

**HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REORGANIZATION MEETING
Tuesday, January 2, 1996
7:30PM**

The 1996 Hilltown Township Reorganization Meeting began at 7:50PM.

A. SELECTION OF TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to appoint Supervisor William H. Bennett, Jr. as Temporary Chairperson.

B. SELECTION OF TEMPORARY SECRETARY: Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to appoint Mr. Bruce G. Horrocks as Temporary Secretary.

C. CALL TO ORDER: The Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors Reorganization Meeting of January 2, 1996 was called to order and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance were Supervisor William H. Bennett, Jr., Supervisor Kenneth B. Bennington, Supervisor Jack C. Fox, and Mr. Bruce G. Horrocks, Township Manager.

D. OFFICER ELECTIONS: Nominations were made for the positions of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to appoint Supervisor William H. Bennett, Jr. as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for 1996.

Motion was made by Supervisor Fox, seconded by Chairman Bennett, and carried unanimously to appoint Supervisor Kenneth B. Bennington as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for 1996.

E. OFFICER APPOINTMENTS: Nominations were made for the positions of Township Secretary and Treasurer for 1996.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to appoint Mrs. Lynda Seimes as Township Secretary for 1996.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to appoint Mr. Bruce G. Horrocks as Treasurer for 1996.

F. PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS: The following motions were made by the Board of Supervisors for the positions as stated:

1. Township Manager - Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to appoint Mr. Bruce G. Horrocks as Township Manager for 1996.

2. Chief of Police and Director of Public Safety - Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to appoint Mr. George C. Egly as Chief of Police and Director of Public Safety for 1996.

3. Director of Public Works - Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to appoint Mr. Thomas A. Buzby as Director of Public Works for 1996.

4. Code Enforcement Officer - Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to appoint Mr. Michael Gardner of East Rockhill Township, as Code Enforcement Officer for 1996.

5. Assistant Code Enforcement Officer - Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to appoint Mr. Bruce G. Horrocks as Assistant Code Enforcement Officer for 1996.

6. Zoning Officer - Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to appoint Mr. Warren L. Nace as Zoning Officer for 1996.

7. Assistant Zoning Officer - Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to appoint Mr. Bruce G. Horrocks as Assistant Zoning Officer for 1996.

G. PROFESSIONAL SERVICE APPOINTMENTS:

1. Township Solicitor - Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington and seconded by Chairman Bennett to appoint the firm of Grabowski Associates as Township Solicitor for 1996. Supervisor Fox was opposed. Motion passed: 2:1:0.

2. Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor - Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to appoint the firm of Grim, Biehn, Thatcher and Helf as Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor for 1996.

3. Township Engineer - Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to appoint the firm of C. Robert Wynn Associates as Township Engineer for 1996.

4. Township Certified Public Accountant - Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to appoint the firm of Niessen, Dunlap and Pritchard as Township Certified Public Accountants for 1996.

5. Township Depository - Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to appoint Union National Bank as the Township Depository for 1996.

H. BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

1. Planning Commission - Candidates will be interviewed by the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors before appointing an individual to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Mr. Charles Barclay.

2. Zoning Hearing Board - Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to reappoint Mr. Charles Grasse to a three year term on the Zoning Hearing Board.

3. Water and Sewer Authority - Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to reappoint Mr. Scott Tagg to a five year term on the Water and Sewer Authority.

4. Park and Recreation Board - Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to reappoint Ms. Beatrice Waite and Mr. William Trimbey to five year terms on the Park and Recreation Board.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to appoint Mr. John Keim to complete the remainder of a four year term on the Park and Recreation Board.

5. Vacancy Board - Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to reappoint Mr. Feryl Spaninger to a one year term on the Vacancy Board.

6. Emergency Management Coordinator - Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to reappoint Mr. William Devlin, Sr. to a one year term as the Emergency Management Coordinator.

7. Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator - Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to reappoint Mr. Robert Grunmeier, II, to a one year term as the Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator.

8. Agricultural Officer/Emergency Management - Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to reappoint Mr. Kevin Bishop to a one year term as the Emergency Management Agricultural Officer.

I. RECOMMENDATION OF TREASURER'S BOND LIMIT: Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to recommend the Treasurer's Bond Limit of \$750,000.00 for 1996.

J. EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTION TO PENSION FUND: Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution #96-1, resolving that Hilltown Township will not require any pension contribution from the Hilltown Township Police for the year 1996 and to adopt Resolution #96-2, resolving that Hilltown Township will not require any pension contribution from the Non-Uniform Employees for the year 1996.

K. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING DATES FOR 1996: Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution #96-3, accepting the Board of Supervisors meeting dates for the year 1996, including worksession meetings where the Board may take action as required.

L. PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING DATES FOR 1996: Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution #96-4, accepting the Planning Commission meeting dates for the year 1996, including regular and worksession meetings, with the changes as noted.

M. NON-UNIFORM HOLIDAYS FOR 1996: Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution #96-5, establishing the following holidays for 1996:

Monday, January 1	New Years Day
Friday, April 5	Good Friday
Tuesday, April 23	Primary Election Day
Friday, May 24	Day before Memorial Day
Monday, May 27	Memorial Day
Thursday, July 4	Independence Day
Friday, July 5	Floating Holiday
Monday, September 2	Labor Day
Tuesday, November 5	Election Day
Thursday, November 28	Thanksgiving Day
Friday, November 29	Day after Thanksgiving
Wednesday, December 25	Christmas Day

N. ADOPTION OF THE 1996 FEE SCHEDULE FOR BUILDING, ZONING AND MISCELLANEOUS FEES: Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution #96-6, establishing a fee schedule for building, zoning and miscellaneous items for 1996.

O. ADOPTION OF 1996 TAX RATES: Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution #96-7, establishing Tax Rates for the 1996 year, which are as follows:

Real Estate	9 mills
Earned Income	1/2%
Per Capita	\$10.00
Real Estate Transfer	1/2%
Amusement Tax	10%
Fire Protection Tax	3 mills
Occupation Priv. Tax	\$5.00
Debt Service	6 mills
Fire Hydrant Tax	Special Assessment
Street Lights	Special Assessment

P. ADOPTION OF TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE: Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution #96-8, accepting and authorizing the 1996 Tax Anticipation Note in the amount of \$300,000.00.

Q. ADOPTION OF AGRICULTURAL SECURITY AREA (ACT 43): Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution #96-9, establishing an Agricultural Security Area for Hilltown Township in accordance with Pennsylvania Act 43 of 1981, Agricultural Area Security Law, as amended.

R. APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATE TO STATE CONVENTION: Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to appoint Mr. William H. Bennett, Jr. as voting delegate for 1996 to the annual State Convention in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

*Chairman Bennett adjourned the January 2, 1996 Board of Supervisors Reorganization Meeting upon arrival of District Justice Gaffney to swear into office newly elected Supervisor Kenneth B. Bennington. The regularly scheduled Reorganization meeting was reconvened five minutes later.

S. MANAGER'S REPORT:

1. Mr. Horrocks presented an application for Supervisors attendance at the Bucks County Association of Township Officials Annual Convention.

2. Mr. Horrocks noted the Township completed 1995 with a balance of approximately \$125,000.00.

T. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

U. SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:

1. Supervisor Bennington thanked the voters of Hilltown Township for re-electing him to a second six year term. Supervisor Bennington truly enjoys being a Supervisor and commented he would not have run for a second term if he did not. Supervisor Bennington referred to his old campaign brochure from the first time he ran for office, and noted that the present Board of Supervisors, including former Supervisor Betty Kelly, have really accomplished a great deal during the past six years. The main issues included controlled development based upon guidelines of the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance; fully supporting all volunteer fire companies in and around Hilltown Township and funding them to the best of our ability; encouraging industry to locate in Hilltown Township to insure a broader tax base; plan for State mandated recycling; open communications between boards and authorities and the Supervisors; as well as hiring the best qualified administrators to run Hilltown Township. Supervisor Bennington believes Hilltown Township has an outstanding administrative staff, public works department, and police department.

Supervisor Bennington has thought a great deal about keeping Hilltown Township "green" by allowing open space to remain open, as opposed to the wholesale development that is expected within the next few years. Supervisor Bennington believes now is the time to act by asking Hilltown residents, via a referendum on the April 1996 ballot, if they favor Hilltown Township borrowing as much as four million dollars to preserve open space. He understands that both Warrington Township and Buckingham Township voters have approved similar referendums. The only way to gauge public support for the Township is to proceed by either purchasing land or purchasing development rights from those who will be developing their properties with large numbers of lots. Supervisor Bennington feels that purchasing land or development rights is much cheaper than supporting development, and will keep the Township much greener. If there is a great deal of development in this Township, it will result in higher school taxes for Pennridge based upon educating additional students, police services, fire protection, and municipal services. Supervisor Bennington feels that putting this referendum on the ballot will save money in the long run by saving additional taxes and by keeping the ground open and free from development.

Supervisor Bennington asked his fellow Supervisors to think long and hard about his suggestion, and stated he would make a formal motion at the next meeting.

2. From what Supervisor Fox has seen in other municipalities, there actually would be a savings by following Supervisor Bennington's suggestion, which he is certain would work to the benefit of Hilltown Township. Supervisor Fox complimented Supervisor Bennington by stating this was one of his better suggestions.

3. Chairman Bennett concurred with Supervisor Bennington's earlier remarks regarding the quality of the management of Hilltown Township, with the major basic functions including administration and finance employees under the direction of Mr. Horrocks; the police department employees under the direction of Chief Egly; and one of the finest public works departments anywhere under the direction of Mr. Buzby. Further, Chairman Bennett thanked all members of various boards and commissions who volunteer their time to contribute to the Township.

With regard to Supervisor Bennington's comment about open space, Chairman Bennett feels everyone is in favor of that. He has mentioned both here and at the Civic Association meetings that he would like to see an 18 hole golf course in this community which would make great use of open space area. Chairman Bennett is always concerned about raising the bill for the taxpayers. Four million dollars is a great deal of money. The current Debt Service is 6 mills for a \$2.5 million dollar loan. Therefore, a four million dollar loan could easily be a 10 mill annual increase for a twenty year period. There are some other options available, including Bucks County's low cost loan program on a matching basis, which would not have to be repaid in full for ten years. Mr. Horrocks has been looking into that option. At the present time, there are at least four residential developments going on in Hilltown Township which total close to 200 new dwellings.

4. Mr. Horrocks commented that Hilltown Township has many very dedicated and qualified employees who enjoy working for this municipality.

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

W. ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion by Supervisor Fox, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously, the January 2, 1996 Reorganization Meeting of the Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors was adjourned at 8:23PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynda Seimes
Lynda Seimes, Township Secretary

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