

**HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULARLY SCHEDULED WORKSESSION MEETING
Monday, March 9, 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 7:40PM 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, Assistant Manager/Zoning Officer
George C. Egly, Jr., Chief of Police
Thomas A. Buzby, Director of Public Works

Chairman Bennett announced the Board met in Executive Session with the Township Manager and the Township Solicitor prior to this meeting in order to discuss legal matters.

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Action on the minutes of the February 23, 1998 Supervisor's Meeting: Motion was made by Supervisor Grasse, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 23, 1998 Supervisor's Meeting, as written.

B. TREASURER'S REPORT - Mr. Bruce G. Horrocks, Township Manager - Mr. Horrocks presented the Treasurer's Report with the following balances as of February 28, 1998:

General Fund Checking	\$120,597.76
Payroll Fund Checking	\$ 109.04
General Reserve Fund	\$150,024.00
Fire Fund Checking	\$ 1,771.78
Debt Service Fund Checking	\$113,772.41
State Highway Aid Checking	\$ 2,410.06
Escrow Fund Checking	\$238,503.66
Capital Projects - Series 1989	\$ 25,211.21
Capital Projects - Series 1994	\$ 96,409.04

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Grasse, and carried unanimously to approve the Treasurer's Report dated February 28, 1998.

C. APPROVAL OF CURRENT BILLING: Chairman Bennett presented the Bill's List dated March 10, 1998, with General Fund payments in the amount of \$30,214.53, State Highway Aid payments in the amount of \$4,654.26, and Escrow Fund payments in the amount of \$3,725.36; for a grand total of all funds in the amount of \$38,594.15.

Motion was made by Supervisor Grasse, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to approve the Bill's List dated March 10, 1998.

D. WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY REPORT - Mr. Jim Groff, Authority Manager - Mr. Groff read the Authority Report for the month of February, 1998; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

E. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT - Mr. Thomas A. Buzby, Director of Public Works - Mr. Buzby read the Public Works Report for the period of February 1st through 28th, 1998; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

F. POLICE REPORT - Chief George C. Egly, Jr. - Chief Egly read the Police Report for the month of February, 1998; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

Supervisor Bennington read a portion of a newspaper article which follows: "According to court documents, Louis Albert Siriani of Willow Grove was charged yesterday with killing two clergymen while driving drunk and speeding. This man was apparently able to skirt the law for 20 years by driving with a suspended license. Under State law, a \$200.00 fine is levied for a first offense of driving under suspension. For a second or subsequent offense, a District Justice may impose \$1,000.00 fine and send the violator to jail for up to six months, but stopping the suspended driver from getting behind the wheel is not very easy. The officer who stops the violator knows only that the license has been pulled, not how many times it has been suspended. The law says the driver is given a citation and the driver walks away. He can not be arrested at the site. As soon as the officer drives away, the person usually gets back in the car and drives off, still under suspension. A suspended driver seldom goes before a District Justice and the offender does not always show up."

Supervisor Bennington was very upset by these circumstances and wondered what it will take to get people like this off the street and thrown in jail. Chief Egly agreed that the system is very poor and suggested the Supervisors write to State Legislators requesting that the system be changed. Supervisor Bennington felt that additional sobriety check points should be established in Hilltown Township during evening hours. Chief Egly replied sobriety check points are planned and will be continued. Discussion took place.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Grasse, and carried unanimously to authorize the Township Manager to draft a very strongly worded letter to Representatives Joe Conti, Paul Clymer, and Tom Druce, demanding that they take action in the Pennsylvania State Legislature to get drunk drivers off the road and in jail, and to copy this correspondence to all surrounding municipalities for their support.

G. ZONING REPORT - Mr. Gregory J. Lippincott, Zoning Officer - Mr. Lippincott read the Zoning Report for the month of February, 1998; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

H. HILLTOWN FIRE COMPANY REPORT - Mr. Shawn Shade, Deputy Chief - Mr. Shade read the Hilltown Fire Company Report for the month of February, 1998; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

Mr. Shade invited the Board of Supervisors and the Township Manager to view the Hilltown Fire Company's apparatus at the station. The Board and Mr. Horrocks were agreeable and a date will be scheduled.

I. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT - No one was present at this time.

J. SILVERDALE FIRE COMPANY REPORT - Mr. John Gillespie, Fire Chief - Mr. Gillespie read the Silverdale Fire Company Report for the month of February, 1998; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

Mr. Gillespie reported the Silverdale Fire Company is very close to securing the thermal imaging machine which had been discussed at a previous meeting.

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

Chairman Bennett announced the annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held at the Civic Field Park on Saturday, April 4, 1998 beginning at 10:00AM.

L. CONFIRMED APPOINTMENTS:

1. Mrs. Dilling - Bux-Mont Exchange Club - Mrs. Dilling requested that the Board consider declaring the week of April 1st through April 7th as National Blue Ribbon Week, and to declare the month of April as Prevention of Child Abuse Month. The Bux-Mont Exchange Club is a local organization with it's primary function being the prevention of child abuse. Mrs. Dilling advised there are several "safe houses" to shelter those experiencing domestic violence in Pennsylvania, located in West Chester,

Harrisburg, and Gettysburg. Mrs. Dilling encouraged residents of Hilltown Township to display blue ribbons outside their homes and to join the organization for a walk-a-thon on April 4, 1998 from 12:00 Noon until 4:00 PM at Lenape Park in Sellersville. A canine demonstration will also be held and bike patrol officers will be available. A poster contest will be sponsored for grades 1 through 6 and an essay contest will be sponsored for grades 7 through 12. Savings bonds will be awarded as prizes. Chairman Bennett read Resolution #98-19, proclaiming the week of April 1st through 7th, 1998 as Kids Blue Ribbon Week in Hilltown Township.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Grasse, and carried unanimously to **adopt Resolution #98-19 proclaiming the week of April 1 through 7, 1998 as Kids Blue Ribbon Week in Hilltown Township, and to proclaim the month of April as Prevention of Child Abuse Month in Hilltown Township.**

2. Mr. John Perritt, President of Silverdale Fire Company - Mr. Perritt presented the 1998 Silverdale Fire Company budget for review. Mr. Perritt explained the overall budget is down approximately 8%, due to loss of income from fund raiser breakfasts. The fire prevention budget for new equipment has been increased by \$2000.00 for 1998. Mr. Perritt thanked the Board of Supervisors for their contributions over the years. Discussion took place.

M. MANAGER'S REPORT - Mr. Bruce G. Horrocks -

1. Mr. Horrocks presented seven escrow releases for Board approval, two of which are cash held by the Township:

County Line Shopping Center (Blockbuster Video)	Voucher #14	\$ 26.80
Country Roads Phase II	Voucher #39	\$ 6,000.00
Tall Oaks Subdivision	Voucher #02	\$ 1,988.79
Tall Oaks Subdivision	Voucher #03	\$25,491.38
Gray Subdivision	Voucher #03	\$ 112.08
Longleaf Estates Phase I	Voucher #02	\$ 3,204.08
Orchard Glen Subdivision	Voucher #29	\$ 388.79

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

2. Mr. Horrocks requested Board authorization of an agreement between Hilltown Township and the Borough of Perkaspie for the services of their Code Enforcement Official to provide building inspection services for a six month period on a trial basis.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Grasse, and carried unanimously to approve the building inspection service agreement between Hilltown Township and Perkasio Borough for a period of six months on a trial basis.

N. CORRESPONDENCE: None.

O. LINENS FOR SIGNATURE: None.

P. PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Mr. Gillespie asked if the Township has reviewed a copy of the new B.O.C.A. Code. Mr. Horrocks is attempting to obtain a comparison from B.O.C.A. of the existing 1990 Code enforced by Hilltown at present and the 1996 Code.

Q. SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:

1. Supervisor Bennington advised the Supreme Court has given Township Supervisors the same protection as Federal, State and Regional counterparts in that they can not be named as defendants in Federal civil rights suits.

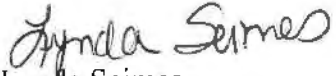
Federal legislation has also been passed by the House of Representatives and is before the Senate that will allow land owners to take local zoning disputes with municipalities directly to Federal court, which is an unprecedented preemption of State and Local land use authorities. Supervisor Bennington noted this ruling will make it very expensive for municipalities to fight Federal lawsuits. Therefore, Supervisor Bennington suggested State and Federal representatives be contacted advising that Hilltown Township is not in favor of this legislation. Supervisors Grasse and Bennett agreed. Mr. Horrocks has already forwarded correspondence concerning this issue.

2. Supervisor Bennington asked if Suburban Cable's Franchise Agreement with Hilltown Township expires in the near future. Mr. Horrocks replied the agreement has expired. Supervisor Bennington asked if Hilltown Township can solicit other cable companies to bid on cable service within the confines of the Township. If Suburban Cable owns the actual cable within Hilltown, Mr. Horrocks does not know how the Township can solicit competitive bids for other cable companies to re-run cable throughout the municipality. Discussion took place.

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

S. ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion by Supervisor Grasse, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to adjourn the March 9, 1998 Supervisor's Worksession meeting at 8:56PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynda Seimes

Township Secretary

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