

**HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP
REGULARLY SCHEDULED WORKSESSION MEETING
Monday, March 13, 1995
7:30 P.M.**

The 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
George C. Egly, Chief of Police
Thomas A. Buzby, Director of Public Works
Warren Nace, Zoning Officer
Lynda Seimes, Township Secretary
Lorraine Leslie, Bookkeeper

A. APPROVAL OF CURRENT BILLING: Chairman Bennett presented the Bills List dated March 14, 1995, with General Fund payments in the amount of \$51,529.72, State Highway Aid payments in the amount of \$2,204.41, and Escrow Fund payments in the amount of \$577.30, for a grand total of all funds in the amount of \$54,311.43.

Supervisor Fox questioned the bill in the amount of \$8,400.00 from Niessen, Dunlap and Pritchard for auditing services. Mrs. Leslie advised this is the first payment to N.D.P. for 1995.

Supervisor Bennington noted the bills from PP&L for repair of the flashing lights at Our Lady of Sacred Heart School, which Mr. Godek brought to the Board's attention at the last meeting. Both signals are operating properly at this time.

Chairman Bennett questioned the bill from Earlington Transmission in the amount of \$975.00. Mr. Buzby explained that payment was for the repair of the transmission in the one-ton dump truck.

Motion was made by Supervisor Fox, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to approve the Bills List dated March 14, 1995, subject to audit.

B. MANAGER'S REPORT: Chairman Bennett commented Mr. Horrocks is celebrating his 25th wedding anniversary on a cruise in the caribbean.

C. CORRESPONDENCE: None.

D. CONFIRMED APPOINTMENTS: None.

E. HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY REPORT: No member of the Authority was present. The Hilltown Township Water and Sewer Authority Report for the month of February, 1995 is on file at the Township office.

F. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT - Mr. Thomas A. Buzby - Mr. Buzby read the Public Works Report for the period of February 5, 1995 through March 4, 1995, which is on file at the Township office.

Mr. Buzby presented information for the Board's review concerning the new pavement maintenance program. This program is new to the United States, the technology has been brought over from France, and has been approved by PennDot. Mr. Buzby is looking at the possibility of trying it on a section of Green Street. The program features advantages not currently experienced with the materials being used by the Township at present. For instance, with this material, it is possible to drive on immediately behind the machine. Also, they claim you can get approximately 5 to 6 more years of wear from this material. The initial cost may be more, however the materials will last longer. Presently in the United States, there is one piece of equipment available to perform this work. Patent rights had to be secured from the French government. The process involves a combination of presently used materials and new types of materials. Mr. Buzby understands that the materials could be obtained from H & K Quarry. The municipalities who have utilized this new system have been very pleased with the results. Chairman Bennett asked if the Township will be acquiring test materials to try. Mr. Buzby replied he can not obtain test materials, however he will visit locations where the new material has been used, such as Buckingham Township and a stretch of Rt. 309.

Assuming there will be no more snow storms this winter, Supervisor Bennington asked how much surplus salt and cinder materials can be held for use next winter. Mr. Buzby estimates there is approximately 45 tons of salt in the maintenance building and approximately 15 to 16 truckloads of mixed material available.

Discussion took place concerning the work on the Civic Field park. Mr. Buzby rolled the outfield today. The dirt portion of the infield was never rolled last fall due to the wet weather. Mr. Buzby hopes by the end of this week that the area will be rolled. Supervisor Bennington asked if teams will be able to use the baseball field sooner than was originally planned. Mr. Buzby advised the area behind homeplate must still be filled with topsoil and seeded. Ideally, Mr. Buzby would like to establish grass in that area before the field is used for play. It is Mr. Buzby's recommendation that the ballfield not be used before June because at present, the water run-off drains to homeplate. The area behind homeplate must be raised with topsoil to remove some of the grade.

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

Chief Egly requested the Board pass a resolution for the "Cops More" grant application Detective Leyden is completing.

Motion was made by Supervisor, seconded by Supervisor, and carried unanimously to **adopt Resolution #95-19, authorizing William Leyden to be designated as Hilltown Township's contact person for the "Cops More" grant application.**

Chief Egly presented a request for confirmation of a new fire police officer for Hilltown Volunteer Fire Company.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to appoint Ms. Jadell Vile of 1824 Rickert Road, Perkaspie, to the Hilltown Fire Police.

Supervisor Bennington mentioned the two requests from Maureen Doyle, the interim manager of Perkaspie Borough, for the use of fire police on May 29, 1995. Supervisor Bennington recommended that no fire police be loaned to Perkaspie Borough for that date, since the dedication ceremony at the park will also be held on May 29, 1995. The Board was in agreement.

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

Mr. Nace requested the Board's direction concerning a zoning violation issued on January 17, 1995, which has prompted no response from the violator to date. Mr. Nace inspected the property last week and the sign is still in place. Section 700.1 of the Zoning Ordinance states that any sign that is altered must have a permit.

Motion was made by Supervisor Fox, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to take the owner of TP #15-29-60 to District Justice for a sign violation.

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

Mr. Lombardi advised a joint worksession meeting was held with the Board of Supervisors and the Park and Recreation Board last Thursday evening. Three recommendations by the Park and Recreation Board were submitted for the Supervisor's review.

Recommendation #95-1 - The Hilltown Township Park and Recreation Board recommends the attached discount rates following their field usage requests:

Faith Christian Academy - \$500.00 for 22 - 26 three hour sessions for games and practices on the baseball field. They could also pay a \$500.00 signage fee, plus the cost of the sign.

Deep Run Valley Sports Association - \$1,500.00 for 82 - 86 three hour sessions for games and practices for three to four teams on the field. They could also pay for three signs at \$500.00 each plus the cost of the sign. Deep Run also requested the use of the soccer field for Spring Cup, with ten possible dates. The Park and Recreation Board recommended \$100.00 for 10 three hour sessions for games only on the soccer field.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to adopt the Park and Recreation Board Recommendation #95-1 regarding reduced field usage rates.

Recommendation #95-2 - At its regularly scheduled meeting on March 9, 1995, the Hilltown Township Park and Recreation Board voted by a majority to recommend to the Township Supervisors that the Township purchase two-sided plywood signs up to 30" by 70" in size, painted with green enamel paint and lettered with gold vinyl letters, for the Civic Field and the Blooming Glen Park.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to adopt the Park and Recreation Board Recommendation #95-2, concerning the signs at the Civic Field and Blooming Glen Parks, as specified above.

Recommendation #95-3 - At its regularly scheduled meeting on March 9, 1995, the Hilltown Township Park and Recreation Board voted by a majority to recommend to the Township Supervisors that the Township lease 4' by 7' aluminum signs for the ballfield fence at the Civic Field. The recommended fee structure is that the advertiser pay for the production of the billboard and pay the Township \$100.00 the first year, \$200.00 the second year, and \$200.00 the third year. This fee structure would apply only to passive advertisers. (A passive advertiser being defined as a person or organization that does not use the facility on a frequent or regularly scheduled basis). All advertising commitments made, based on this fee structure, would be for three years.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to adopt the Park and Recreation Board Recommendation #95-3, concerning passive advertiser signs on the ballfield fence at the Civic Field, as specified above.

On Wednesday, March 15, 1995, the Park and Recreation Board will meet at 7:00PM with a commercial realtor to tour the former municipal building to determine what improvements would be necessary to lease or rent the unused portion of that building.

The program for the Memorial Day Dedication ceremony at the Civic Field is progressing nicely. The event will be held on Monday, May 29, 1995 beginning at 10:00AM. The Pennridge High School Band will perform at 12:00 Noon. There is a full schedule of events running from 10:00AM until 4:00PM. The raindate for the park dedication will be held on Saturday, June 3, 1995.

The Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, April 8, 1995 at the Civic Field park, with events beginning at 10:00AM. The age group times have been moved closer together to prevent delays. Literature will be distributed at the egg hunt concerning the park dedication to be held on Memorial Day. The rain date for the Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, April 15, 1995.

J. HILLTOWN FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT - Mr. William Devlin - Mr. Devlin read the Hilltown Fire Company Report for the month of February, 1995, which is on file at the Township office.

On April 22 and 23, 1995, the Perkasio Fire Department and the Hilltown Volunteer Fire Department will be attending classes at Reading Community College concerning building construction and building collapse.

K. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT - Mr. William Devlin - Mr. Devlin read the Emergency Management Report for the month of February, 1995, which is on file at the Township office.

On April 30, 1995, an Operations Level HazMat Training will be held with Hilltown Fire Department and Silverdale Fire Department participating. The Supervisors will be invited to attend. Mr. Devlin has not yet determined a site for this training, it may be held at the Township maintenance garage if Mr. Buzby is willing to allow use of those facilities.

Mr. Devlin mentioned the major fires that have occurred over the past few weeks throughout the Township. As the Emergency Management Coordinator, Mr. Devlin would like the Board to consider officially appointing a Fire Marshall for Hilltown Township. Mr. Devlin feels combining the Fire Marshall position with the Emergency Management Coordinator position would be beneficial. Many neighboring townships and boroughs throughout Bucks and Montgomery Counties combine both positions with excellent results. If the Board were to appoint a Fire Marshall for Hilltown Township, that person would have more authority than the Bucks County Fire Marshall within this municipality. The Hilltown Fire Marshall could actually conduct inspections and perform code enforcement, where the Bucks County Fire Marshall can not do that. Public safety, investigations, and pre-planning issues could be addressed. Demonstrations could be given to civic groups concerning fire safety. It would also be a plus for the Supervisors to deal with

only one individual, as opposed to seven different fire departments. All information submitted to the Township by the various fire departments could be gathered and compiled by the Fire Marshall, thereby identifying similarities being experienced by the departments and possibly preventing tragedies. Mr. Devlin stated he and Mr. Grunmeier, Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator, would be willing to make a presentation to the Board of Supervisors as to the benefits of appointing a Fire Marshall for Hilltown Township.

Chairman Bennett believes this issue came before the Board back in the mid 1980's, however it was never adopted. Chairman Bennett asked how many Fire Marshalls there are in Bucks County. Mr. Devlin noted there are three Fire Marshalls in Bucks County but they can only conduct investigations, they have no authority to enforce safety codes within the Township.

At the last Fire Prevention Bureau meeting he attended, Supervisor Bennington understood that the chiefs in each of the seven fire departments was the Fire Marshall. Mr. Devlin replied that is incorrect. Hilltown Fire Department holds the State card for Hilltown Township. The chief of each individual fire department in their own borough or township, is the fire marshall, however Mr. Devlin noted that means nothing. If that person is not officially appointed by the Supervisors, Council, or Commissioners of the individual municipality, he has no authority. That person can do the paperwork and send it to the Pennsylvania State Police, but that is the extent of their authority. Mr. Devlin feels the position of Emergency Management Coordinator and the Township Fire Marshall go hand-in-hand with safety issues for the community. Chairman Bennett asked what authority the Hilltown Fire Marshall would have over the remaining six fire companies. Basically, Mr. Devlin replied, the Fire Marshall would act as nothing more than a liaison officer, coordinating reports and conducting inspections. This would allow the Supervisors to deal with only one person, allowing for a better informed Board.

Since Mr. Horrocks is not present this evening, and since he sits on the Fire Prevention Bureau with the seven fire companies, Chairman Bennett recommended this issue be brought up at their next meeting.

Mr. Devlin's father was killed responding to an arson fire in 1966, so this issue is very important to him. Mr. Devlin would like to see the appointment of a Fire Marshall in Hilltown Township.

Supervisor Bennington suggested that each of the seven fire chiefs be appointed as Fire Marshall of their individual area of coverage, instead of paying a salary to a Fire Marshall for Hilltown

Township. Mr. Devlin felt there would be a problem with dealing with seven different individuals, rather than one. Mr. Devlin believes the Supervisors would be better informed if there was one individual appointed as Fire Marshall. Further, Mr. Devlin stated the Township would not have to pay a salary to a Fire Marshall. He would be willing to take on that responsibility with no salary. Mr. Grunmeier would also be willing to be appointed as Assistant Fire Marshall with no salary.

Chairman Bennett commented this Board has worked very hard to cut costs to the bare minimum over the past three or four years, and they are not anxious to appoint a Fire Marshall to a salaried position. Again, Mr. Devlin offered his services, with no salary, for the position of Fire Marshall of Hilltown Township. Furthermore, Mr. Devlin pointed out, the appointment of a Fire Marshall could effectively generate revenue for the Township by requiring certain types of inspections.

Chairman Bennett stated the Board will take this issue under advisement and will speak to Mr. Horrocks about it when he returns from vacation.

L. RESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

1. Mr. John Snyder advised it was back in 1980 or 1981 when it was first proposed to have a Fire Marshall in Hilltown Township. At that time, Mr. Snyder was chairman of the Fire Commission. That was the only time that all responding fire companies annual reports were compiled into one. The Fire Marshall, if appointed, could do that on a monthly or an annual basis, for the Supervisor's review. This would facilitate recognizing and addressing trends throughout the entire Township. During that particular time, the big issue of concern was wood burning stoves and the hazards they created. Mr. Snyder believes the detriment to appointing a Fire Marshall back then was the salary. Some of the fire companies were opposed because they were concerned that funds allocated to the fire departments would go towards paying the salary of the Fire Marshall.

Mr. Snyder stated the Township must get past the point of fire suppression and move into the field of fire prevention. Mr. Snyder feels there is a lot of good that can come out of a Fire Marshall program.

With regard to the State Fire Marshall card, Mr. Snyder advised the State law is very specific. For example, when Mr. Snyder held that position as the chief of Hilltown Fire Company, they serviced a protection area in New Britain and Hatfield Township. Yet Mr. Snyder had no authority by State law, to step over that boundary into New Britain or Hatfield and serve as the Fire Marshall.

Mr. Snyder asked the Board to give serious consideration to Mr. Devlin's proposal this evening.

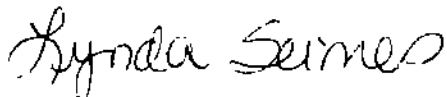
M. SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:

1. Chairman Bennett advised the Board met in Executive Session prior to this meeting to discuss personnel matters and will meet following this meeting as well, in order to continue their discussion.

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

O. ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion by Supervisor Fox, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously, the March 13, 1995 Board of Supervisors Worksession Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynda Seimes
Township Secretary