

**HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULARLY SCHEDULED WORKSESSION MEETING
Monday, April 8, 1996
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
Jack C. Fox, Supervisor
Bruce G. Horrocks, Township Manager
George C. Egly, Chief of Police

Chairman Bennett announced the Board and the Township Manager met in Executive Session prior to this meeting to discuss personnel matters.

A. APPROVAL OF CURRENT BILLING: Chairman Bennett presented the Bills List, dated April 9, 1996, with General Fund payments in the amount of \$46,415.24; State Highway Aid payments in the amount of \$6,576.27; and Escrow Fund payments in the amount of \$4,977.35; for a grand total of all funds in the amount of \$57,968.86.

Supervisor Fox questioned the bill from Jerry's Auto Body for repair of the 1993 Caprice in the amount of \$1,301.97. Chief Egly explained that amount was the reimbursement from the insurance company for repair of a police vehicle following an accident.

Motion was made by Supervisor Fox, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to approve the Bills List dated April 9, 1996, subject to audit.

B. HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY REPORT - Mr. Jim Groff, Operations Manager - Mr. Groff read the Authority Report for the month of March, 1996 which is on file at the Township office.

C. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS - The Public Works Report for the period of March 3, 1996 through March 30, 1996 is on file at the Township office.

D. POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT - Chief George C. Egly - Chief Egly presented the Police Report for the months of January, February, and March, 1996, all of which are on file at the Township office.

E. ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT - The Zoning Report for the month of March, 1996, is on file at the Township office.

Chairman Bennett commented police vehicle mileage normally averages anywhere from 16,000 to 17,000, however in this month's report, the mileage is 20,000. Chairman Bennett asked if the increased mileage was due to weather related problems in the month of March. Chief

Egly explained the department is attempting to keep more accurate statistics on the number of calls in various areas of the Township this year, including the areas of the Rt. 309 corridor, Rt. 309 to Rt. 152, and the Rt. 152 to Rt. 313 areas. The percentage of police calls on the west side is 78.4%, the center section of the community is 12.4%, and the eastern side of the Township is 9.2%.

Supervisor Fox noted the increase in commercial thefts. Chief Egly agreed that commercial thefts have increased a great deal, and reminded the Board that these figures also include thefts by store employees.

Following extensive interviews and examinations, Chief Egly recommended the Board of Supervisors hire Mr. Kerry Karte, and Mr. John Gildea as Hilltown Township police officers. Chairman Bennett advised the Board met both gentlemen prior to this meeting, and were very impressed with their qualifications.

Supervisor Bennington commented both Mr. Karte and Mr. Gildea have excellent credentials and he feels they will make fine officers for the Hilltown Township Police Department.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to appoint Mr. John Gildea and Mr. Kerry Karte as Hilltown Township police officers.

F. PARK AND RECREATION REPORT - Mr. Nick Lupinacci, Chairman of the Park and Recreation Board - The Park and Recreation Report for the month of March, 1996 is on file at the Township office.

G. HILLTOWN FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT - Mr. Shawn Shade - Mr. Shade read the Hilltown Fire Company Report for the month of March, 1996, which is on file at the Township office.

H. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT - Mr. Bill Devlin - The Emergency management Report for the month of March, 1996 is on file at the Township office.

I. SILVERDALE FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT - Mr. Chuck Stockert - Mr. Stockert read the Silverdale Fire Company Report for the month of March, 1996 which is on file at the Township office.

Mr. Stockert presented in-depth quarterly reports concerning area growth and fire company operations to the Board of Supervisors.

Supervisor Bennington asked when Mr. Horrocks, Mr. Stockert, and Mr. Devlin will be attending the consolidation seminar. Mr. Stockert believes it is scheduled for May 16th and 17th.

J. CONFIRMED APPOINTMENTS: None.

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

1. Mr. Horrocks presented five escrow releases for the Board's consideration:

Bricks Villa	Voucher #16	\$ 1,717.74
Country Roads Phase II	Voucher #22	\$ 634.14
Hilltown Crossings	Voucher #13	\$ 29,771.10
Hilltown Crossings	Voucher #14	\$ 3,822.09
Hilltown Hunt	Voucher #14	\$ 3,907.51

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

2. Mr. Horrocks is seeking Board authorization to begin the bid process for the sale of the retired police car.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to authorize the bid process for the sale of the retired police vehicle.

3. At the last meeting, the Board authorized the bid for exercise stations along the jogging trail at the park. The price of the exercise stations is under the bidding requirement, and definitely within the phone quote requirement. Five different vendors were solicited for phone quotes, with only one written quote being received. Two other firms declined on the quotes, stating they could not provide the product as required.

The total cost of the project is \$6,180.00, of which \$5,000.00 will come from Representative Druce's legislative initiative grant of 1995. The balance of \$1,180.00 would come from the 1989 Bond Issue.

Supervisor Fox wondered why those two firms could not provide a bid for something as simple as exercise stations. Mr. Horrocks replied one of the firms did not give a reason, and the second firm was unable to supply two of the specific exercise stations required by the Park and Recreation Board recommendation. These particular stations included a sit-up station, and a leg lift exercise station, and their posts were also constructed of wood as opposed to steel, which was a requirement. Supervisor Bennington is a bit concerned because the quote is \$1,180.00 over and above the \$5,000.00 grant the Township received. Mr. Horrocks noted the actual cost of the equipment is \$4,330.00, with an installation cost of \$1,850.00. This is the same company who provided the tot lot for the park. Due to the potential of future liability, Mr. Horrocks explained the Township is far better off having this equipment installed by the vendor. Supervisor Bennington asked if

the liability insurance premium will go up due to the purchase of the new equipment. Mr. Horrocks noted the liability at the park is there, regardless of what equipment is added. Discussion took place concerning the proposed exercise stations. Mr. Horrocks advised there is a sit-up station, a leg lift station, a beam jump, a horizontal loop ladder, a body curl/sit-up station, a push-up station, and a chin-up station proposed.

Motion was made by Supervisor Fox, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to authorize purchase of the Playworld System exercise stations bid, in the amount of \$6,180.00.

4. Sgt. Ashby Watts has made a written request for funds in the amount of \$600.00 to provide for a banquet marking the tenth year anniversary of the Youth Aid Panel.

Supervisor Fox asked if funds are available under Community Service. Mr. Horrocks believes there are some funds available under Crime Prevention and in the Contingency Fund, which is a budgeted line item without any items designated for it.

Motion was made by Supervisor Fox, and seconded by Chairman Bennett, to authorize the expenditure of \$600.00 for the banquet marking the tenth year anniversary of the Youth Aid Panel. Supervisor Bennington abstained from the vote since he is a member of the Board of Directors of the Youth Aid Panel. Motion passed.

5. For the Board's information, correspondence has been sent to all ten individuals who had indicated a desire to serve on the Open Space Committee. The first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 17, 1996. Mr. Ted Evans, who is the chairperson of the Bucks County Open Space Task Force; Mr. William Mitchell, who is Executive Director of Bucks County Parks and Recreation; and Mr. Richard Harvey of Bucks County Agricultural Land Preservation will all be attending the meeting. Further, a supervisor from Warrington Township, whose municipality previously approved such a referendum, will attend; as well as a supervisor from Buckingham Township.

6. Mrs. Helen Birdell has supplied wording for the proposed sign to be placed on the Oscar Schmidt Bridge in the Pleasant Meadows development. Two informational type signs will be ordered and erected at the bridge.

L. CORRESPONDENCE: None.

M. RESIDENT'S COMMENTS: None.

N. SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:

1. Chairman Bennett advised the report from Mr. Stockert contains information concerning Silverdale Fire Company's purchase of a used set of the Jaws of Life. Chairman Bennett asked how many of the seven fire companies have the Jaws of Life. Mr. Shade of the Hilltown Fire Company advised not all companies have the Jaws of Life, however each company does have a rescue tool which is very similar. Those fire companies owning the Jaws of Life include Dublin, Hilltown, Silverdale, Perkasio, and Souderton. Chairman Bennett asked the average price of a Jaws of Life of a similar tool. Mr. Shade replied an average tool, such as a spreader, would cost approximately \$3,000.00 or \$4,000.00. Discussion took place regarding the cost of the various rescue tools.

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

P. ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion by Supervisor Fox, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously, the April 8, 1996 Board of Supervisors Worksession Meeting was adjourned at 8:22PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynda Seimes

Lynda Seimes
Township Secretary

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