

**HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
REGULARLY SCHEDULED WORKSESSION MEETING  
Monday, August 14, 2000  
7:30PM**

The worksession meeting of the Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairperson Kenneth B. Bennington at 7:29PM, and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

(\*Please be advised that the tape recorder malfunctioned and did not record sides 1 and 2 of the first tape. Therefore, a majority of the first portion of these minutes were transcribed from handwritten notes taken by Mrs. Lorraine Leslie, Township Treasurer; as well as the submittal of prepared statements read by representatives of Our Lady of Sacred Heart Church. The remainder of the minutes, from the Planning Commission Report on, were transcribed from tape recordings).

Chairperson Bennington announced the Board met in Executive Session prior to this meeting in order to discuss legal and real estate matters; and also met in Executive Session following the July 24, 2000 meeting in order to discuss personnel and legal matters.

Due to the large crowd present, Chairperson Bennington advised that the agenda for this meeting would be revised to place the "Confirmed Appointments" section first. Further, Chairperson Bennington made it clear that the Supervisors would not comment on the possible Quarry expansion since it would be in the Township's best interest not to comment until a formal application from H & K Quarry has been received. If the Supervisors were to comment on a possible quarry expansion, it would prejudice the Township's case when and if the actual application is received.

A. CONFIRMED APPOINTMENTS:

1. Our Lady of Sacred Heart Church Representatives – Concerns regarding possible Quarry expansion -- Representatives of Our Lady of Sacred Heart were present to state their concerns and opinions concerning the possible expansion of H & K Quarry.

- a. Father John McBride read the following prepared statement:

"The Chapel and Rectory of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart are contiguous to the Murphy Farm. Our school and newly renovated church are located directly across Broad Street from it. The farm serves in a limited way as a buffer between our property and the quarry, which abuts the farm on the side opposite our property. I use the term "limited" because even with this buffer, on a daily basis we are exposed to the effects of the blasting, truck traffic, and attendant noise on Broad Street, as well as the general dust and pollution that go with such an operation. Last year we were informed by representatives of Haines and Kibblehouse that they planned to request a change in zoning that would enable them to expand their quarrying operations into the Murphy Farm. More recently, we have reason to believe that this request is imminent. This causes great concern because if the quarrying is expanded and the buffer is removed, we will undoubtedly experience not only an increase in the effects previously mentioned as the operation grows closer, but the probability of increased activity as the operation grows in size. Representatives of H & K have indicated that they have tentative plans to place an entrance to the newly proposed expansion on Broad Street near Rt. 152. This will certainly intensify the already heavy truck volume as this entrance will be moved into our midst on Broad Street. We are concerned for the increased dangers to which this will expose our school students. On a more personal note, as a 14-year resident of Hilltown Township, I believe that the Rural Residential zoning truly represents the character of our Township and is far more desirable than that of a quarry. We presently have two such zoning areas in our Township. The proposed expansion will detract from the beauty that we enjoy. Please keep it the way it is for all of these reasons."

- b. Mr. Joe Brady, a neighbor of the quarry, read the following prepared statement:

"As a matter of introduction, my name is Joe Brady. I live at 135 Broad Street with my wife Vickie and our three sons (ages 19-23). We have lived there for the past 16 years. We have been members of Our Lady of Sacred Heart Church for 16 years. We are one of a handful of Hilltown homeowners that really know what it means to have the quarry mining practically in our backyards. Our property adjoins the quarry and presently, they are mining about 100-200 yards from our property line at a depth of 100-150 feet, so we know even more so than our neighbors a block away, what serious problems and intrusions that the Church and School will face if a quarry expansion is granted, since the Church grounds would adjoin the quarry.

Adjoining the quarry means experiencing vibrations that violently shake your walls, floors and ground. Your plumbing clangs and shakes for a few seconds, as through your hot water heater has exploded, pictures on walls are shook out of position, small cracks occur in your house, ground sinks on your property, and the quarry responds that they are

under the required limit for blast vibration and that your 40-year old home and property is still experiencing settlement stresses.

Adjoining the quarry means a regular bombardment of dust clouds from blasts that cover your house, car and exposed property completely. Again, the quarry responds that blasts are within limits and the wind direction and speed cannot be controlled.

Piles of low grade soil and rocks reaching approximately 50 ft. high will be dumped along the property line in order to expose fully the potential hole, replacing Our Lady of Sacred Heart Church's beautiful view with an eyesore. There will be holes in the 5 ft. chain link fence allowing youngsters a short, unimpeded path from Church property to the edge of a 150 ft. cliff. The Church will experience firsthand, the high pitch noise pollution caused by the back-up sirens of multiple heavy equipment loaders, many times right at their property edge, starting at 6:00AM. Can you picture trying to run a school in this environment? How about attending a daily morning service? Or maybe you would like to get married under these conditions?

With expansion comes a larger volume of quarry truck traffic safety issues such as speeding, not stopping when entering Broad Street from the quarry, speeding in school zones, driving out of their lane, stones in the road, stones falling from trucks. These problems, by the quarry's own admission, will not be addressed since they cannot control what the independent drivers do on our roads, in front of our homes, school, and churches. They can only control H & K trucks. Just to give another vantage point to the seriousness of these problems, if it was an individual that was throwing dust, continually disturbing the peace with unbearable sirens, placing eyesores within plain view, causing safety and dangerous traffic problems for any church and/or school, we as a community would be appalled and demand charges be brought and the activity ceased immediately. But lets face reality, the end result for the Church and School is the same, whether the root cause is a criminal act or an expanding quarrying operation intent on maximizing its profitability.

The Our Lady of Sacred Heart Church was established about 20-30 years before the quarry started operation. Surely the original church members who donated land, money, labor and food envisioned a peaceful, beautiful environment in which to worship. They had no intention of establishing their Church in the middle of a potentially monumental quarrying district and could never fathom that anyone would allow their dream, hope, labor, good will and Church to be cast aside in favor of big business.

I believe it is our moral, civic, and religious calling to join together in a union of fellowship and community to protect our local churches and schools in their time of need from the violations, infringement, and domination of big business. If we don't support this Church and School at this time, what church and school will we protect, and when?"

c. Mr. David Boice of 2033 Mill Road read the following prepared statement:

"I would like to thank the Supervisors for this opportunity to express my opinion concerning the expansion of the H & K Quarry. My name is David Boice. I am a resident of Hilltown Township residing at 2033 Mill Road, one mile northwest of the H & K Quarry. My house faces the stop sign at Rt. 152 and Hilltown Pike, so I am very familiar with the quarry truck traffic; the noise of compression and air brakes as they stop these massive vehicles. I have three concerns I would like to share with you:

- Quarry Blast: It does not take a structural engineer to determine the damage that is being done. Each blast is characterized by a violent shaking of the entire house. Dishes rattling in the cupboard, items falling from and cracks in the walls. The proposed expansion will bring the quarry closer to my home. If the quarry is allowed to expand, will the frequency and severity of these blasts increase?
- Truck Traffic: There is a tremendous amount of truck traffic in Hilltown; these trucks are very heavy, contributing to the deterioration of our roads. The drivers are courteous, yet I would like to see them slow down. As I have mentioned earlier, I am familiar with the amount of noise and energy it takes to stop one of these vehicles. If the quarry is allowed to expand, will there be considerably more truck traffic on our roads?
- Water levels: A tremendous amount of water is being pumped from the quarry. This wet summer is an exception. Keep in mind the drought of last summer, in which many residents were forced to dig new wells. I would like to know if the quarry is allowed to expand, what effect it will have on our ground water supply in Hilltown.

One could liken this controversy to residents that build around an airport and then complain about the noise. I'm not here to shut down the quarry. I can live with the current status quo; I may not like it, but I can live with it. My objective is to prevent the situation from becoming worse. As Supervisors, you have a tough decision to make. You are well aware that the residents of Hilltown are here to get away from the noise and traffic. We cannot stop development, but we can control it. The quarry must prove to you that their proposal to expand will not be detrimental to the citizens of Hilltown."

d. Mr. Karl Hieber of 111 Broad Street, a neighboring property owner, echoed the sentiments expressed by the previous speakers.

e. Sister Mary of the Sacred Heart, IHM, Director of Religious Education of Our Lady of Sacred Heart Parish School, read the following prepared statement:

"I come here today to express my concerns about the quarry expansion and ask that you take into consideration the following – 1) Safety of the school children: We have already limited the play area of the children because of the trucks that continually pass by our school grounds. To expand the quarry will mean more noise and more trucks; thus, we will need more personnel for the supervision and safety of our children; 2) Vibrations from the blasts: These can be felt in the school, church, and rectory. The vibrations and noise from the blasts are disruptive during school hours and whenever we have the children in church for prayer or Mass. This is compounded by the fact that we are never given advance notice as to when the blasts will take place. If the quarry is expanded, the disturbances during the school time would be worse and the noise of the trucks would be more frequent. These vibrations have also caused damage to the school building. They have caused windows to crack and lights to burn out because of the blasting. Do we know how much damage is being done to the foundation of our School and Church buildings? I have experienced earthquakes in South America during the 12 years that I worked in our schools there. The buildings in South America are built in such a way to resist the vibrations of the natural disaster of earthquakes. Our buildings here are not built to resist the vibrations of the natural disaster of earthquakes. Our buildings here are not built to resist the vibrations of the explosives used at the quarry. If they expand, these blasts will be stronger since they will occur closer to our buildings. Can our buildings withstand this stress? I don't think they can. We have seen the damage already caused. This will only get worse; 3) Pollution: This occurs after each blast and yes, we do get much dust on our property. What about the health of all who live, work, and play so close to the quarry? The noise of the trucks as they pass by the school is loud. When they stop in front of the rectory, the brakes are so loud you cannot hear during a telephone conversation, nor when people come to register and to speak with those in the rectory. Finally, I would like to close by reminding everyone that all we have is a gift from God. The air we breathe, and the life we have been given. Let us not lose sight of the responsibility we have to use our natural resources properly. Let us not use them to pollute the air we breathe, to endanger the safety of our children, to cause our time of study and prayer to be disturbed. I ask you to be concerned with us and all those who will be affected by the expansion. Don't destroy our neighborhood. Let us live in peace. Give us our natural right to a good, clean, safe, and secure environment. Give this neighborhood a chance, especially the church, school, rectory, and private homes. We pray that you will hear us. Thank you."

f. Mrs. Lynn Heiber of 111 Broad Street agreed with the statements made by the other individuals and stated that she is opposed to possible quarry expansion due to its effects on the health, safety, and welfare of all Township residents.

g. Mr. James Coyne of 420 Schoolhouse Road who is a member of the Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church Adhoc Committee, read the following prepared statement:

"The conditions described in sad detail by the preceding speakers this evening graphically illustrate all of the conditions that are endemic to quarrying operations. Their experiences and, indeed the 30 year history of the present quarry, prove that however well run and/or well intentioned the quarry operators try to be, the quality of life in the surrounding area has been and will certainly continue to be, seriously diminished. The facts repeatedly demonstrate that a quarry, any quarry, is not generally regarded as a "good neighbor."

This begs the question..."Why is the current quarry allowed to continue operations?" Why, in the interest of the public well-being, can't we shut them down?" The simple answer is that the operation, like it or not, is protected by our current Zoning Ordinance. The Zoning Ordinance, which determines what goes in specific areas of our Township, has been prepared by our Planning Commission as provided by Act 247 of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code. The same Zoning Ordinance which protects the quarry also dictates that the Murphy Farm be zoned Rural Residential property that does not permit quarrying. So, this "buffer zone" described by Father McBride is also protected under Act 247. It seems to me that if H & K requests a zoning change, they are saying that the Zoning Ordinance is acceptable only to the extent that it protects their corporate goals, and should completely disregard the protection of all of the others. Is this the act of a responsible neighbor? Do you, our Board of Supervisors, think it is justifiable to place corporate greed before the public interest?

Part of the intent, purpose, and scope of Act 247 is to protect and promote safety, health and morals, to provide for the general welfare, and to permit municipalities to minimize such problems as may presently exist or which may be foreseen. It appears that this Act was written in direct response to Sister Mary's pleas for the protection from the quarry.

In conclusion, I would point out that given the choice, nobody would intentionally erect a church, school, or home next to a quarry. Therefore, there can be absolutely no justification to change the zoning to place a quarry next to any of these. If zoning in this Township is to have any credibility; the intent, purpose and scope of Act 247 must be maintained. Thank you."

Chairperson Bennington called for a 5 minute recess at 7:59PM. The meeting was reconvened at 8:07PM.

2. Mr. Carl Jensen – Maregan Drive Inquiry – Mr. Jensen was present, representing his neighbors on Maregan Drive, which is currently a private street, to seek Board direction as to how to proceed to bring Maregan Drive up to Township standards

for dedication. Mr. Jensen received copies of the general design standards for public streets. These design standards were reviewed with the Supervisors.

3. Mr. Dave Johnson, Bucks County Planning Commission – GIS Dcmonstration – Mr. Johnson made a slide presentation of the GIS System and explained the advantages involved. Mr. Johnson advised that the County's formal GIS program will not be available for approximately one year. A lengthy discussion took place. Supervisor Parks was very enthusiastic and expressed the Township's interest in participating in this program.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY: None.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Action on the minutes of the July 24, 2000 Supervisor's Meeting – Motion was made by Supervisor Parks, seconded by Supervisor Bender, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the July 24, 2000 Supervisor's Meeting, as written. There was no public comment.

D. APPROVAL OF CURRENT BILLING: Chairperson Bennington presented the Bills List dated August 15, 2000, with General Fund payments in the amount of \$31,668.49, Fire Fund payments in the amount of \$9.11, Debt Service Fund payments in the amount of \$53,474.81, and State Highway Aid Fund payments in the amount of \$13,682.98; for a grand total of all funds in the amount of \$98,835.39.

Motion was made by Supervisor Parks, seconded by Supervisor Bender, and carried unanimously to approve the Bills List dated August 15, 2000. There was no public comment.

E. TREASURER'S REPORT – Chairperson Bennington presented the Treasurer's Report with the following balances as of July 31, 2000:

General Fund Checking	\$180,898.70
Payroll Fund Checking	\$ 1,119.25
General Reserve Fund Checking	\$552,926.23
Fire Fund Checking	\$ 57,973.22
Debt Service Checking	\$184,731.98
State Highway Aid Checking	\$208,359.46
Escrow Fund Checking	\$258,685.28
Capital Projects Fund	\$137,695.81

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

F. WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY REPORT – Mr. Jim Groff, Authority Manager – Mr. Groff read the Authority Report for the month of July, 2000; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

G. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – Mr. Thomas A. Buzby, Director of Public Works – Mr. Buzby read the Public Works Report for the period of July 2 through July 29, 2000; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

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

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

J. HILLTOWN FIRE COMPANY REPORT – No one was present at this time.

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

L. PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT – Mr. John Kachline, Chairperson – Mr. Kachline read the Planning Commission Report for the month of July, 2000; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

The Planning Commission requested access to the plan room during their worksession meetings. At present, Mr. Kachline contacts Mrs. Seimes the day of the meeting, who places the requested plans on the conference room table prior to the Planning Commission worksession meeting. However, many times review of a particular plan may spark discussion concerning a different plan. Chairperson Bennington explained that the reason the plans were placed in a locked room was because the Township experienced a period where subdivision plans were disappearing, and noted that no plans have been missing since this system was implemented. Discussion took place. Chairperson Bennington suggested that a key be given to the chairperson of the Planning Commission, with the stipulation that if and when a subdivision plan is missing, the key will be returned. Supervisor Bender agreed, however he stated that he was concerned because the Township staff experienced some very embarrassing situations during an 18 month period where some very high visibility and very critical development plans were missing, and he did not want to go through that again. The Supervisors agreed to provide a key to the plan room to Mr. Kachline for use by the Planning Commission at their worksession meetings.

The Planning Commission asked the status of the Ag. District Zoning, the Bed and Breakfast Zoning, and the Act 537 Plan. Supervisor Bender commented that all three of these issues have been discussed by the Supervisors at the past few meetings. The Ag. District Zoning was forwarded to the Township Engineer and Township Solicitor for review, and the Planning Commission was given a copy of the East Rockhill Township Ag District Ordinance for review. The Bed and Breakfast Zoning District issue was discussed in detail at the June 12<sup>th</sup> Supervisor's meeting with Mr. Fox, a member of the Planning Commission. The Supervisors made a motion at that meeting to revisit and redraft an Ordinance specifically focusing on bed and breakfast establishments, as time permits. With regard to the Act 537 Plan, Supervisor Bender noted that there has been no news from DEP.

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Supervisor Parks noted that the Supervisors have not yet received the required annual Planning Commission Report for 1999.

Mr. Kachline advised that there have been occasions where the Planning Commission requires information or advice from the Township Engineer, Solicitor, Planner or Traffic Engineer; however he realizes that those individuals charge the Township for their time when that happens. Chairperson Bennington recalls that in the past, any requests for advice or information from the Township professionals should be made through the Township Manager.

Supervisor Parks suggested that the new Planning Commission members attend planning courses in the near future. Mr. Lippincott will look into scheduling courses for new Commission members.

M. PARK AND RECREATION REPORT - No one was present at this time.

N. OPEN SPACE REPORT - Mr. Chuck Kulesza, Chairperson - Mr. Kulesza read the Open Space Committee Report for the month of July, 2000. On Saturday, September 9, 2000 at 7:30AM, the Committee will be walking the proposed trails and reviewing how the new parcels of open space will fit into the trail system. The Committee also wants to inspect some parcels of land in the Telford area. The Open Space Committee has been working in conjunction with the Comprehensive Plan Task Force concerning the survey results, of which there has been a tremendous response. Mr. Kulesza commended Mr. Lippincott and his staff for the excellent job they have been doing compiling survey results.

On October 10, 2000, the regularly scheduled Open Space Committee meeting will also be used as a public forum to present information concerning the Township's Open Space Plan and the November referendum question. The Committee will be providing an overview presentation of the Open Space Plan, as well as discussion concerning the

environmental impact, quality of life, and financial impact. A question and answer period will be held at the end of the meeting. Historically, Mr. Kulesza noted, Bucks County residents have not been reluctant to vote for bonds and/or earned income tax referendums to preserve open space. In fact, bond referendums have been approved in Bedminster, Buckingham, Doylestown, Lower Makefield, Middletown, New Britain, Newtown, Northampton, Plumstead, Solebury, Upper Makefield, Warrington, Warwick, and Wrightstown Townships, to name a few. Earned Income Tax and Real Estate Tax increases have been approved in East Rockhill, New Britain, West Rockhill, and Milford Townships. Mr. Kulesza explained that in Pennsylvania, many of the costs of development are borne by the community, rather than the developer. In a growing community like Hilltown, there is a significant shortfall between the taxes generated by the residential development and the cost of providing public education to the new residents. The community has the choice to either raise taxes to make up for the shortfall of the ever increasing number of school students; raising taxes to invest in the preservation of land, thereby avoiding some of the future shortfalls in public school costs; or attempting to balance the two by spending some funds on schools and some funds on land. The Open Space Committee calculated the impact on a residential subdivision of a 100-acre farm and discovered that in Hilltown Township, approximately 85 dwellings could be constructed, which could in turn produce 71 public school students. The taxes generated from those 85 dwellings would be \$280,000.00 per year. The additional school costs for those 71 public school students is \$604,000.00 per year. Therefore, the shortfall each year on that 100-acre farm is \$323,000.00 per year. Mr. Kulesza advised that it would take approximately 3.72 years, on a fee simple purchase of land, to break even. If only conservation easements were purchased, it would take approximately 2.5 years to break even. The school costs, however, would continue forever. Therefore, it is clear to the Open Space Committee that there are very sound economic reasons for purchasing open space.

With regard to the earlier presentation concerning the GIS system, Mr. Kulesza feels it would be a very useful tool for the Township staff and certainly for the Open Space Committee and the Planning Commission. Mr. Kulesza noted that Mr. Lippincott and the Township staff used the "brute force" method to generate the same data that Mr. Johnson was able to access with a simple point and click.

Chairperson Bennington advised that at a previous Water and Sewer Authority meeting with Quiet Acres residents, Solicitor Grabowski had explained that the last Open Space Referendum question where funds would have come from Real Estate taxes was rejected, and mentioned that there would be another referendum question on the ballot with funds coming from Earned Income taxes. Solicitor Grabowski was booed by those residents, mostly senior citizens, who were instrumental in defeating the last referendum question. Chairperson Bennington stated those same residents, unless the Open Space Committee and the Township gets the message out, will vote against the Open Space Referendum

question this time. Chairperson Bennington felt it was very important that all the necessary information be provided to the Fairhill I voting district residents concerning the newly proposed referendum question. Supervisor Parks agreed and suggested that the Open Space Committee possibly schedule a meeting with Quiet Acres residents to get the word out. When the October 10<sup>th</sup> Open Space educational meeting is held, Supervisor Parks suggested that residents of other municipalities who previously passed an Open Space Referendum, speak to the advantages and benefits such a program has had on their community. Mr. Kulesza agreed.

O. MANAGER'S REPORT -- Mr. Greg Lippincott, Township Manager --

1. Mr. Dave Hersh, a Hilltown resident and HVAC specialist, will be providing a free consultation report and recommendation for addressing the air conditioning/heating system in this building for possible budget consideration in the year 2001.

2. Mr. Lippincott presented the Work Status Report provided by Mr. Guttenplan of the Waetzman Planning Group concerning the most recent Comprehensive Plan Task Force meeting of August 2, 2000. To date, over 1,900 questionnaires have been returned to the Township. The results of these surveys are presently being entered into the database and will be available for review by the Comprehensive Plan Task Force at their meeting of September 6, 2000. The Supervisors were very pleased with the response rate of the questionnaire.

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

4. The Township staff is working on the land use map, which will be complete for the September 6<sup>th</sup> Comprehensive Plan Task Force meeting.

5. The Bucks County Household Hazardous Waste Collection will be held this Saturday, August 19, 2000 from 9:00AM to 3:00PM at the Upper Bucks Tech School on Ridge Road. Hilltown Township residents are welcome to take their household hazardous waste products to the site for disposal. Acceptable items include pesticides, oil based paint, paint thinner, pool chemicals, weed killer, ammonia-based cleaners, car/truck/marine/motorcycle batteries, and non-alkaline household batteries. Latex paints, appliances, asbestos, gas cylinders greater than 20 lbs., alkaline batteries, and tires will not be accepted.

Other area household hazardous waste collections will be held on Saturday, September 23, 2000 at the Quakertown Community Pool on Mill Street, and at the Bristol Township Building on Bath Road in Bristol on Saturday, October 21, 2000.

6. There are four escrow releases for the Board's consideration this evening, two of which are cash held by the Township.

Ahold (Giant Foods)	Voucher #11	\$ 476.35
Kunkin Truck Terminal	Voucher #02	\$ 152.77
Longleaf Estates Phase I	Voucher #44	\$ 725.15
Longleaf Estates Phase II	Voucher #01	\$ 2,585.23

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

Q. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Correspondence was received from Jeffrey Marshall of the Heritage Conservancy regarding consideration of a historic designation of Blooming Glen. Such designation would offer potential funding benefits, and would possibly be eligible for funding under the historic preservation category of Community Development Block Grant Funding. Mr. Lippincott requested authorization to invite Mr. Marshall to the August 28, 2000 meeting for a presentation. The Supervisors agreed to this request.

Supervisor Bender had also spoken with Mr. Marshall concerning preservation of the barn on the Papiernik Tract, and suggested that the Heritage Conservancy may be interested.

2. At the last meeting, Mr. Lippincott was directed to contact Mr. Adolph Jager to be present at this meeting in order for the Board to render a decision to his request concerning use of the Township open space. Mr. Jager is on vacation this week and requested that the Board table the matter for another 30 days. Mr. Lippincott will invite Mr. Jager to attend the September 11<sup>th</sup> worksession for a decision concerning his request.

3. Correspondence has been received from the Metro Development Company, requesting authorization for Township Engineer interaction to explore their concept for expansion of the existing Hilltown Plaza Shopping Center with the construction of a Home Depot. This would help to ensure compliance with Township Ordinances during the design process leading up to the completion of a preliminary land development plan for submission. The applicant is willing to establish an escrow account to address Mr. Wynn's fees for such an effort. Mr. Lippincott requested authorization to proceed and direction from the Board as to the amount of funds to be deposited into an escrow account for the review process. Mr. Lippincott suggested that a \$500.00 escrow be established.

Motion was made by Supervisor Parks, seconded by Supervisor Bender, and carried unanimously to authorize the Township Engineer to explore the concept of construction of a Home Depot in the Hilltown Plaza Shopping Center with the developer, Metro Development Company; and for the developer to establish an escrow in the amount of \$500.00 for this purpose. There was no public comment.

4. Correspondence was received today from another developer, Mr. Kevin Carney, who would like to construct a 9-hole golf course at a 64-acre site located on Rt. 152 and Rickert Road. Mr. Carney would also like to establish an escrow with the Township and meet with the Township Engineer to discuss the concept of construction.

Motion was made by Supervisor Parks, seconded by Supervisor Bender, and carried unanimously to authorize the Township Engineer to explore the concept of construction of a 9-hole golf course on a 64-acre site located on Rt. 152 and Rickert Road, with the developer, Mr. Kevin Carney; and for the developer to establish an escrow in the amount of \$500.00 for this purpose. There was no public comment.

5. Correspondence was received from the Bucks County Conservation District to members of the Pennridge Area Coordinating Committee, acknowledging receipt of the P.A.C.C. proposal for the Growing Greener Grant.

6. The Supervisors received correspondence from the Hilltown Fire Company on Friday, August 11, 2000, advising they will be applying for a State grant to purchase a new engine. The grant application requests the amount of contributions from local supporting government. The Fire Company is requesting a rapid response to their appeal for support because the application must be in Harrisburg no later than September 1, 2000. The Supervisors advised they would consider this request during the 2001 Budget process.

R. MYLARS FOR SIGNATURE: Homsher Subdivision

S. PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Mr. Ron Theis of Florence Circle asked how much money the Township plans to raise with the additional .25% of Earned Income Tax for the Open Space Referendum. Chairperson Bennington replied there would be approximately \$600,000.00 raised per year. Mr. Theis asked if there will be a time limit as to the number of years this additional tax would be in effect. Chairperson Bennington advised there would be no time limit.

2. Mr. Bill Godek of 206 Broad Street asked the time frame involved when a developer or other entity submits plans for Township review. Mr. Lippincott advised that

they would have to contact himself or the Township Secretary no later than noon on the Wednesday prior to the Supervisor's meeting in order to be placed as a "Confirmed Appointment" on the agenda. The Township Secretary must receive submission of plans for the Planning Commission by noon three weeks prior to the Planning Commission meeting. The Planning Commission meets the third Monday of every month.

When the quarry submits their request for re-zoning, Mr. Godek asked where the public meeting would be held in order to provide enough capacity for the amount of residents that might be in attendance. Chairperson Bennington believes that the Township would attempt to secure the use of the Middle School in Silverdale, though he is not certain

Mr. Godek asked if the Supervisors are aware of how deep the quarry is permitted to operate at this time. Chairperson Bennington is not certain, however he thinks there are five levels the quarry is permitted to drill down to at the Skunk Hollow Quarry, at a depth of 60 ft. per level. He believes the quarry is presently drilling to the third level, which would be 180 ft. In order to establish facts, Mr. Godek asked if that information, as to how deep the quarry is permitted to drill, could be found in Township records. Mr. Lippincott advised that information would be available from the Department of Mining through DEP.

3. Mr. Chuck Kulesza heard of a recent incident where someone riding a go-cart hit a propane tank on their own property located within a residential area. Mr. Kulesza does not feel that the Township should permit the use of go-carts or all-terrain vehicles in the development district, especially on smaller lots. Mr. Keith Seifert, chief of Silverdale Fire Company, explained this incident for the Supervisor's benefit. A lengthy discussion took place.

T. SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:

1. Supervisor Parks was very happy to see how many responses the Township has received on the Comprehensive Plan Task Force survey. In perspective, an average return rate of surveys may be 2% to 4%, however we have received close to 50% response rate on this particular questionnaire.

2. Supervisor Bender asked when the next Township newsletter will be available. Mr. Lippincott replied that the newsletter should be mailed within the next week.

3. Chairperson Bennington noted that several crabapple trees located on Tice Lane, the cul-de-sac across the street from his home, have died since the developer's maintenance period has expired, and he wondered who is responsible for replacing those

trees. Mr. Lippincott explained that it would depend on whether the trees are located within the right-of-way, on Township open space, or actually on private property.

4. Supervisor Bender asked the status of the Township's request of the FAA to have the glider symbol returned to the aviation map. Mr. Lippincott stated that there has been no response from any of the agencies the Township has contacted. Supervisor Bender suggested a second request be forwarded to the proper individuals and agencies.

Supervisor Bender also suggested that Mr. Lippincott follow-up on a previous request to the U.S. Postal Service for Hilltown Township to be serviced by its own post office. Discussion took place.

5. Supervisor Bender has been approached by several different Township residents questioning the recent work being done on Diamond Street. Mr. Lippincott explained that Heritage Building Group, as a condition of approval for the Longleaf I Subdivision, is installing sidewalks along Diamond Street and widening the roadway, which should be complete by this fall.

6. Supervisor Bender asked if the Cell Phone Resolution has been forwarded to Governor Ridge. Mr. Lippincott explained that the last Supervisor signature was obtained today and the letter will be mailed tomorrow.

7. Regarding a point made by Mr. Godek earlier, Chairperson Bennington commented that he would also like to know the number of levels the Bureau of Mining has authorized H & K Quarry to drill down to, which is a very important issue if and when the quarry makes their expansion submission and zoning change request. Discussion took place.

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

V. ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion by Supervisor Parks, seconded by Supervisor Bender, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting of the August 14, 2000 Supervisor's Worksession meeting at 10:05PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynda Seimes

Township Secretary

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