

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

Monday, May 12, 1997

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 7:30PM and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Also present: Kenneth B. Bennington, Vice-Chairman
Jack C. Fox, Supervisor
Bruce G. Horrocks, Township Manager
George C. Egly, Chief of Police
Thomas A. Buzby, Director of Public Works
Francis X. Grabowski, Township Solicitor
C. Robert Wynn, Township Engineer

A. Treasurer's Report - Mr. Bruce G. Horrocks, Township Manager - Mr. Horrocks presented the Treasurer's Report with the following balances as of April 30, 1997:

General Fund Checking Account	\$ 134,713.82
Payroll Fund Checking Account	\$ 454.07
Fire Fund Checking Account	\$ 65,893.09
Debt Service Checking Account	\$ 200,076.20
State Highway Aid Checking Account	\$ 273,613.35
Escrow Fund Checking Account	\$ 136,758.46

Motion was made by Supervisor Fox, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to approve the Bills List dated April 30, 1997, subject to audit.

B. APPROVAL OF CURRENT BILLING: Chairman Bennett presented the Bills List dated May 13, 1997 with General Fund payments in the amount of \$40,463.05, Fire Fund payments in the amount of \$17,313.00, State Highway Aid payments in the amount of \$2,437.08, and Escrow Fund payments in the amount of \$595.82, for a grand total of all funds in the amount of \$60,808.95.

Motion was made by Supervisor Fox, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to approve the Bills List dated May 13, 1997, subject to audit.

C. HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY REPORT - Mr. James Groff, Operations Manager - Mr. Groff read the Authority Report for the month of April, 1997 which is on file at the Township office.

D. 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 30, 1997 through April 26, 1997, which is on file at the Township office.

E. POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT - Chief George C. Egly - Chief Egly read the Police Report for the month of April, 1997 which is on file at the Township office.

F. ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT - Mr. Gregory Lippincott - Mr. Lippincott read the Zoning Report for the month of April, 1997 which is on file at the Township office.

Mr. Lippincott had provided information to the Board concerning the year 2,000 census. The Bureau of the Census is requesting Township participation by establishing a complete count committee and passing a resolution, among other things.

G. HILLTOWN FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT - Chief Grunmeier was not present.

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

I. SILVERDALE FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT - Mr. John Gillespie - Mr. Gillespie read the Silverdale Fire Company report for the month of April, 1997 which is on file at the Township office.

Mr. Gillespie presented a copy of an article which appeared in the Intelligencer last Friday, stressing the urgency and necessity for inspections, because of a restaurant fire that caused the evacuation of five businesses in the area.

J. PARK AND RECREATION REPORT - Mr. Nick Lupinacci - Mr. Lupinacci read the Park and Recreation Board Report for the month of April, 1997 which is on file at the Township office.

Hilltown Township has sponsored a team to participate in the American Cancer Society Walk-a-thon to be held at Doylestown Central Park on May 31, 1997.

Last week, four members of the Park and Recreation Board participated in the Bucks County Public Hearing to discuss the referendum to be placed on the ballot on May 20, 1997. Discussion took place. Mr. Lupinacci noted the majority of Park and Recreation Board members are in favor of the Bucks County Open Space Referendum.

Before lighting is planned for the baseball field and/or the soccer field, Mr. Lupinacci wished to insure that consideration is given to the amount of parking required to support the use of both fields simultaneously.

K. CONFIRMED APPOINTMENTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

1. Mr. Frank Adamski - Property Line Fence - No one was present at this time. Motion was made by Supervisor Fox, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to recommend that the Zoning Officer ask Mr. Adamski or his neighbor to have the site surveyed in order to determine if the fence is on the Adamski property due to the 5 ft. difference as shown on the plan presented by Mr. Adamski.

2. Mr. George Collie - Heritage/Longleaf I Subdivision - Mr. Collie is seeking Board direction as to proceeding with the Longleaf I Subdivision. At the last meeting, Mr. Collie believes the issue of the wall along the Popiwyn property had been resolved with the construction of a 28 inch wide sidewalk with an 8 inch curb. Supervisor Bennington commented the cartway was not to be reduced at all. Mr. Collie asked the Board to reconsider their decision since A.D.A. requirements are for 36 inch wide ramps/corridors. Sidewalks are not specifically addressed by A.D.A. Discussion took place. It is Mr. Wynn's preference not to narrow the cartway and he is also opposed to a taper in the cartway. The Board of Supervisors agreed with Mr. Wynn. Mr. Collie is willing to do as Mr. Wynn suggests, however he will submit correspondence advising that the sidewalk does not meet A.D.A. requirements at the request of the Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors.

With regard to Orchard Road improvements, Mr. Collie stated all requirements as noted by Mr. Wynn's engineering review will be met.

Concerning the proposed sidewalk from the Popiwyn property to Diamond Street, Mr. Collie suggested it be constructed in blacktop so that it will be easier to maintain. Chairman Bennett asked the distance involved. Mr. Collie believes it is approximately 700 feet in length. Chairman Bennett would be agreeable to blacktop rather than concrete since blacktop is easier to repair. Supervisor Fox feels the entire length of the sidewalk should be constructed in concrete rather than blacktop, and Supervisor Bennington agreed. Mr. Wynn believes other municipalities construct walkways with blacktop because it is less expensive, however he feels the sidewalk should be constructed in concrete, which is more durable. The Board unanimously agreed that concrete sidewalks should be installed.

Previously, Mr. Collie was under the assumption that the Township would accept fees in lieu of improvements to Diamond Street, however at the last meeting, the Board of

Supervisors made it very clear that improvements would be required. Mr. Collie asked what specific improvements would be required to Diamond Street. Pursuant to the Ordinance, Mr. Wynn advised cartway widening, curb, and sidewalk would be required. Supervisor Bennington reminded the Board that Diamond Street is a State roadway. If the Supervisors determine that cartway widening is required, Mr. Wynn recommended that a 17 ft. half cartway width be constructed, instead of the PennDot required 20 ft. cartway width. The Supervisors agreed with Mr. Wynn's recommendation.

With regard to the sidewalk around the open space recreation area, Mr. Collie asked if the Board will require blacktop or concrete, or if they would prefer those funds to be used for something else. Chairman Bennett would prefer that a walking path not be installed around the open space recreation area and that those funds be used elsewhere in the development. Supervisors Fox and Bennington believe concrete sidewalks should be installed.

Mr. Collie stated it has been determined that the smaller parcels of open space area will be deeded restricted to neighboring property owners. Supervisor Fox noted the Planning Commission recommended that the Township accept dedication of the open space located at the intersection of Diamond Street and Orchard Road and the adjoining parcel as shown on the plan. Further, if the developer would be willing to escrow funds for maintenance of the retention basin, that area could be included in dedication to the Township as well. Mr. Collie is requesting permission to deed the open space area on either side of the former Elizabeth Finkelstein house to Mr. and Mrs. David Kulp, the present owners. Mr. Wynn advised the Planning Commission had raised the issue that the Kulp property was not part of this subdivision. Mr. Collie believes, however that it is closely tied to the current subdivision by notes on the plan which separated the Kulp parcel from the current subdivision which required improvements to Orchard Road and Diamond Street in front of the Kulp and Manero properties, and the creation of an access easement to the Kulp property. According to Zoning Ordinance requirements, Mr. Wynn is not certain if open space can be deeded to another adjacent property yet still qualify as open space for this particular development. Mr. Collie pointed out that the Kulp property driveway is currently an easement. Supervisor Fox agreed, and stated that easement would remain. Mr. Collie explained Mr. Kulp would like to obtain ownership of his driveway so that it is no longer an easement, but rather it is fee simple. Supervisor Bennington would like to research this matter further before rendering a decision, and the Board agreed.

Mr. Collie advised the Ordinance requires two tot lots of 2,500 sq. ft. which must be fenced, however it is very sketchy as to what specific equipment is required. Further, the Ordinance requires shrubs to be planted around the fence area. The Planning Commission agreed with Mr. Collie that with the increase of child snatching, the line of sight to the tot lot should be free and clear of fencing and shrubs. Additionally, Mr. Collie suggested that

a gazebo be constructed in place of one of the two tot lots. The gazebo would be the seating area for parents to watch children playing on the tot lot. This scenario seemed to be acceptable to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission had also requested park benches be installed by the playing fields, however Mr. Collie suggested park benches be installed closer to the road, near the sidewalk. Supervisor Fox recalls that the Planning Commission suggested a three person Park and Recreation committee be appointed to determine what recreation equipment should be required for the tot lot. Further, Supervisor Fox was under the impression that the gazebo would be constructed in addition to the two tot lots, not in place of one tot lot. Mr. Collie disagreed. Supervisor Fox suggested that determination be made by the committee. Mr. Horrocks believes discussion had taken place that the Township Engineer and the Township Manager would serve on that committee as well. The Board was in agreement.

Concerning the pedestrian bridge, Mr. Collie requested that construction be delayed until the Jager Subdivision is built. Supervisor Bennington asked if funds for construction of the pedestrian bridge would be placed in escrow until it is built. Mr. Collie asked that an escrow not be established. Supervisor Fox commented construction of the Jager Subdivision may not take place for several years, and he personally would not be in favor of Mr. Collie's suggestion unless an escrow or letter of credit was established at this time. Supervisor Bennington and Chairman Bennett agreed. Mr. Collie suggested an escrow be posted for this work prior to either the release of a certain number of building permits, or at the time of request for dedication of interior streets within the subdivision. Solicitor Grabowski explained that the Board's concern is that the Jager Subdivision may never be constructed, and therefore, there would be no security in place to complete these specific improvements. Discussion took place.

Supervisor Fox asked the developer to consider making a donation to the local fire company which will be serving this proposed development. Due to the overwhelming cost of this project, Mr. Collie respectfully declined.

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

1. Mr. Horrocks noted the Board of Supervisors met in Executive Session prior to this meeting in order to discuss personnel matters.

2. Mr. Horrocks presented six escrows for the Board's consideration, five of which are bank held letters of credit, and one being cash held by the Township:

Bricks Villa Phase I	Voucher #29	\$	429.06
Country Roads Phases III & IV	Voucher #24	\$	3,043.06
Off-the-Wall	Voucher #5A	\$	225.99

Orchard Glen Subdivision	Voucher #10	\$ 8,100.00
Orchard Glen Subdivision	Voucher #11	\$ 2,150.97
Schade Tract Subdivision	Voucher #12A	\$ 100.55

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to authorize release of the six escrows as stated above.

3. Mr. Edward Rims had a variance request before the Zoning Hearing Board recently, which was denied. The applicant is now appealing that decision to the Court of Common Pleas. Mr. Horrocks is requesting Board authorization to allow the Township Solicitor to defend that Zoning Hearing decision.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to authorize the Township Solicitor to attend the appeal hearing for the Rims case.

4. Mr. Horrocks advised the Police Benevolent Association has enacted the signature page of a labor agreement for the period of 1997, 1998, and 1999. Mr. Horrocks is requesting Board authorization and approval of the agreement.

The following main points were addressed and agreed upon in this contract:

- Percentage increases in base salary over the next three years are 4%, 4.5%, and 5%.
- The previous contract had a two-year step in salary grade to a full officer salary. The present agreement has a five-year step in salary grade to becoming a full salary officer.
- The longevity bonus has been increased from \$50.00 per year to \$75.00 per year for any officer with five continuous years of employment with Hilltown Township.
- The agreement will allow the Chief of Police to call a departmental meeting with officer attendance to be paid at only one hour of overtime.
- No changes were made to vacation time, personal days, reserve of vacation, or holiday time.
- A major revision was made with regard to sick leave. Previously, an officer was entitled to 400 hours per year of paid sick leave with a doctor's note. The new agreement allows for short and long term commercial disability policies, thereby eliminating "self-insured sick leave" of 400 hours with a doctor's note.

- Structuring of the 12 hour shift the officers have been working since mid-year of 1996.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to adopt the police agreement as stated above.

5. The Bucks County Hazardous Waste Collection will take place at the Upper Bucks Tech School on Ridge Road on Saturday, May 17, 1997 from 10:00AM to 3:00PM for Hilltown Township residents.

M. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Congressman Greenwood has scheduled a neighborhood meeting to be held at the Hilltown Township Municipal Building on June 2, 1997 from 7:00PM to 9:00PM.

N. LINENS FOR SIGNATURE: None.

O. PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Mrs. Jean Bolger asked how residents are notified that Move In-Move Out permits are required. Chief Egly explained most realtors are aware of the requirement and notify new homeowners of the permit. Further, notification to residents has been given numerous times in the Township newsletter.

2. Mr. John Bolger asked the purpose of a Move-Out permit. Chief Egly replied it is a system to insure that taxes are paid.

P. SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS: None.

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

R. ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion by Supervisor, seconded by Supervisor, and carried unanimously, the May 12, 1997 Worksession meeting was adjourned at 9:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynda Seimes *Lynda Seimes*
Township Secretary

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