

**HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULARLY SCHEDULED WORKSESSION MEETING
Monday, September 13, 1999
7:30PM**

The regularly scheduled Worksession meeting of the Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman William H. Bennett, Jr. at 7:35PM and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Also present were: Kenneth B. Bennington, Vice-Chairman
John S. Bender, Supervisor
Bruce G. Horrocks, Township Manager
Kerry L. Trauger, Chief of Police
Gregory J. Lippincott, Asst. Manager/Zoning Officer
Thomas A. Buzby, Director of Public Works

A. HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY AWARD ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – The Hilltown Township Volunteer Fire Company was awarded the Rescue Company of the Year award issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Pennsylvania Emergency Health Council. This award is based upon the level of training of volunteer fire companies. Mr. Joe Schmider, director of Bucks County Emergency Health Services presented the award to Mr. Shawn Shade of the Hilltown Fire Company. On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, Chairman Bennett congratulated the Hilltown Fire Company on their receipt of this prestigious award.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Action on the minutes of the August 23, 1999 Supervisor's Meeting – Motion was made by Supervisor Bender, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 23, 1999 Supervisor's Meeting, as written. There was no public comment.

D. APPROVAL OF CURRENT BILLING: Chairman Bennett presented the Bills List dated September 14, 1999, with General Fund payments in the amount of \$69,405.45, State Highway Aid Fund payments in the amount of \$12,569.46, and Escrow Fund payments in the amount of \$31,494.43; for a grand total of all payments in the amount of \$113,469.34.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bender, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to approve the Bills List dated September 14, 1999, subject to audit. There was no public comment.

E. TREASURER'S REPORT: Mr. Horrocks presented the Treasurer's Report with the following balances as of August 31, 1999:

General Fund Checking Account	\$ 163,590.80
Payroll Fund Checking Account	\$ 1,271.54
General Reserve Fund Account	\$ 795,031.41
Fire Fund Checking Account	\$ 55,947.86
Debt Service Checking Account	\$ 248,155.75
State Highway Aid Fund Checking Account	\$ 229,803.20
Escrow Fund Checking Account	\$ 311,240.41
Capital Projects – Series 1989	\$ 27,170.52
Capital Projects – Series 1994	\$ 103,892.10

Motion was made by Supervisor Bender, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to approve the Treasurer's Report dated August 31, 1999, subject to audit. There was no public comment.

F. WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY REPORT – Mr. James Groff, Authority Manager – Mr. Groff read the Authority Report for the month of August, 1999; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

Mr. Groff noted the drought warning is still in effect per the Governor's declaration, and the Authority continues to ask residents with both public and private systems, to conserve water. The municipal wells are maintaining normal levels at this time, and Mr. Groff has seen a drastic reduction in water usage since the Governor's declaration.

With regard to the multi-municipality water study, Mr. Groff has met with Mr. John Cornell, manager of East Rockhill Township, in order to discuss the parameters of this possible study. East Rockhill is in the process of contacting the Bucks County Planning Commission for information concerning similar studies of this nature. Mr. Groff spoke with an individual at D.R.B.C., who will provide any information as it becomes available.

Both Omni-Point and Nextel have received the necessary approvals from Hilltown Township to install their cellular phone equipment on the water tank. The Authority has approved Omni-Point plans.

There was a recent newspaper article that incorrectly stated that Hilltown Township Water and Sewer Authority is not ready for the millennium. Mr. Groff wished to clarify that the Authority is 100% prepared for the year 2000, both the field equipment and the office equipment has been tested to prove effective.

G. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – Mr. Thomas A. Buzby, Director of Public Works – Mr. Buzby read the Public Works Report for the period of August 1 through August 28, 1999; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

Supervisor Bennington commented on the difficulty driving in the dense fog this morning, and wondered if it would be possible to paint lines along the sides of the roadways. Mr. Buzby explained it is not permissible to paint lines along the sides of any roads that are not at least 20 ft. wide. Discussion took place.

H. POLICE REPORT – Chief Kerry L. Trauger – Chief Trauger read the Police Report for the month of August, 1999; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

Sgt. Leyden recently applied for a Tobacco Grant, which has been awarded to the Township. Several officers accompanied some teenagers who attempted to purchase cigarettes at various stores in the Township. Two stores were cited for selling tobacco to minors.

With regard to the new police officer who will be hired, Chief Trauger presented two Resolutions for the Board's consideration, one for the Municipal Police Training Act, and one for the Allentown Police Academy. The new officer will be officially sworn-in at the September 27, 1999 Supervisor's meeting, with Board approval. Timothy Michael Murphy will begin work with Hilltown Township on Monday, September 20, 1999 in order for him to spend some time familiarizing himself with the station and the municipality itself. Chief Trauger noted Mr. Murphy is 22 years old, hails from Warminster, and his father and grandfather are retired Philadelphia police officers.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Bender, and carried unanimously to **adopt Resolution #99-27, for the Township to obtain reimbursement monies for expenses incurred for Officer Timothy Michael Murphy, pursuant to training provisions of the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Act, Act 120 of 1974.** There was no public comment.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Bender, and carried unanimously to **adopt Resolution #99-28, for the attendance of Officer Timothy Michael Murphy at the Police Training School at the Allentown Police Academy.** There was no public comment.

Chief Trauger is actively pursuing the School District to re-institute driver's education training within the curriculum once again. This course was eliminated in 1991 or 1992 for financial reasons. Chief Trauger believes that it is possible that driver's education could

have helped save a life in a recent accident involving two teenage girls. Chief Trauger is thoroughly committed to re-establishing driver's education within the Pennridge School District, and the Supervisors offered their support. Discussion took place.

8:00PM – PUBLIC HEARING – Mr. Horrocks advised that there was a Public Hearing scheduled for this evening to consider the adoption of an Ordinance reducing the speed limit on Schultz Road, and Brinkley and Briarwood Drives; and establishing “No Parking” on the south side of the Schultz Road. However, Montgomery Newspapers failed to advertise this public hearing as requested by the Township. Therefore, the Public Hearing has been rescheduled to be held at the October 11, 1999 Worksession meeting.

I. ZONING REPORT – Mr. Gregory J. Lippincott, Zoning Officer – Mr. Lippincott read the Zoning Report for the month of August, 1999; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

Mr. Lippincott presented a brief summary of the status of the 2000 Census. Hilltown Township was recently approached by members of Congress to assist with the Census monitoring board. Mr. Lippincott attended the Bucks County kick-off for Census Complete Count Committees, where Hilltown Township was the only municipality to establish a Complete Count Committee. Mr. Lippincott also attended the State kick-off for the Census 2000 at Penn State University three weeks ago. Lynda Seimes and Mr. Lippincott completed the Luca 1999 Physical Address forms, verifying all physical addresses that do not receive mail delivery. The 1998 Luca Address Database was also verified against the Township's database of addresses, and a list was compiled and mailed to the Census Bureau for correction. Further, the recently adopted Tenant Identification Ordinance assisted in the compilation of addresses, which identified several apartments that were existing non-conformities. Mr. Lippincott assured the Board that Hilltown Township is extremely prepared for the 2000 Census.

J. BUILDING REPORT – Mr. David W. Taylor, Building Inspector – Mr. Taylor was unable to be in attendance this evening, therefore, Mr. Horrocks read the Building Report for the month of August, 1999; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

Mr. Horrocks noted that the BOCA Code update has been reviewed by the Township Engineer, and is currently in the hands of the Township Solicitor to be placed for advertisement. It is anticipated that the 1999 BOCA Code will be before the Supervisors for possible adoption at their October 25, 1999 meeting.

K. HILLTOWN FIRE COMPANY REPORT – Mr. Grunmeier could not be present this evening, therefore Chairman Bennett read the Hilltown Fire Company Report for the month of August, 1999; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

L. SILVERDALE FIRE COMPANY REPORT – Mr. Stockert could not be present this evening, therefore Chairman Bennett read the Silverdale Fire Company Report for the month of August, 1999; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

M. PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT – Mr. John Kachline, Chairman – Mr. Kachline read the Planning Commission Report for the month of August, 1999; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

At their last worksession meeting, the Planning Commission reviewed the New Britain Township Comprehensive Plan, which they feel was an excellent plan that addressed all pertinent issues. The Planning Commission unanimously recommended using the New Britain Township Comprehensive Plan as a guide and reference for review of Hilltown's Comprehensive Plan.

Supervisor Bender noted that the Bucks County Planning Commission recently appointed a new director, and asked if Mr. Kachline could arrange a meeting with her, since she appears to be very interested in revising the Municipalities Planning Code. Mr. Kachline was agreeable.

N. PARK AND RECREATION REPORT – Mr. Nick Lupinacci, Chairman – Mr. Lupinacci read the Park and Recreation Board Report for the month of August, 1999; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

Mr. Lupinacci, as an active member of the Hilltown Open Space Committee, wished to thank the Board of Supervisors for the recent purchase of the Owen Rice property located on Forest Road.

The Park and Recreation Board was instrumental in several successful recreational endeavors this past summer, including Theater Camp, in which 27 youngsters participated at the Blooming Glen Playground. Another program was the adult sand volleyball league, with eight teams participating. The sand volleyball league was organized by a Township resident, Mrs. Heather Phillips.

Several months ago, a Trail Committee was formed including residents of the Pleasant Meadows development. This committee has met on four different occasions, and will be meeting again this Saturday, September 18, 1999, with the Park and Recreation Board and Mr. Lippincott, to walk along East Rockhill Township's and Perkasio Borough's walking trails. It is Mr. Lupinacci's intent to compile a list of issues for discussion at the next Trail Committee meeting in order to prepare a recommendation for the Board of Supervisors. The major issues of focus are the construction and the maintenance of the trail.

With regard to the open space on Forest Road, Mr. Lupinacci advised a letter of interest has been received from the Deep Run Valley Sports Association. They are proposing the construction of soccer fields for the 58-acre site. The Park and Recreation Board would like to walk the site prior to forwarding a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

O. CONFIRMED APPOINTMENTS: None.

P. MANAGER'S REPORT -- Mr. Bruce G. Horrocks, Township Manager --

1. Mr. Horrocks presented five escrow releases, two of which are cash held by the Township office:

313 Self Storage, Inc.	Voucher #13	\$	225.15
Giant Foods	Voucher #02	\$	754.77
Longleaf Estates Phase I	Voucher #32	\$	834.56
Orchard Glen Subdivision	Voucher #52	\$	613.66
Quiet Acres	Voucher #28B	\$	221.71

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Bender, and carried unanimously to approve the release of the five escrows as noted above. There was no public comment.

2. Several weeks ago, the Board established a ban on burning, which is authorized in the Burning Ordinance. With the recent rainfall, Mr. Horrocks requested that the Supervisors consider lifting the burning ban at this time. Chief Trauger believes the ban on burning is statewide and cannot be lifted until the Governor's order on drought conditions is rescinded. Discussion took place.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Bender, and carried unanimously to lift the ban on burning in Hilltown Township, with the stipulation that if the Governor's edict precludes that, then lifting the burning ban is null and void. There was no public comment.

3. A request has been received from the Bedminster Board of Supervisors dealing with the traffic signal located at the intersection of Rt. 113 and Rt. 313, which is permitted to Bedminster Township. Historically, Hilltown Township has paid 50% of maintenance costs for this traffic signal. In Bedminster's investigation of possible Y2K problems, it was determined that the existing controller in the signal must be upgraded. The Bedminster Board of Supervisors requested consideration for Hilltown Township to pay 50% of the cost to upgrade the existing controller. There are two options for consideration, and the highest cost option to Hilltown Township would be \$998.00.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Bender, and carried unanimously to authorize the expenditure of up to \$998.00 for the repair and replacement of the existing controller in the traffic signal located at the intersection of Rt. 113 and Rt. 313, which is 50% of the cost. There was no public comment.

4. A petition has been received from every resident of Spring Hill Lane to remove the single streetlight for that development, the former Cefelli Tract. Mr. Horrocks obtained a cost estimate from PP&L for the removal of that streetlight in the amount of \$151.00. The residents of Spring Hill Lane are willing to divide that cost among themselves, which would be no cost to the Township. Discussion took place.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Bender, and carried unanimously to authorize the removal of the single streetlight on Spring Hill Lane in the former Cefelli Tract Subdivision at the expense of the residents, as noted above. There was no public comment.

5. Following this meeting, Mr. Horrocks will provide the decision for the Nextel Communications hearing for the Board's signatures.

Q. CORRESPONDENCE – Mr. Bruce G. Horrocks, Township Manager –

1. Correspondence has been received with regard to the Community Development Block Grant for the year 2000 from Mr. Jack Fox of the Hilltown Historical Society. Discussion took place.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Bender, and carried unanimously to authorize the advertisement of a Public Hearing to consider requests for the Community Development Block Grant for the year 2000 at the October 11, 1999 Worksession meeting. There was no public comment.

R. MYLARS FOR SIGNATURE:

1. Lynrose Estates
2. Alff Subdivision

S. PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Mr. Harry Mason of 902 Morgan Lane hopes that the Township will not become too eager to remove streetlights. One of Mr. Mason's complaints about the Township is that sometimes vision is very difficult at certain intersections, specifically at Orchard Road and Diamond Street.

2. With regard to the open space recently purchased by the Township, Mrs. Jean Bolger of Rt. 152 is opposed to the proposal by Deep Run Sports Association. Mrs. Bolger reminded the Board that Deep Run currently uses the facilities at the Civic Park, and they have also proposed use of the open space property across the street from the Municipal Building. As a taxpayer, Mrs. Bolger does not wish to pay for Deep Run to operate their sports association. Supervisor Bennington is a supporter of Deep Run, and is also a soccer coach with the organization. At present, Deep Run's proposal is the first for the Park and Recreation Board and the Supervisors to consider. Further, Supervisor Bennington noted that Deep Run has decided not to utilize the open space area across the street from the Municipal Building because there was too much grading work required. Mr. Horrocks commented that there are five soccer teams who presently use the Civic Park, but not one of them is a Deep Run soccer team. Deep Run teams, however, are the majority users of the baseball field.

T. SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:

1. Supervisor Bender attended an Eagle Scout ceremony yesterday for a young man, Timothy Gray, who is a resident of Hilltown Township. Timothy Gray was presented with a Proclamation from the Township by Supervisor Bender.

2. Supervisor Bennington asked when the Pennridge School District would be opening their athletic fields for practices and games. Mr. Horrocks will contact the School District to determine when the fields will be available for use.

3. Supervisor Bennington attended a recent Pennridge Area Coordinating Committee meeting, where discussion had taken place concerning the possible multi-municipality water study. The committee will be interviewing hydrologists so that municipalities can begin budgeting funds for this proposal. At present, it appears that the study will include Hilltown Township, West Rockhill, East Rockhill, and Bedminster, with possibly Sellersville and Perkasio Boroughs participating as well.

4. Supervisor Bender asked the status of the Township's procedures for closing public roads for block parties. Mr. Horrocks advised he has been investigating the best possible way to determine a simple and effective formula.

5. Chairman Bennett has received several calls from residents of Pineside Drive, which is presently a private road. The residents would like the Supervisors to consider making that street a public road. Chairman Bennett understands that those residents would have to finance the cost for upgrading that road to Township specifications. The road is presently 1,200 ft. in length and 15 ft. wide. Mr. Horrocks explained that the process involved for the Township to take over a private roadway is that the road must be upgraded to Township standards, which would include additional

base. Mr. Horrocks suggested the residents of Pineside Drive hire a private engineer to determine how much would be required to bring it into compliance. Discussion took place.

6. Chairman Bennett noted there has been a great deal of people walking and jogging along Township roads, wearing dark clothing at dusk. Chairman Bennett is very concerned about the danger involved and encouraged those who use the roads for walking or jogging to be more cognizant of the fact that the days are getting shorter and it is a hazard to pursue these activities on narrow country roads, especially after dark.

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

V. ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Bender, and carried unanimously, the September 13, 1999 Worksession meeting of the Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors was adjourned at 8:55PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynda Scimes

Township Secretary

(*These minutes were transcribed from notes and tape recordings taken by Mr. Bruce G. Horrocks, Township Manager).