

**HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
REGULARLY SCHEDULED WORKSESSION MEETING**

**Monday, May 11, 1998**

**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  
Charles D. Grasse, Supervisor  
Bruce G. Horrocks, Township Manager  
Gregory J. Lippincott, Asst. Manager/Zoning Officer  
George C. Egly, Jr., Chief of Police  
~~Thomas A. Buzby, Director of Public Works~~

Chairman Bennett announced the Supervisors met in Executive Session prior to this meeting in order to discuss legal matters.

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Action on the minutes of the April 27, 1998 Supervisor's Meeting - Motion was made by Supervisor Grasse, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the April 27, 1998 Supervisor's meeting, as written.

B. APPROVAL OF CURRENT BILLING: Chairman Bennett presented the Bill's List dated May 12, 1998, with General Fund payments in the amount of \$64,814.31, State Highway Aid payments in the amount of \$5,857.14, and Escrow Fund payments in the amount of \$153.26; for a grand total of all payments in the amount of \$70,824.71.

Motion was made by Supervisor Grasse, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to approve the Bill's List dated May 12, 1998.

C. TREASURER'S REPORT - Mr. Bruce G. Horrocks, Township Manager- Mr. Horrocks presented the Treasurer's Report with the following balances as of April 30, 1998:

General Fund Checking	\$ 220,201.62
Payroll Checking	\$ 119.16
General Reserve Fund	\$ 151,926.16
Fire Fund Checking	\$ 19,581.99
Debt Service Checking	\$ 185,538.56
State Highway Aid Checking	\$ 235,900.30
Escrow Fund Checking	\$ 247,487.57
Capital Projects - Series 1989	\$ 25,432.46
Capital Projects - Series 1994	\$ 97,254.43

Motion was made by Supervisor Grasse, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to approve the Treasurer's Report dated April 30, 1998.

D. HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY REPORT - Mr. Jim Groff, Authority Manager - Mr. Groff read the Authority Report for the month of April, 1998 which is on file at the Township office. Mr. Groff advised the next Authority meeting will be held on Thursday, May 21, 1998 at 8:00PM, where discussion will take place concerning the Pennridge Wastewater Treatment Authority's proposed agreement.

Supervisor Grasse asked when the water tank will be completed. Mr. Groff believes the tank should be filled with the proper disinfection and testing completed by mid-July.

E. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT - Mr. Thomas A Buzby, Director of Public Works - Mr. Buzby read the Public Works Report for the period of March 29<sup>th</sup> through April 25<sup>th</sup>, 1998 which is on file at the Township office.

F. POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT - Chief George C. Egly, Jr. - Chief Egly read the Police Report for the month of April, 1998 which is on file at the Township office.

G. ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT - Mr. Gregory J. Lippincott, Zoning Officer - Mr. Lippincott read the Zoning Report for the month of April, 1998 which is on file at the Township office.

Mr. Lippincott advised TMP #15-28-61 was issued a notice of violation on March 25, 1998. As of this date, the property has not been brought into compliance with the Zoning Ordinance, and the property owner has not appealed to the Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Lippincott is seeking Board authorization to begin legal proceedings against this property.

Motion was made by Mr. Bennington, seconded by Mr. Grasse, and carried unanimously to authorize the Zoning Officer to begin legal proceedings against the owner of TMP #15-28-61.

H. HILLTOWN FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT -Mr. Robert Grunmeier, Chief - Mr. Grunmeier read the Hilltown Fire Company Report for the month of April, 1998 which is on file at the Township office.

By June of 1998, Mr. Grunmeier believes the Hilltown Fire Company will submit application to the Pennsylvania Department of Health for Rescue Certification for the unit out of Station 60. Upon completion of the Basic Rescue Practices and approval by the

Department of Transportation, Mr. Grunmeier is confident the Hilltown Fire Company will meet a Statewide recognized standard of "heavy rescue."

Mr. Grunmeier advised the present Hilltown Fire Company's medical unit, a Chevrolet Suburban, is in poor condition. The Fire Company has secured approximately \$7,800.00 from Emergency Management Services in order to purchase a new medical unit, and they also expect to receive approximately \$2,000.00 for the sale of the existing vehicle to offset the projected \$29,000.00 cost.

I. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT - Mr. Grunmeier read the Emergency Management Report for the month of April, 1998 which is on file at the Township office.

J. SILVERDALE FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT - Mr. John Gillespie, Chief - Mr. Gillespie read the Silverdale Fire Company Report for the month of April, 1998 which is on file at the Township office.

Mr. Gillespie presented information concerning a house numbering system which is being endorsed by police and emergency services in the Kalamazoo, Michigan area. The cost involved for purchasing the uniform reflective house numbers and poles is approximately \$15.00.

K. PARK AND RECREATION REPORT - Mr. Nick Lupinacci, Chairman - Mr. Lupinacci read the Park and Recreation Report for the month of April, 1998 which is on file at the Township office.

The Park and Recreation Board is requesting authorization to allow Deep Run Valley Sports Association to enter into discussions with Mr. Wynn, Township Engineer, regarding their proposed improvements to the Rt. 152/Fairhill Road property. Deep Run would like the use of the property for their upcoming soccer season and would like to begin preparation of the field at this time.

Supervisor Bennington is in favor of Deep Run representatives meeting with Mr. Wynn as soon as possible. Supervisor Bennington explained the Board's main concern was the possible increased water flow to the neighboring Christianson property which has experienced a great deal of overflow in the past from the drainage ditch on the opposite side of the street. Mr. Horrocks suggested contact be made with the Township Engineer through the Administrative office in order to determine the amount of time necessary to accomplish this proposal. The Board was agreeable. The Board of Supervisors authorized Mr. Horrocks to apply for a permit from the Bucks County Conservation

District for the placement of fill on that site, prior to Deep Run's discussion with Mr. Wynn. Discussion took place concerning Deep Run's proposed sketch plan for use of the property. Chairman Bennett would prefer not to have any additional entrances on Rt. 152. If a loop road is proposed, Chairman Bennett believes both ends of the loop should take access from Fairhill Road. Mr. Lupinacci advised Deep Run has agreed to improve the proposed practice fields to Township specifications for use of soccer and other activities.

The Park and Recreation Board is also seeking permission to authorize Encore Entertainment Group to distribute "Theater Camp" information to schools located in the municipality. Provided there is sufficient interest in this proposal, Encore Entertainment would conduct their camp at the Blooming Glen Playground in late June or early July. Registration forms would be returned to the Township. The camp would be available for ages 7 through 11, at a cost of \$70.00.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Grasse, and carried unanimously to authorize Encore Entertainment Group to distribute Theater Camp information at local schools, with their permission.

L. CONFIRMED APPOINTMENTS: None.

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

1. Mr. Horrocks announced the Board met in Executive Session on Wednesday evening, April 29, 1998, in order to discuss personnel matters. With regard to that Executive Session, Mr. Horrocks read the following statement:

"At this point, I certainly hope that the press has printed all it's going to print on this matter. However, I must make some comments in regard to the PennDot application for Hilltown Pike and Callowhill Road.

I want to publicly apologize to the Board of Supervisors, PennDot, our administration personnel and Chief Egly for the confusion created in this matter. The oversight was mine alone and I am sorry.

I want to express my condolences to the family of Mrs. Wildman and to wish a full and complete recovery for Mrs. Urban and her unborn baby. Hilltown Township is always saddened with every fatality and injury that occurs within its boundaries.

I want to thank the Morning Call and the News-Herald for allowing me to have the opportunity to speak with them prior to printing their articles on this matter.

I want to thank the Board of Supervisors for their continuing support of me as Township Manager. Most importantly, I want to thank Greg, Lynda and Lorraine for their overwhelming support and friendship. As I have told the Board many times before, these three people would stack up against any municipality's administrative staff and always come out winners."

Even if the PennDot application had been submitted the day after the Resolution was passed in January of 1998, Supervisor Bennington commented there would not yet have been a traffic signal installed at the intersection where Mrs. Wildman was killed. Further, Supervisor Bennington noted there is no guarantee that PennDot will approve the permit application. Chairman Bennett advised Chief Egly recently stated that even though the ~~permit application has been submitted to PennDot, it is unlikely that the traffic signal~~ would be installed before September, if it is approved at all. Discussion took place concerning the traffic impact problems of Hilltown Township in the future.

The Supervisors expressed their sympathy to the family of Mrs. Wildman

2. Mr. Horrocks presented three escrow releases for the Board's consideration:

Estate at Tall Oaks	Voucher #08	\$ 2,121.85
Longleaf Estates, Phase I	Voucher #06	\$ 3,691.40
Waste Management of Indian Valley	Voucher #16	\$ 42.73

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Grasse, and carried unanimously to release the three escrows as noted above.

3. Mr. Horrocks presented Resolution #98-29, commending Ms. Melissa Sue Swope of Hilltown Township who has been selected to receive the Girl Scout's highest honor of recognition, the Gold Award.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Grasse, and carried unanimously to **adopt Resolution #98-29 to honor Ms. Melissa Sue Swope who has been selected to receive the Girl Scout's highest honor of recognition, the Gold Award.**

4. Mr. Horrocks presented Resolution #98-30, which itemizes specific individuals of Hilltown Township for the Pennsylvania Drug Reduction Property Program Eligibility Grant. This is a method for municipalities to receive government surplus at negligible cost.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Grasse, and carried unanimously to **adopt Resolution #98-30 which is a recipient authorization Resolution for the Pennsylvania Drug Reduction Property Program Eligibility Grant.**

5. Previously, Mr. Horrocks was directed by the Supervisors to draft correspondence concerning habitual drunk drivers. Mr. Horrocks presented a draft letter and a copy of a Senate Bill which was introduced on March 24, 1998 on this same subject. Supervisor Bennington stated Senate Bill #1387 is an attempt by Senator Greenleaf to address this issue, even though he personally does not feel it is strong enough. Supervisor Bennington believes a letter should be sent to Senator Greenleaf as well as Hilltown's own representatives, encouraging them to pass this Senate bill and also, as the next step in the process, to consider incarceration or electronic home surveillance as penalty for repeat offenders.

Motion was made by Supervisor Grasse, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to authorize the Township Manager to forward correspondence concerning habitual drunk drivers to Senator Greenleaf, State representatives, and other local municipalities.

N. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Correspondence has been received from Mr. Ed Wild on behalf of the Silverman Family Partnership seeking authorization to begin site work prior to plan recordation. Mr. Wild explained that conditional final plan approval was granted in March to this land development located on Rt. 313, near its intersection with Rt. 113. Since that time, most of the conditions of the approval have been satisfied, however there are several administrative issues outstanding including PennDot approval and approval from the Bucks County Department of Health. Although the applicant expects to satisfy those remaining issues within the next two weeks, they would like to commence site work immediately.

Though he understands the applicant's urgency to proceed, Supervisor Bennington is not willing to set a precedent by allowing site work to proceed at this time. The remaining Board members agreed and the applicant's request was denied.

2. A request has been received from the Pennridge Community Day Committee seeking financial support from neighboring municipalities for the 1998 Community Day which will be held on July 5, 1998 at Lake Lenape. The Supervisors directed Mr. Horrocks to forward this request to the Park and Recreation Board for their recommendation.

3. Correspondence has been received from the Township Solicitor regarding a recent Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court case which found that tape recordings of meetings are not documents included in the "Right-to-Know Act." At present, Hilltown Township offers residents the right to listen to Township audio recordings. Discussion took place.

O. LINENS FOR SIGNATURE: None.

P. PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Mr. John Snyder, chairman of the Zoning Hearing Board, congratulated ~~and thanked the Supervisors for the action they took at their last meeting to revise the~~ 1995 Zoning Ordinance. Mr. Snyder presented correspondence to the Board concerning this issue and noted these are his personal comments which do not necessarily reflect that of the entire Zoning Hearing Board.

Q. SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:

1. Supervisor Bennington reminded the public that the next Supervisors meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 26, 1998 at 7:30PM, due to the Memorial Day holiday.

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

S. ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Grasse, and carried unanimously, the May 11, 1998 Supervisor's Worksession Meeting was adjourned at 8:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynda Seimes  
Township Secretary

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