

**HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULARLY SCHEDULED WORKSESSION MEETING
Monday, February 12, 1996
7:30PM**

The 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
Jack C. Fox, Supervisor
Bruce G. Horrocks, Township Manager
Francis X. Grabowski, Township Solicitor
C. Robert Wynn, Township Engineer
Thomas A. Buzby, Director of Public Works
Kerry L. Trauger, Lt. Detective
Warren L. Nace, Zoning Officer
Jim Groff, Operations Manager H.T.W.S.A.

Chairman Bennett announced the Board met in Executive Session on Sunday, January 28, 1996 in order to discuss labor negotiations and legal matters; and also met in Executive Session prior to this meeting to discuss legal and personnel matters.

A. APPROVAL OF CURRENT BILLING: Chairman Bennett presented the Bills List dated February 12, 1996, with General Fund payments in the amount of \$198,551.16; State Highway Aid payments in the amount of \$17,694.56; and Escrow Fund payments in the amount of \$12,019.00; for a grand total of all funds in the amount of \$228,264.72.

Supervisor Fox asked for clarification of the two bills from Bedminster Twp. for the traffic signal at Rt. 113 and Rt. 313. Mr. Horrocks explained one of those bills is for the electrical service and one of those bills is for repairs of the signal for the year. Supervisor Fox questioned the bill from MVS Inc. for a Docucam in the amount of \$4,825.00. Mr. Horrocks noted that bill is for the purchase of the final camera for police vehicles. Supervisor Fox questioned the bill on page 9 from Bergey's Jeep Eagle for a transmission in the amount of \$2,271.45. Unfortunately, Mr. Horrocks explained that Mr. Buzby's truck has a very unique transmission and it required replacement during the blizzard. Because this vehicle is automatic and a diesel, there were no transmissions available. When the State said they would reimburse municipalities for blizzard related situations, Supervisor Bennington asked if this cost would be covered. Based on previous experience, Mr. Horrocks believes some of the equipment repairs may be covered, but not many.

Supervisor Bennington questioned a bill on page 3 for reimbursement in the amount of \$312.04. Mr. Horrocks advised that is the reimbursement the Supervisors previously authorized to the Tax Collector for attendance at a State Convention.

Chairman Bennett questioned the two bills from Shapiro Fire Protection, one in the amount of \$388.80 and one in the amount of \$142.95. Mr. Horrocks replied those costs are for the re-charging and the re-certification of fire extinguishers. Chairman Bennett was appalled at the two bills from Nationwide Insurance for Workers Compensation, with one in the amount of \$14,405.00 and one in the amount of \$13,128.00. Mr. Horrocks explained those figures represent approximately 30% of the bill, and this is a budgeted item. Chairman Bennett noted the semi-annual convention of the Bucks County Association of Township Supervisors was held last Saturday and the speaker he was most impressed with was Joe Conti. Mr. Conti spoke about the outrageous cost of Workers Compensation in the state of Pennsylvania, which is among the highest in the nation.

Supervisor Fox questioned the bill from Targetron, Inc. for Infrared Sensors in the amount of \$1,990.00. Mr. Horrocks advised that was for the purchase of infrared sensors for E.S.P. detail, which is a speed trap. In lieu of the rubber tapes that are placed across the roadway, Mr. Horrocks noted these sensors are infrared eyes which shoot across the road. This was a budgeted item for 1996.

Mr. Horrocks mentioned that \$109,017.00 is also being paid in this Bills List to the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System which is from previous State Auditor audit findings dealing with both police and non-uniform pensions, going back as far as 1987.

Motion was made by Supervisor Fox, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to approve the Bills List, dated February 13, 1996, subject to audit.

B. HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY REPORT - Mr. Jim Groff - Operations Manager - Mr. Groff read the Water and Sewer Authority Reports for February, 1996, a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

C. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT - Mr. Thomas A. Buzby - Mr. Buzby read the Public Works Reports for the period of November 26, 1995 through January 6, 1996; and for the period of January 7, 1996 through February 3, 1996, copies of which are on file at the Township office.

In the past, Supervisor Bennington noted the Board has discussed the adoption of a Snow Emergency Ordinance and feels that now might be the time to consider it again. Mr. Buzby and Lt. Detective Trauger have been working on developing such an Ordinance for the Board's consideration. Under State law of the Vehicle Code, Lt. Det. Trauger noted there are no specific regulations concerning ice and snow being thrown into the roadway. PennDot has Title 67

regulations that only applies to State highways, but under the Crimes Code there is an escalating penalty. Lt. Det. Trauger agrees that a Snow Emergency Ordinance should be adopted for Hilltown Township.

Also, Lt. Det. Trauger commented that during the blizzard, police officers utilized our surplus army trucks because they were the only vehicles that could navigate through the snow.

Chairman Bennett expressed his appreciation for the fine job that Mr. Buzby and the Public Works Department do on a daily basis.

D. POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT - Lt. Detective Kerry Trauger - Lt. Detective Trauger presented the Police Report for the month of December, 1995, which is on file at the Township office.

Supervisor Bennington noted that in 1994, the Police Department charged 2,414 hours of overtime, yet in 1995, it totalled 2,323, minus 181 hours of reimbursed overtime.

E. ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT - Mr. Warren L. Nace - Mr. Nace read the Zoning Reports for the months of December, 1995 and January, 1996, copies of which are on file at the Township office.

F. PARK AND RECREATION REPORT - Mr. Nick Lupinacci - Mr. Lupinacci read the Park and Recreation Report which is on file at the Township office.

Mr. Lupinacci presented Recommendation #96-1 pertaining to the Comprehensive Plan relating to Parks and Recreation. The Park and Recreation Board is recommending that a professional be obtained to work in conjunction with that Board. In addition, four Park and Rec. Board members volunteered to attend one additional meeting each month to review and revise current plans. Mr. Lupinacci has extended an invitation to any interested Planning Commission members as well. Further, it was suggested that any of the interested applicants for the most recent vacancy on the Park and Recreation Board who were not chosen to fill that position, might consider serving on this Committee. Mr. George Spotts of the Bucks County Planning Commission indicated that he would be willing to meet with the Park and Recreation Board to assist in setting guidelines. Mr. Lupinacci requested authorization to allow Mr. Spotts to be included at the first meeting to be held at the end of this month or the beginning of next month.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to approve Recommendation #96-1 as specified by the Park and Recreation Board, to obtain professional assistance (up to \$4,000.00) to review and update the Park and Recreation Comprehensive Plan on an ongoing basis.

G. HILLTOWN FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT - Mr. Bill Devlin - Mr. Devlin read the December, 1995, and the January, 1996 Hilltown Fire Company Reports, copies of which are on file at the Township office.

Mr. Devlin presented a year end budget and report for the Supervisor's review. Mr. Devlin introduced squad members of the Hilltown Fire Company. The Board complimented Mr. Devlin on his thorough and professional presentation.

Mr. Devlin advised the developer of Hilltown Crossings will be placing preemption on the traffic signals at the intersections in front of the shopping center pending PennDot approval. Mr. Devlin has spoken to Mr. Horrocks about the possibility of establishing a new Ordinance concerning pre-emption on all new traffic signals installed in the future. Mr. Horrocks explained that pre-emption is a mechanism for fire trucks to go through traffic signals under their control of the signal.

Motion was made by Supervisor Fox, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to approve the pre-emption capability on the traffic signals at Hilltown Crossings being forwarded to PennDot for approval.

Supervisor Bennington noted that several residents have commented they are not happy with receiving donation forms from fire companies, and that they would rather have the Township raise the Fire Tax one mill to avoid it. Mr. Horrocks advised the Fire Tax is at its legal cap at 3 mills and can not be raised. The only thing the Township could do would be to adjust donations from the municipality to the seven existing fire companies.

H. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR REPORT - Mr. Bill Devlin - Mr. Devlin read the Emergency Management Reports for 1995, and for January, 1996, both of which are on file at the Township office.

A quarterly training session will be held at the Emergency Service Training School in Doylestown on March 20, 1996 to address the recent flood and snow emergencies with F.E.M.A. representatives in attendance.

I. SILVERDALE FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT - Mr. Darien Derstine - Mr. Derstine was in attendance in the absence of Mr. Stockert to present the Silverdale Fire Reports for December, 1995, and January, 1996, copies of which are on file at the Township office.

Mr. Derstine introduced some of the Silverdale Fire Company line officers.

*Chairman Bennett called a five minute recess.

J. CONFIRMED APPOINTMENTS:

1. Mr. George Collie - Heritage Building Group - Chairman Bennett advised that Mr. Collie will have a five minute time limit to present his case.

Mr. Collie commended all the volunteers who presented reports this evening, stating that this has been an interesting and impressive meeting.

Mr. Collie and his engineers, Mark Hintenlange and John Tressler, were in attendance to discuss the former Elysian Fields plan, now known as Orchard Glen. Mr. Collie was previously before the Board with a sketch plan. A new Subdivision/Land Development Ordinance was adopted after the applicant had completed the engineering for the plan and just prior to Mr. Collie's submission. Chairman Bennett noted the review and revision of the Subdivision/Land Development Ordinance was in process for approximately 8 years.

Supervisor Fox asked if the Planning Commission has reviewed this plan. Mr. Collie advised the plan has been filed and believes the Planning Commission may have seen it, but have not had a presentation by the applicant. Supervisor Fox noted this plan should go to the Planning Commission before it comes before the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Collie has tentatively tabled the plan until some of the issues could be resolved. The applicant is not adverse to appearing before the Planning Commission, however there are some key issues that the Supervisors must give direction on. Supervisor Fox understands that, however normally the Board of Supervisors do not react to any plans until a recommendation is received from the Planning Commission. Supervisor Bennington agreed that Supervisor Fox has a very valid point, and feels that the Planning Commission should not be circumvented by any development that appears before the Board of Supervisors. However, Supervisor Bennington is willing to give Mr. Collie time to ask for direction. Chairman Bennett agreed.

On the advice of the Township Manager, Mr. Collie commented he is paying for the attendance of the Township Solicitor and Township Engineer this evening.

Mr. Collie stated the former Elysian Fields is an approved final plan and presented a sketch plan of his proposal for the Orchard Glen development. This plan proposes 34 single family dwellings, including one existing house. The size of the lots meet the former Subdivision/Land Development Ordinance requirements, however there are some difficulties with meeting the new Subdivision/Land Development Ordinance requirements. Mr. Collie advised the former

Elysian Fields plan proposed 59 dwelling units, including 11 new singles, one old single, and 47 townhouse units. One of the issues Mr. Collie knows the Board is very concerned about is the new roadway which has a 56 ft. right-of-way, versus the former 50 ft. right-of-way. Mr. Collie knows that the Township's primary goal was to place the trees between the sidewalk and the curb, and he has a method to accomplish that if the Board allows him to do it. This would be to move the sidewalk back out with a 56 ft. space on either side. The 3 ft. difference would have an easement, provided it could still be counted as the lot area. Therefore, the sidewalk would be located in the position the Board would like to see it, the trees would be there as well; and yet the applicant would not lose 16,000 ft. which is what it amounts to on this particular project for calculation purposes.

Regardless of which Subdivision/Land Development Ordinance was in place at the time of the applicant's submission, Supervisor Bennington advised the planning by the former applicant was approved and included all the specifications as recommended by the Planning Commission and approved by the Supervisors. Therefore, Supervisor Bennington stated Mr. Collie is still bound by the original guidelines of the original plan that was approved. Mr. Collie did not argue that point, however he noted that there is now a problem attempting to accommodate the proposed 34 dwellings, which could be accomplished using the former Subdivision/Land Development regulations.

Further, Mr. Collie advised the new Ordinance calls for street lighting all through the development. Mr. Collie would like to propose one street light inside the development and one street light near Hillcrest Road, rather than throughout the entire subdivision. Supervisor Bennington believes the Township requires lighting at the driveway of each dwelling.

Also, Mr. Collie noted that the new Subdivision Ordinance states that driveways can not be closer to an intersection than 50 ft., and in the former Ordinance, that requirement was 40 ft.. Theoretically, Mr. Collie advised this new requirement will affect five lots.

Mr. Hintenlange commented another issue is that the buffer yard to the zoning open space was not on the existing plan. Obviously, this is not a subdivision issue, it is a zoning issue. Mr. Hintenlange asked if any zoning requirements have changed from the time the Elysian Fields plan was approved until now. Mr. Wynn replied that there have been many changes. The Ordinance does not allow the buffer yards to be included as part of the open space. Mr. Hintenlange asked if the applicant must adhere to the requirements in effect at approval of the Elysian Fields plan, or if they must conform to all new Ordinance requirements.

Mr. Horrocks stated the Supervisors should be aware that any modification of the formerly approved Elysian Fields plan would entail revisions in order to adhere to new Subdivision/Land Development Ordinance requirements.

By working in conjunction with the Planning Commission and Mr. Wynn, Mr. Collie would be willing to present the plan, using the former Ordinance requirements, as well as attempting to meet as many of the new Ordinance requirements as possible. Supervisor Bennington stated he personally can not give Mr. Collie any direction until this plan has been before the Planning Commission for their direction. Chairman Bennett commented he does prefer the Orchard Glen plan over the Elysian Fields plan since it reduces the number of dwelling units from 59 to 34.

Prior to appearing before the Planning Commission, Mr. Wynn believes the applicant should identify what areas of the two Ordinances they do or do not feel they can comply with. Further, Mr. Wynn stated the applicant has only touched the tip of the iceberg with regard to the revisions made in the new Subdivision/Land Development Ordinance. For instance, with recreational facilities, Mr. Collie's plan does not propose any, however both the Subdivision Ordinance and the Zoning Ordinance require recreational facilities. With regard to street improvements on Orchard Road, Mr. Wynn explained this original plan proposed off-site improvements of curbing, sidewalk, and road widening beyond the limits of the site to the intersection. Mr. Wynn stated the approved plan also included curbing and widening on the opposite side of the road for approximately three properties to the intersection, as well as the lowering of the vertical curve. Solicitor Grabowski feels Mr. Collie has put Mr. Wynn in an unfair position because Mr. Wynn has not even finished his engineering review. Solicitor Grabowski asked if the Planning Commission is able to intelligently review this plan without Mr. Wynn's review letter and the Bucks County Planning Commission's review. Mr. Wynn does not feel that they can. Mr. Collie stated part of the problem is due to the double Ordinance situation that exists. Solicitor Grabowski feels that Mr. Collie knows he must comply with the present Subdivision/Land Development Ordinance which was adopted on December 26, 1995. If Mr. Collie wishes to ask for relief of that requirement, Solicitor Grabowski stated the applicant will have to go through a more formal procedure consisting of a written request for the Township to consider amending its Subdivision and/or Zoning Ordinance to allow for what is being requested.

Solicitor Grabowski asked if Mr. Wynn should continue with his review of the plan that was filed. Mr. Collie replied Mr. John Tressler of Bouchet and James would like to meet with Mr. Wynn to discuss the issue and he is willing to pay Mr. Wynn for his time.

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

1. Mr. Horrocks recommended Board approval of an Agreement between Hilltown Township and the Hilltown Township Municipal Employees Bargaining Unit, which includes the Public Works Department employees (other than the Director of Public Works). This is a two year Agreement which offers a 3% salary increase in each year of the contract.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to approve the 1996-1997 two year agreement between Hilltown Township and the Non-Uniform Employees.

2. Mr. Horrocks is seeking Board approval to name Mr. J. Steven Britsch as the Public Works Shop Foreman and Mr. Michael Moyer as the Public Works Road Foreman. These are new titles as being offered in the Municipal Employees Bargaining Unit, and are at the recommendation of the Director of Public Works, Mr. Thomas A. Buzby.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to appoint Mr. J. Steven Britsch as Public Works Shop Foreman, and to appoint Mr. Michael Moyer as the Public Works Road Foreman.

3. Mr. Horrocks presented two Escrow Releases for the Board's consideration:

Hilltown Crossings	Voucher #09	\$ 3,480.15
Hilltown Crossings	Voucher #10	\$ 44,732.30

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to release the two Escrows as noted above.

4. The Ad-Hoc Quarry Expansion Committee, which has been authorized by the Supervisors to meet, has prepared a written recommendation for the Board's consideration. The recommendation follows:

If and when Haines and Kibblehouse officially presents the Township with a private petition to change zoning for TMP #15-34-84 from Rural Residential to Quarry, the Committee unanimously recommends the Board of Supervisors hire qualified experts to review all the reports and findings of the applicant's experts and report their results to the Board of Supervisors. The committee also recommends the Board of Supervisors negotiate with Haines and Kibblehouse for complete reimbursement to the Township for all costs incurred by the Township regarding Township hired qualified experts.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to approve the Ad-Hoc Quarry Expansion Committee recommendation, as stated above.

5. Mr. Horrocks is offering Resolution #96-11 for the Board's consideration, which is a revision to the Building, Zoning, and Miscellaneous Fee Schedule for 1996. The only change is that legal non-profit corporations applying to the Zoning Hearing Board would be charged 25% of the non-residential use fee.

Motion was made by Supervisor, seconded by Supervisor, and carried unanimously to **adopt Resolution #96-11, amending the Building, Zoning, and Miscellaneous Fee Schedule for 1996, as it applies to Section VI, "Application to Zoning Hearing Board for Legal Non-Profit Corporations."**

6. With Board approval, Mr. Horrocks would like to offer to Township employees a number of options dealing with their medical coverage. All of the options would be at the personal choice of the employee and in no way would the Township remove medical coverage that is currently available. In any case, all of the options being considered would be less expensive for Hilltown Township.

Motion was made by Supervisor Fox, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to authorize Mr. Horrocks to pursue investigation with the employee's health coverage, as specified above.

7. Mr. Horrocks is seeking Board approval to authorize the Township Solicitor to remove a municipal lien on the property of Joseph and Ann Kelly. This lien has been satisfied.

Motion was made by Supervisor Fox, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to authorize the Township Solicitor to remove the municipal lien against the Joseph and Ann Kelly property.

8. The Planning Commission has recommended that the vacancy created by Mr. Charles Barclay's resignation be filled by Mr. Daniel J. Paci.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to appoint Mr. Daniel J. Paci to fill the vacancy on the Planning Commission for a five year term.

Chairman Bennett believes Mr. Paci will be a very qualified and capable addition to the Hilltown Township Planning Commission. Supervisors Bennington and Fox agreed.

9. The applicant for the Fretz Land Development located on Spur Road, is requesting to move into the maintenance stage of their development.

In November of 1995, Mr. Wynn explained the applicant was to have their improvements complete. All items were complete at that time except for the installation of a light on the front of the property, which has since been accomplished. Mr. Wynn recommends that the Board allow the escrow for the Fretz Land Development to be reduced to 15% and to commence the 18 month maintenance period.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to all the escrow for the Fretz Land Development to be reduced to 15% and to commence the 18 month maintenance period.

L. CORRESPONDENCE - Mr. Bruce G. Horrocks, Township Manager -

1. The Board of Supervisors have been invited to participate in Silverdale's Centennial Anniversary Parade to be held on Saturday, June 29, 1996.

2. Correspondence has been received from the Perkiomen Valley Watershed Association requesting funding due to recent flooding.

Supervisor Fox feels sympathy for the Perkiomen Valley Watershed Association, however he does not believe the Township has the funds available to assist organizations outside the area. Supervisor Bennington and Chairman Bennett agreed.

3. Correspondence was received from P.E.C.O. with regard to swimming pools and clearance requirements as to National Codes. Upon further research, Mr. Horrocks noted the Zoning Ordinance states that no swimming pool shall be located beneath power lines. Apparently, the National Code states that no swimming pools shall be located within ten feet, horizontally, of any power line. Perhaps this issue could be addressed the next time the Zoning Ordinance is amended.

4. Correspondence has been received from the Bureau of Reclamation, which is a department of the Bureau of the United States Department of Interior, concerning the data for cost of requested upgrades on the Dublin TCE Phase II site. Mr. Horrocks noted this process is ongoing and there is an expected start date of the project of June 1, 1996.

Solicitor Grabowski advised that he has prepared a rough draft agreement with Dublin Borough and would like to review it with Mr. Horrocks and Mr. Wynn.

Supervisor Bennington asked for a status report on the upgrade to a 12 inch line that was previously discussed. Solicitor Grabowski has learned that the cost of upgrading the line would be borne by Hilltown Township; but that the actual water service to the affected customers may not take place for another two years. Solicitor Grabowski feels the major issue is whether or not the funds should be expended at this time when service will not be provided for another two years. Supervisor Bennington thought the Supervisors had authorized the Authority to do whatever was necessary regarding the upgrade of the 12 inch lines since Hilltown Township was not paying for the upgrade. Solicitor Grabowski agreed that was true, however he believes the ultimate question is whether anyone should pay \$28,000.00 now when there will not be water service for at least two years. This matter has not yet come to a formal vote of the Water and Sewer Authority.

Supervisor Fox questioned a section of this letter which states they expect Hilltown Township to pay the connection fees to Dublin Borough. Mr. Horrocks explained that because we are dealing with two different Federal departments, being E.P.A. and the Department of the Interior, they can not pay each other. E.P.A. will pay Hilltown Township, and the Township will then pay the Department of the Interior.

Chairman Bennett noted the ownership of the line will be that of the Hilltown Water and Sewer Authority. With respect to Chairman Bennett's comment, Mr. Horrocks stated that in all the meetings he attended, he has never expressed an answer to any of the parties involved as to who will have ownership of that line and who will be responsible for the billing. Chairman Bennett believes the Board previously decided to leave it up to the Water and Sewer Authority. Supervisor Fox agreed. Supervisor Bennington feels the Authority should be responsible for billing customers for water usage. At some point, Mr. Horrocks stated the Board of Supervisors must officially establish by motion who will be in charge of the operation and maintenance of the water line. If that designation is made to the Authority, Mr. Horrocks believes a water service district must be established for them. Solicitor Grabowski agreed that the Township should consider whether they wish to provide a water service district in the Dublin area, and if so, to what extent. Dublin Borough has stated they will serve only the customers that are listed on the enclosure of the letter from the Bureau of Reclamation. Supervisor Bennington's point is that Hilltown Township should not be in the business of billing residents for water, because he feels that is the responsibility of the Hilltown Township Water and Sewer Authority. Solicitor Grabowski will speak to the Authority about this matter at their meeting this Wednesday.

5. Mr. Horrocks requested that the Township Engineer's office conduct a site inspection on January 29, 1996 at the location on Rt. 152 near the wellhouse. An emergency complaint was received by the Township from a property owner that day. After inspection by the Township Engineer's office, it appears the basin is functioning as it should.

6. Correspondence was received from Mr. Gary Deckert of Sellersville, who is not a Township resident, commending the Hilltown Township Public Works Department for their fine work during recent snow and ice storms.

7. Mr. Horrocks noted the Water and Sewer Authority has filed a plan to construct a water tank on Township property on Rt. 152, near the Civic Park. The Board had suggested Mr. Horrocks discuss this issue with the Park and Recreation Board for their recommendation, however at their last meeting, they were unable to agree upon any recommendation. The plan is presently before the Planning Commission for comments.

M. RESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

1. Mr. Ray Fegley of 105 Rosewood Drive was in attendance representing the Telford Volunteer Fire Company to present their 1995 Annual Report. This report is on file at the Township office.

Supervisor Bennington stated he recently received two certified letters, one from Souderton Fire Company and one from Telford Fire Company, advising that both companies were resigning as active members of the Fire Prevention Bureau. Supervisor Bennington recalls that all seven fire companies previously authorized Chief Egly to review the entire structure of Hilltown Township, with the concurrence of the Board of Supervisors and with the stipulation that a recommendation would be given to the Supervisors. Supervisor Bennington noted no formal recommendation was ever given to the Board of Supervisors. Supervisor Bennington feels it was very premature for the Souderton and Telford Fire Companies to resign from the Fire Prevention Bureau before any formal recommendation was made to the Board of Supervisors. As long as Supervisor Bennington is a Supervisor, he stated no fire coverage area changes would ever be made without the complete agreement of all seven fire companies and the approval of the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Fegley is not fully aware of the entire circumstances behind this issue, however it was discussed at a departmental meeting. The understanding was that without Supervisor knowledge, there were some meetings and information that transpired between fire departments and representatives of the Township which precipitated that action.

Supervisor Bennington was very upset by this and will personally speak to the respective chiefs of the Souderton and Telford Fire Companies.

Mr. Horrocks noted the Board of Supervisors were not made aware of this situation because a formal recommendation was not yet forwarded to them. Without the Director of Public Safety present at meeting, Mr. Horrocks suggested that this issue not be addressed at this time.

2. Mr. John Perritt of 203 Goldenrod Court, was in attendance to discuss the proposed Orchard Glen development. Mr. Perritt has reviewed both the former Elysian Fields plan, and the new Orchard Glen plan, and from speaking to neighboring residents, they would favor 34 single homes rather than 59 townhouses. Mr. Perritt is also concerned about traffic in the area.

Further, as president of the Silverdale Fire Company, Mr. Perritt has only become involved within the past two or three months with the issue previously discussed. Mr. Perritt understands Supervisor Bennington's confusion because the fire companies were also taken aback by what transpired with the changes in the fire contracts. The Silverdale Fire Company understood that the review being done by Chief Egly would be presented to the Fire Prevention Bureau for further discussion and their ultimate recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. However, according to Mr. Perritt, the fire companies received a proposed fire contract in the mail, with no opportunity for discussion. Mr. Horrocks noted that no fire company officer was asked to sign those proposed fire contracts. The contracts were to be discussed at the February Fire Prevention Bureau meeting and those members who attended the December Fire Prevention Bureau meeting were aware of that. Mr. Horrocks stated the proposed fire contracts were not to be signed until the Fire Prevention Bureau discussed and made recommendations. In speaking with officers of other fire companies, Mr. Perritt advised they were also led to believe that those contracts were to be signed. Without the presence of Chief Egly, Mr. Horrocks was very reluctant to discuss this issue any further. Mr. Perritt agreed that this discussion should not take place tonight and commented the Silverdale Fire Company will also be forwarding a letter to Mr. Horrocks, however they have no intention of resigning from the Fire Prevention Bureau.

Supervisor Bennington suggested that all seven fire chiefs attend the next Supervisor's meeting when Chief Egly is present. Mr. Horrocks noted a letter was sent to all fire chiefs advising that this matter will be addressed publicly at the February 26, 1996 Board of Supervisor's meeting.

3. Mr. John Snyder stated the Hilltown Fire Company is in the process of purchasing a 12' by 20' frame wood-floored storage shed for their equipment at Station 61. The cost will be approximately \$1,800.00 to \$2,000.00. Mr. Snyder believes that a zoning and building permit will be required. There is no heat and no electric proposed, and it will be set on a stone base with cement piers or blocks. There will be no permanent foundation. Mr. Snyder asked the Board to waive the necessary fees for building and zoning permits for the Hilltown Fire Company.

Motion was made by Chairman Bennett, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to waive the zoning and building fees for the Hilltown Fire Company for their proposed storage shed.

N. SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS: None.

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

P. ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously, the February 12, 1996 Worksession meeting of the Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors was adjourned at 10:20PM.

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).