tuesday.

Mr. Lupinacci explained that Bea Waite, a 20-year member of the Park and Recreation Board, would resign her seat on that Board effective December 31, 2000, when her term expires. This vacancy on the Park and Recreation Board has been advertised, and interviews will take place in January.

Entries have been submitted for the "Name that Park" Contest being sponsored by the Township. The Park and Recreation Board will choose the winner of that contest in December or January.

Discussion took place at the last Park and Recreation Board meeting concerning the Park Use Fees that have been in place since 1994. Mr. Lupinacci stated that every application for park use must be reviewed and coordinated, and there is also a great deal of park maintenance involved. Therefore, after a great deal of discussion, the Park and Recreation Board unanimously agreed to recommend that the original Park Use Fees as established in 1994 should remain in effect. This means that as of January 1, 2001, when the application process begins again, those who wish to participate would be charged a \$30.00 flat fee for each three-hour event. Chairperson Bennington asked if the two practice soccer fields across Rt. 152 from the Township building and the Blooming Glen Playground baseball field would be included in this rate schedule. Mr. Lupinacci feels that any playfield the Township is currently maintaining should conform to this rate schedule. Supervisor Bender believes that some users may object to the condition of the Civic Field Park versus the condition of the Blooming Glen Playground field is much different. In some respects, Mr. Lupinacci agreed, however he noted that a great deal of maintenance is involved with each of these playfields, regardless of their status. Mr. Lupinacci feels that the Township must make a conscious effort to recognize the cost pertaining to maintenance of each recreational field.

Mr. Joey Walsh, the young man who appeared at the last Supervisor's meeting requesting an in-line skate park, made a presentation to the Park and Recreation Board at their last meeting. The Park and Recreation Board advised Mr. Walsh that a skate park was not presently being considered, however they would research possibilities for a safe location where this type of recreation could take place. Mr. Lupinacci invited Mr. Walsh and his family to join him at the next Pennridge Area Coordinating Committee meeting on November 30, 2000 at the Bucks County Community College to discuss this matter further, possibly in a regional aspect or in conjunction with the local YMCA.

M. OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE REPORT – Mr. Chuck Kulesza, Chairperson – Mr. Kulesza read the Open Space Committee Report for the month of October, 2000.

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, Chairperson Bennington thanked the Open Space Committee for their enormous effort to encourage voters to accept the Open Space Referendum. Mr. Kulesza noted that the passage of the referendum question was a community effort that resulted in a big win for Hilltown Township. Mr. Kulesza thanked the Supervisors for their continuous support throughout the entire process.

Mr. Mike Frank was the guest speaker at the October 10, 2000 Open Space Committee meeting, to discuss the financial aspects and benefits of purchasing open space. Mr. Kulesza hopes that the Township continues open communication with the Heritage Conservancy.

On October 26, 2000, several members of the Open Space Committee attended a seminar by Mr. Tom Hilton called "Saving America," who is the author of a book titled "Save Our Lands, Save Our Towns." Mr. Hilton discussed the issue of sprawl from the aspect of what is happening in older towns and cities. At the January 3, 2001 meeting of the Comprehensive Plan Task Force, a video on this subject will be shown. Mr. Kulesza invited all members of Township boards and commissions to attend.

Mr. Kulesza provided a chart showing the five voting districts in Hilltown Township and the breakdown of the votes for and against the Open Space Referendum question, comparing the 2000 election results and the 1996 election results when this question was also on the ballot. The Open Space Referendum was approved by a 69.1% margin this year, while in 1996, the referendum question was defeated by a 49.6% margin.

Mr. Kulesza encouraged all Hilltown residents to attend the Comprehensive Plan Task Force informational meeting on Wednesday, December 6, 2000 at 7:00PM to state their opinions as to how they want this Township to look in the next ten years and beyond.

N. CONFIRMED APPOINTMENTS:

1. Mr. John Snyder – Zoning Hearing Board Policy Change Request – Mr. John Snyder, chairperson of the Zoning Hearing Board, presented the following prepared statement of behalf of the Zoning Hearing Board:

"Frequently individuals or businesses come to the Township to discuss the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance prior to obtaining a Zoning Permit. Greg often points out items that will require a Zoning Variance or Special Exception, but does not have the opportunity to completely review the applicant's plan. The Zoning Hearing Board has no problem with this policy of the informal review. However many times these individuals

or businesses file for and are granted a hearing before the Zoning Hearing Board without a complete review by the Zoning Officer or the Planning Commission. Without a complete review, applications have to be amended at the time of the hearing of the applicants have to apply for a second Zoning Hearing based on the complete review of the Zoning Officer or the Planning Commission.

At the November 2, 2000 meeting of the Zoning Hearing Board, the Board voted to recommend that the Township adopt the following policy: 'The Township will not issue a Zoning Hearing application until a Zoning Permit has been denied for the plan has been reviewed by the Planning Commission.'

In either case, the applicant will have a better idea of all the zoning requirements and be able to come before the Zoning Hearing Board with a complete and properly advertised application. By adopting this policy, applicants are not being required to spend any additional money in that the Zoning Permit(s) and/or the Planning Commission review would still have been required in order to complete their project."

It appears to Supervisor Parks that from a sequencing standpoint, this suggestion by the Zoning Hearing Board is a great idea. Mr. Snyder feels that perhaps this suggestion should be put to the Township Solicitor to determine whether or not the Township can legally permit this sequence of activities. The Supervisors agreed. Mr. Lippincott will forward Mr. Snyder's suggestion to the Township Solicitor for a legal opinion.

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

1. Mr. Lippincott requested that Supervisor Parks be appointed to the Agricultural Area Advisory Committee, replacing former Supervisor member Bill Bennett and that Mr. Lippincott be appointed to that committee as well, to replace Bruce Horrocks as the administrative member.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bender, seconded by Chairperson Bennington and carried unanimously to appoint Supervisor Diane Parks and Township Manager Greg Lippincott to the Agricultural Area Advisory Committee, replacing former Supervisor Bill Bennett and former Manager Bruce Horrocks, respectively. There was no public comment.

2. Included in the Supervisor's packets is information from the Revenue Enhancement Seminar Mr. Lippincott attended with Mr. Cornell, Manager of East Rockhill Township. The "Buy-A-Brick" idea was the most interesting idea suggested to raise money for funding enhancement to Hilltown's park system. Discussion took place. The Supervisors felt this was an excellent idea and directed Mr. Lippincott to investigate it further.

3. The Public Forum Comprehensive Plan Task Force meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 6, 2000 at 7:00PM. Mr. Lippincott encouraged all residents to attend and take part in planning the future of Hilltown Township.

4. As stated by Mr. Lupinacci, Ms. Bea Waite will not be seeking reappointment to the Park and Recreation Board when her term expires on December 31, 2000. Therefore, an advertisement to fill that vacancy will be in the Perkasio News Herald on Wednesday, November 15, 2000.

5. The Pennridge Area Coordinating Committee intends to submit a Single Application for DCED funds to prepare a water resources plan and modify municipal land use planning tools, such as Comprehensive Plans, Zoning Ordinance, Subdivision/Land Development regulations, to tie land use planning to sustainability of water resources. The DCED funds, if awarded, would be in addition to or in place of DEP Growing Greener Funds. The DCED application requires a municipal resolution for each application, and PACC thought it best to obtain a Resolution from each governing body of its membership. Also, since the water resources study is phased, PACC is preparing two separate applications – one for Phases I and II for the calendar year 2001, and one for Phase III for the calendar year 2002. Therefore, there are two Resolutions for the Board's consideration this evening.

Motion was made by Supervisor Parks, seconded by Supervisor Bender, and carried unanimously to **adopt Resolution #2000-37 in support of the application for DCED funds through the Pennridge Area Coordinating Committee for the Pennridge Water Resources Study and Plan – Phase I and II for the period of January through December 2001; and to adopt Resolution #2000-38 in support of the application for DCED funds through the Pennridge Area Coordinating Committee for the Pennridge Water Resources Plan Implementation (Phase III) for the period of January through December, 2002.** There was no public comment.

6. Mr. Guttenplan of the Waetzman Planning Group has provided a Comprehensive Plan Task Force update report; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

7. Mr. Lippincott presented the Zoning Report for the month of October, 2000; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

8. Mr. Lippincott is seeking Board direction concerning offering Township open space property for farming operations, either through a bid process or by mandating specific fees on the year 2001 Fee Schedule. If the Board prefers the bid process, Mr. Lippincott requested authorization to advertise those bids. Supervisor Parks suggested

that Mr. Lippincott research what other neighboring municipalities are doing, and Supervisors Bender and Bennington agreed.

9. A sample Ordinance has been received concerning the Open Space Referendum and the imposition of a one quarter of one percent Earned Income Tax. Mr. Lippincott is seeking Board authorization to advertise for adoption.

Motion was made by Supervisor Parks, seconded by Supervisor Bender, and carried unanimously to authorize the advertisement of an Ordinance concerning the Open Space Referendum. There was no public comment.

Supervisor Bender asked the status of the proposed Agricultural Zoning review. Mr. Lippincott explained that the Planning Commission expressed some concerns with Mr. Wynn's review and recommendations. The Township is still waiting for the Planning Commission's proposed comments and revisions.

10. There are six Escrow Releases for the Board's consideration this evening, one of which, County Line Plaza for Blockbuster Video, is cash held by the Township.

County Line Plaza (Blockbuster Video)	Voucher #16	\$	117.42
Grasse Elementary School	Voucher #05	\$	327.48
Hilltown Hunt	Voucher #55	\$	100,959.37
Keystone Estates	Voucher #26	\$	781.58
Longleaf Estates Phase I	Voucher #47	\$	2,421.93
Longleaf Estates Phase II	Voucher #05	\$	3,785.84

Motion was made by Supervisor Parks, seconded by Supervisor Bender, and carried unanimously to release the six escrows as noted above. There was no public comment.

P. CORRESPONDENCE – Mr. Greg Lippincott, Township Manager –

1. Correspondence has been received from the Pennridge Wastewater Treatment Authority concerning the Pennridge Act 537 Plan that was submitted to Hilltown Township on August 11, 2000.

Chairperson Bennington was unhappy with the tone of this letter from P.W.T.A., and Supervisor Bender agreed that he was confused by the letter as well, and felt that it was inconsistent. Mr. Lippincott noted this item would be a topic of discussion at tomorrow's staff meeting. Representatives of P.W.T.A. will be invited to attend the January Planning Commission meeting to present their views.

2. Correspondence has been received from Mr. and Mrs. Mendsen regarding their request for a speed limit reduction on Diamond Street. They have contacted Sellersville Borough and West Rockhill Township, to no avail. The Mendsen's quote Chief Dilling of Pennridge Regional Police, who, in a recent News Herald article, made the following statement: "Due to the increased construction and traffic, perhaps a more suitable change would be the reduction of the 45 m.p.h. speed limit in Hilltown Township (and West Rockhill Township) to 35 m.p.h. from the traffic light at Rt. 113, all the way to Sellersville Borough." Discussion took place.

Chairperson Bennington recommended that correspondence be forwarded to PennDot requesting that they conduct a speed study on Diamond Street from the Sellersville Borough border to Rt. 113, in conjunction with West Rockhill Twp. and Sellersville Borough, if they agree.

Q. MYLARS FOR SIGNATURE:

1. A & T Subaru
2. Geyer Lot Line Adjustment
3. Seik/PECO Lot Line Adjustment

R. PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Mr. Harry Mason of Morgan Lane asked if PennDot could be persuaded to erect directional signs along the roadway where Rt. 152 and Hilltown Pike split, notifying that Rt. 152 continues in one direction. Mr. Lippincott will look into this.

2. Mr. Nick Lupinacci noted that the Hilltown Civic Association will be holding a holiday food basket drive. As in the past, boxes will be available in the lobby of the Township building to accept non-perishable food contributions beginning next week and running through December 16th.

3. Mr. Chuck Kulesza of Diamond Street agreed that there is a great deal of speeding on Diamond Street, and encouraged the Supervisors to request that a PennDot speed study be conducted on the entire length of Diamond Street in Hilltown Township, not just to Rt. 113. Mr. Kulesza also mentioned the possibility of a four-way stop sign at Diamond Street and Rickert Road. The response concerning the four-way stop sign was received today, and it will be discussed in staff meeting tomorrow with Solicitor Grabowski because the Township could possibly be held liable if there was an accident at that intersection once the Township is issued a permit for a four-way stop sign at that intersection.

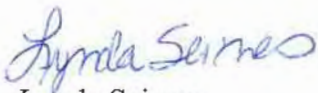
S. SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:

1. Supervisor Parks added her congratulations to everyone in the Township that supported the Open Space Referendum. Supervisor Bender agreed, and is very happy with the outcome.

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

U. ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion by Supervisor Parks, seconded by Supervisor Bender, and carried unanimously, the September 13, 2000 Worksession Meeting was adjourned at 9:13PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynda Seimes
Township Secretary

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