

**HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORKSESSION MEETING
Monday, November 13, 1995
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
Thomas Buzby, Director of Public Works
Warren L. Nace, Zoning Officer

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

A. APPROVAL OF CURRENT BILLING: Chairman Bennett presented the Bills List dated November 14, 1995, with General Fund payments in the amount of \$31,291.95; State Highway Aid payments in the amount of \$14,879.89; and Escrow Fund payments in the amount of \$4,846.32; for a grand total of all funds in the amount of \$51,018.16.

Supervisor Fox questioned the two bills from Reese's Garage, both for Car #6 and both for oil/filter/lube jobs, but at different prices. Chief Egly suggested the car number could have been a typographical error, or possibly Car #6 received this service twice in this particular billing period because 3,000 more miles had been put on the vehicle. On page 6, Supervisor Fox questioned the bill from Silverdale Borough for fines in the amount of \$864.50. Chief Egly explained Judge Gaffney's office, even though they were asked not to, has been sending Silverdale Borough's fines to the Township in error.

Motion was made by Supervisor Fox, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to approve the Bills List, dated November 14, 1995, 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 October 1995, which is on file at the Township office.

Concerning the Dublin area water situation, Supervisor Fox has heard that Dublin Borough has no intention of selling the Township any water, except for those homes affected by T.C.E.. Mr. Groff commented a joint meeting could be arranged between the Board of Supervisors and the Authority to further discuss this matter. Mr. Horrocks is certain representatives of E.P.A. would also be willing to attend in order to answer any questions. Mr. Horrocks suggested

the Board commit to purchasing bulk water from Dublin Borough for any existing T.C.E. contaminated homes located in Hilltown Township.

Motion was made by Supervisor Fox, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to announce to E.P.A. that Hilltown Township is willing to sign an agreement to purchase bulk water from Dublin Borough for those existing homes whose wells are contaminated with T.C.E..

C. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT - Mr. Thomas A. Buzby - Mr. Buzby read the Public Works Report for the period of October 1 through October 28, 1995, which is on file at the Township office.

D. POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT - Chief George C. Egly - Chief Egly read the Police Report for the month of October 1995, which is on file at the Township office.

Supervisor Bennington noted the difference in police overtime from 1994 to 1995. The year-to-date figure for 1994 was 2121 hours, and the year-to-date figure for 1995 is only 1971 hours, which does not include subtraction of the reimbursed overtime hours. Supervisor Bennington feels the Police Department has been doing a fine job of keeping overtime costs down.

Chairman Bennett has received complaints about certain school busses traveling at high rates of speed on Upper Stump Road. Chief Egly has also received complaints and has attempted to catch them in the act, to no avail. Chairman Bennett wondered if it might be prudent to contact the Plumstead Christian School to make them aware of the situation. Chief Egly will do that.

Supervisor Fox has noticed that District Court and Bucks County Court appearances are on the rise, and asked if that was due to motorists contesting their tickets. Chief Egly advised that is true in the case of District Court appearances, however with County Court cases, this tends to happen at the end of the year so that calendars can be cleared before the start of the new year.

E. ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT - Mr. Warren L. Nace - Mr. Nace read the Zoning Report for the month of October 1995, which is on file at the Township office.

Supervisor Bennington asked what the Zoning Hearing appeal by C.D. Moyer entails. Mr. Nace replied C.D. Moyer is hoping to redesign their entire property by adding an extension to an existing building and reorganizing their operation procedures. The applicant stated the work flow is not conducive to today's business climate and they want the products, waste and storage to move in a more chainlike fashion. C.D. Moyer is requesting not only an

expansion of the non-conforming use, but also an overall revision of the entire site, including roadway improvements. Mr. Horrocks believes all of the proposed expansion is located to the rear of the property. The plans Mr. Nace has seen show a great improvement for the whole site.

Supervisor Bennington asked what Blooming Glen Restorations is requesting in their upcoming Zoning Hearing appeal to be held on December 7, 1995. Mr. Nace explained the site is a non-conforming lot and the applicant is hoping to redesign the parking area.

During a recent road inspection, Supervisor Fox noted there was a billboard for Bearings and Drives on their property at the corner of Cherry Road, and asked if they have applied for a sign permit. Mr. Nace will look into the matter.

F. PARK AND RECREATION REPORT - Mr. Les Lombardi, Chairman - Mr. Lombardi read the Park and Recreation Report for the month of October 1995, which is on file at the Township office.

Mr. Lombardi advised the Park and Recreation Board will be interviewing candidates to fill the vacancy. The January meeting has been designated as a special worksession to discuss the Park and Recreation Comprehensive Plan.

Chairman Bennett noted it cost the Township approximately \$3,200.00 to have the donated field lights dismantled and delivered to the Civic Park, and asked if Mr. Lombardi has an estimate of cost to erect those ballfield lights at the park. Mr. Lombardi replied Mr. Horrocks is getting prices for the poles, which will be at a height of 60 feet. To do a complete lighting job, Mr. Lombardi believes another 4 to 6 lights will be needed.

Supervisor Fox asked when the Supervisors approved lighting the baseball field instead of the tennis court. Supervisor Fox felt that erecting any lights at the park goes against past recommendations by the Board concerning no nighttime park use. Mr. Lombardi explained lights to be used on the tennis courts are completely different from those lights on the baseball field. Further, it was the Park and Recreation Board's original intent for lighting on the tennis courts to be metered using a token system on an as-needed basis. When the Park and Recreation Board heard about the light donation from Kevin Carney, the Board actually spent several months discussing where the lights would be used. The Park and Recreation Board decided to use those lights on the baseball field for several reasons, such as more income could be generated by holding more games; and also more outside groups such as American Legion, Babe Ruth, etc., would be encouraged to use the field with lighting. Supervisor Fox feels that there was very little planning involved in what the Park and Recreation Board has

decided. Mr. Horrocks is not certain of the exact date, however he knows that a number of months ago a recommendation came from the Park and Recreation Board concerning use of those donated lights on the baseball field, which was approved by the Board of Supervisors at that time. Supervisor Fox asked how late the lights on the baseball field will be on, believing it will be an annoyance to neighboring homeowners. Mr. Lombardi advised the baseball field lights will only be used when a game is being played during evening hours. Mr. Lombardi commented one of the reasons the Board has suggested using higher poles is that all the lights will be facing in towards the ballfield, from the outfield direction, so that none of the light will be illuminating anything other than the park area. Supervisor Fox does not agree that the Township should make the field more attractive to other baseball teams, thereby bringing in more teams from outside the area to use the Township's field. Supervisor Fox believes the park should be used primarily by Township residents. Mr. Lombardi feels that many of the teams who presently use the baseball field are comprised of a good number of Township residents. Mr. Lombardi does not believe the intent of erecting lights on the field is to draw in groups from outside the Township. Supervisor Fox feels Mr. Lombardi's whole premise of attempting to bring in better teams to play on the field is being done with Hilltown Township taxpayer's money.

Mr. Lombardi has resigned from his position on the Park and Recreation Board because he is moving to the Bethlehem area. Chairman Bennett explained Mr. Lombardi became chairman of the Park and Recreation Board in November of 1991. Since that time, the Township has seen a tremendous amount of progress in Park and Recreation facilities for the ultimate benefit of our children. The Board of Supervisors presented Mr. Lombardi with a Proclamation, which states:

"Whereas Les Lombardi has tendered his resignation as Chairperson of the Hilltown Township Park and Recreation Board, and whereas Les Lombardi has been a leader in the recreation programs and in the development of the Blooming Glen Playground and the Hilltown Civic Association Park of Hilltown Township; and whereas Les Lombardi will be remembered fondly by the Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors for his positive outlook on parks and recreation in Hilltown Township. Now therefore, on this the 13th day of November, 1995, do we, the Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors, hereby proclaim Les Lombardi to be an advocate of community parks and recreation programs."

Mr. Lombardi thanked the Board and recognized Mr. Horrocks, Township Manager, and Mr. Buzby, Director of Public Works, for their fine efforts in the establishment of park and recreation facilities in Hilltown Township.

The Park and Recreation Board recommended that the Board of Supervisors continue to lease the former municipal building to the Friends of the Pierce Library for 1996.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to extend the lease to the Friends of the Pierce Library for their use of the former municipal building for the year 1996.

G. HILLTOWN FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT - Mr. William Devlin - Mr. Devlin read the Hilltown Fire Report for the month of October, which is on file in the Township office.

Mr. Devlin asked the Board if they have reached a decision concerning the presentation Mr. Grunmeier made last month for a donation, possibly from the funds provided by the Hilltown Crossings development, to purchase a new truck. Mr. Devlin advised the Hilltown Fire Company is very close to finalizing the purchase of a new truck, and they must be aware of their financial situation. Supervisor Fox commented the Township is not certain of what the actual dollar figure of the contribution will be once the sanitary sewer installation in that area is complete. Supervisor Fox noted there are communities in Bucks County who charge developers, per house or per building, for use of their fire companies, and felt the legalities of such an arrangement should be researched for Hilltown Township. Chairman Bennett advised the Supervisors recently received a draft of the 1996 budget and he is personally not in a position to commit funds for any reason at this time.

Mr. Devlin asked if the burning ban has yet been lifted. Mr. Horrocks stated he would address that issue during the Manager's Report.

Mr. Devlin wondered if the Board has given any consideration to establishing the position of Hilltown Township Fire Marshall. The Board has not had time to review this matter, and will give it serious consideration before rendering a decision.

With regard to the recently adopted Burning Ordinance, Supervisor Fox noted the Ordinance states that residents must contact the responding fire chief to alert them of a burn. With many residents wishing to burn leaves at this time of year, Supervisor Fox felt this Ordinance requirement places a great burden on the seven fire chiefs. Mr. Devlin totally agreed, stating he would like notification of a burn to be handled through the police department. Mr. Horrocks explained that the Fire Prevention Bureau, comprised of all seven fire chiefs, voted in favor of that particular requirement. Discussion took place concerning various other options for notification. Mr. Horrocks reminded the Board that

when the Burning Ordinance was adopted, they had agreed to review it in six months. Perhaps the Board should review the Ordinance now. Chief Egly has documented calls the police department has received and the Board will review that information.

Mr. Horrocks asked the Supervisors to officially remove the temporary burning ban which was imposed several months ago, since the drought is now over.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to extinguish the burning ban in Hilltown Township. Until the Burning Ordinance is again reviewed by the Supervisors, Mr. Horrocks will contact the remaining five fire chiefs to advise that the burning ban is no longer in effect.

H. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT - There was no Emergency Management Coordinator report this evening.

I. SILVERDALE FIRE CHIEF REPORT - Mr. Chuck Stockert - Mr. Stockert was recently elected chief of the Silverdale Fire Company and asked to be a regular agenda item at the Worksession meeting. Mr. Stockert presented the Board with a copy of the Silverdale Fire Company 1996 Budget, which was approved at their last business meeting.

Mr. Stockert explained the Silverdale Fire Company is establishing a Quick Response Service to assist ambulances on medical calls within their district, which includes Hilltown Township. There are currently eight emergency medical technicians in the Silverdale Fire Company. All funds were donated to the Silverdale Fire Company to start this new Quick Response Service unit by the various ambulance corps. serving the district.

Mr. John Gillespie read the Silverdale Fire Report for the month of October, which is on file at the Township building.

I. CONFIRMED APPOINTMENTS: None.

J. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Mr. Horrocks advised the Planning Commission and the Supervisors have received the comment review letter from the Bucks County Planning Commission concerning the revised Subdivision/Land Development Ordinance. The Hilltown Planning Commission will review this letter and Mr. Horrocks hopes that they will ask the Board for authorization to advertise a Public Hearing for the possible adoption of this document.

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

1. Mr. Horrocks announced that six salt bids were received from the following vendors - Yardville Supply Company, Oceanport Industries, Akzo Nobel Salt, Cargill, Continental Salt, and Morton Salt. Mr. Buzby will open the bids and organize them for the Board's review later in this report.

2. The Planning Commission interviewed two candidates for the vacancy on that board at their last worksession meeting and recommended the Board appoint Mr. John Kachline to the vacancy.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to appoint Mr. John Kachline to the vacancy on the Hilltown Township Planning Commission, to complete the remainder of the term which expires on December 31, 1999.

3. Mr. Horrocks is seeking direction as to how the Foreign Fire Funds should be distributed to the seven fire companies who service Hilltown Township. Mr. Horrocks advised the total dollar amount for disbursement is \$65,593.84, which includes an increase of \$3,587.00 over last year.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to distribute the 1995 Foreign Fire Tax increase to the seven fire companies in an equal dollar distribution.

4. Mr. Horrocks presented a new T.E.S.T. Team agreement for the Board's approval and signature following this meeting.

Motion was made by Supervisor Fox, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to approve and sign the new T.E.S.T. Team agreement.

5. For the Board's information, Mr. Horrocks presented a proposed Sewer Use Ordinance which has been drafted by Telford Borough Authority and reviewed by the Township Solicitor. Solicitor Grabowski will be seeking Board authorization at the second meeting in November to advertise this Ordinance for Public Hearing.

6. A bill has been passed by the Governor of Pennsylvania dealing with the increase of compensation for Township Supervisors. The increased compensation is for newly elected Supervisors only. Action on this matter must take place in December of 1995.

Since this Board is concerned about the cost of Supervisors to the taxpayers, Supervisor Fox is sure that any newly elected Supervisor would be willing to defer this extra compensation.

7. Mr. Horrocks and Mr. Buzby are in the process of reviewing a revised Ordinance prepared by the Township Engineer concerning Highway Occupancy. Unless the Board specifically recommends it, Mr. Horrocks has no intention of forwarding it to the Hilltown Planning Commission for review since it deals strictly with the technical aspect of Township roadways under the expertise of the Director of Public Works. According to the Municipal Planning Code, Supervisor Fox believes highway occupancy permits fall under the category of "site plans," and feels the Planning Commission should review the proposed Ordinance. Mr. Horrocks noted the proposed Ordinance is not addressing where a new driveway would be located, but rather how the driveway is to be constructed. Supervisor Bennington does not feel it is necessary to have this proposed Ordinance reviewed by the Planning Commission, and Chairman Bennett agreed.

8. Mr. Horrocks explained the Township licenses all contractors performing work in Hilltown Township. The 1996 renewal applications are about to be sent to all those contractors who are licensed in 1995 at a fee of \$50.00. It has come to our attention that a number of neighboring municipalities offer a monetary discount for those contractors renewing their license for the following year if the applications and fees are returned in December of the previous year. This would allow the Township to administer the contractor's licenses prior to the "rush" normally experienced in January and February. Mr. Horrocks recommended the Board allow a discount to contractors who renew in December.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to authorize a \$5.00 discount for those contractors who renew their license for 1996 in the month of December, 1995.

9. Mr. Horrocks provided the first draft of the 1996 General Fund Budget. Mr. Horrocks asked for Board authorization to advertise a Budget Worksession to be held on Friday, November 24, 1995 at 11:00AM.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to authorize advertisement of a Budget Worksession meeting to be held on Friday, November 24, 1995 at 11:00AM.

10. With regard to the Salt bids, Mr. Buzby advised Cargill Salt provided the lowest bid with a price of \$33.99 per ton.

The remaining bids were as follows:

Oceanport Industries - \$34.75/ton
Continental Salt Inc. - \$37.70/ton

Akzo Nobel Salt	-	\$39.85/ton
Yardville Supply	-	\$42.96/ton
Morton Salt Int.	-	\$34.31/ton

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to accept the bid from Cargill Salt for sodium chloride in the amount of \$33.99/ton for 500 tons of salt.

11. Mr. Horrocks stated two Supervisors received an anonymous postcard concerning the use of the Township postage meter for Deep Run Valley Sports Association mailings. Mr. Horrocks asked the president of Deep Run to write a letter, which he presented to the Board for their review. This letter explains that the Deep Run newsletter is mailed out by non-profit bulk rate postal permit from Dublin post office. Further, the Deep Run Valley Sports Association is audited every year and they do keep records. Deep Run Valley Sports Association minutes are mailed via postage which is purchased by their secretary and reimbursed by their treasurer. Mr. Horrocks asked for a letter of explanation from Deep Run because he was concerned about the implication that he is involved with Deep Run Valley Sports Association. Mr. Horrocks noted he is no longer involved with Deep Run and has not been for several years now. Mr. Horrocks explained the postage meter in Hilltown Township is in fact used by himself and other employees, however that postage is actually purchased, and records of those purchases are so noted in the official receipt book. If Mr. Horrocks has used the Township postal meter for any outside organization mailings, the Township is reimbursed by check from that organization. Mr. Horrocks wished to address this matter publicly for the record.

Chairman Bennett has no problems with the way reimbursement for postage is being handled at present, and has no personal doubts about the Township Manager's integrity. It aggravates Supervisor Bennington that he received an anonymous postcard from someone who obviously has no clue that Mr. Horrocks is no longer involved with Deep Run Valley Sports Association and who attempted to cast aspersion on the Township Manager. Supervisor Fox thought it was the policy of this Board that any anonymous correspondence received by the Township is ignored. It is a policy, as far as Chairman Bennett is concerned, and he admires Mr. Horrocks for bringing this matter to the Board's attention at a public meeting.

L. RESIDENT'S COMMENTS: None.

M. SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:

1. When Supervisor Bennington ran for office six years ago, he would like to think that the residents were voting for him personally, however he feels they may have been voting against Mr.

Grunmeier as much as they were voting for him. During the past election, Supervisor Bennington ran unopposed, yet he appreciates the support of an overwhelming number of Hilltown residents who took the time to phone and visit him to thank him for a job well done. Supervisor Bennington is not pleased about a number of advertisements published in the News Herald and written by certain groups in the Township, which basically stated inconsistencies, inaccuracies, and total falsifications. By placing these advertisements, the organizations involved attacked Supervisor Bennington and Chairman Bennett over the last six months. However, Supervisor Bennington is willing to forgive and forget at this time, except for several people that he will never forgive because they attacked him personally. These people know who they are. Supervisor Bennington wished to clarify that he is not speaking of Supervisor Fox when he made that last statement. Supervisor Bennington pledged to maintain civility in the future with his fellow Supervisors.

2. Supervisor Bennington believes the next important issue before the Township will be the expansion of the quarry in 1996. Supervisor Bennington suggested that a committee be formed, consisting of residents and Township officials, in order to study and discuss the different options that may be available. If the Township receives a private request for a change in zoning, Mr. Horrocks noted the Board has no recourse but to hold Public Hearings. Supervisor Bennington commented he was not attempting to circumvent Public Hearings, rather he felt that these matters could be discussed prior to a request for a change in zoning before Public Hearings are held. Supervisor Fox agreed that such a committee would be helpful in this situation.

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

O. ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously, the November 13, 1995 Board of Supervisors Worksession meeting was adjourned at 9:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynda Seimes

Township Secretary

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