

1884

**HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULARLY SCHEDULED WORKSESSION MEETING
Monday, March 14, 1994
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
Thomas A. Buzby, Director of Public Works
George C. Egly, Chief of Police
Warren Nace, Zoning Officer

Chairman Bennett announced the Board of Supervisors and the Township Manager met in Executive Session prior to this meeting to discuss personnel matters involving an extra payment for an employee and legal matters involving Eagle Traffic Control.

A. MANAGER'S REPORT - Mr. Bruce G. Horrocks, Township Manager -

1. Mr. Horrocks asked the Board's consideration of a motion to authorize a \$3,000.00 payment to an employee, who to date, has worked 243 hours of uncompensated overtime, because he is a department head and exempt from overtime pay.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox and carried unanimously to authorize a \$3,000.00 stipend to one of the most efficient employees in any Public Works Department in any municipality, who has gone above and beyond the call of duty on a non-precedent setting basis for the past 2 1/2 months, to Mr. Thomas Buzby, Director of Public Works.

Chairman Bennett thanked Mr. Buzby for a job very well done, and stated not only do the Supervisors and the Township Manager appreciate the job he and his crew have done, but the Township residents do as well. Mr. Horrocks commented Mr. Buzby is also a very good teacher, recently showing him how to operate and drive the plow.

2. Mr. Horrocks requested a motion from the Board for the acknowledgement and release for Eagle Traffic Control Inc.. The release states that with their payment of \$2,750.00, which the Township has in their possession, Hilltown Township hereby releases and discharges Eagle Traffic Control Inc. from all claims, suits, and demands set forth in any civil action dealing with their former location.

Motion was made by Supervisor Fox, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to vote affirmatively on the release for those fines incurred by Eagle Traffic Control Inc., as specified above, and accepting a check in the amount of \$2,750.00.

1885
Page 2
Board of Supervisors Worksession Meeting
March 14, 1994

3. Mr. Horrocks spoke to Mr. John Dougherty of Bucks County Emergency Management Association today, and apparently their understanding is that F.E.M.A. has released forty million dollars to 28 counties in Pennsylvania. Hopefully, very soon, funds will be available to Hilltown Township for the period of January 4, 1994 through February 25, 1994. Mr. Dougherty believes 75% of those funds will be released. Without quoting a specific number, Mr. Horrocks guessed Hilltown Township could be receiving approximately \$35,000.00. If that happens, of course, it will be a tremendous boost to the budget. Chairman Bennett commented that would cover at least more than half of the Township's costs for snow removal during that time period. Mr. Horrocks advised F.E.M.A. is apparently going to include cost of materials, whereas a year ago they did not include material costs.

B. CORRESPONDENCE - Mr. Bruce G. Horrocks, Township Manager - None.

C. CONFIRMED APPOINTMENTS: None.

D. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT - Mr. Thomas Buzby, Director of Public Works - Mr. Buzby thanked the Board for the bonus awarded to him earlier this evening; and also thanked Mr. Horrocks and Mr. Joel Rosenberger, custodian, for their help plowing snow during the last storm.

Mr. Buzby read the Public Works Report dated February 6, 1994 through March 5, 1994, which is on file at the Township office.

Chairman Bennett asked if the Township is still paying \$85.00 per ton to purchase salt. Mr. Buzby replied the Township is in the process of returning salt we borrowed from East Rockhill Township and New Britain Township during the last storm. The last load of salt received by Hilltown Township was backordered from January 4, 1994, at a cost of \$34.00 per ton.

With regards to road conditions, Mr. Buzby commented the worst road in Hilltown Township is West Creamery Road, located right in front of the Township Building, which has blown up from water pressure beneath the surface. There are four separate roadways within the Township which will require total reconstruction.

Supervisor Bennington stated his neighbor was involved in a serious accident which took place near the intersection of Rt. 113 and Telegraph Road, involving a large pot hole on Rt. 113. Supervisor Bennington asked if PennDot is responsible for the damage to his neighbor's vehicle. Mr. Buzby does not know if PennDot would be legally responsible, and suggested the complainant contact a lawyer. Chairman Bennett recalls a similar incident which took place in the Sellersville area several years ago, where the

1886

complainant was compensated by either PennDot or Sellersville. Before this bad weather took place, Supervisor Bennington asked what roads Mr. Buzby had intended on seal coating or paving this year. At this point, Mr. Buzby is not sure which roads the Township will be working on this year. When the frost is finally over, probably in mid-April, Mr. Buzby will re-evaluate the roads in order to determine how much damage the Township roads have sustained. Chairman Bennett asked if a portion of Broad Street was on the original schedule for 1994. Mr. Buzby was hoping to do part of Broad Street this year, however he is not certain now which roads will be paved or seal coated this year.

During the last snow storm, Mr. Horrocks noted there were three police officers on duty who also did a fine job while dealing with hazardous road conditions. There was a 911 call that Sgt. Miller responded to, receiving nothing but praise from the person making that call.

As was discussed in the past, Mr. Horrocks is convinced the Township must adopt a snow emergency ordinance. During the last storm, during that 35 hour time period, with seven employees plowing snow, and with three police officers patrolling, Mr. Horrocks believes that at least 25 total man hours were spent dealing with vehicles stuck in snow drifts. Mr. Horrocks stated those vehicles should not have been on the roads during the snow storm. Mr. Buzby added that everyone thought the Blizzard of 1993 was bad, but he believes the drifts were much deeper during this last snow storm.

Chairman Bennett presented the \$3,000.00 bonus check to Mr. Thomas Buzby, Director of Public Works, and the Board thanked him for his dedication.

E. POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT - Chief George C. Egly - Chief Egly read the report for February, 1994 which is on file at the Township office. Chief Egly noted overtime costs are down for February of 1994 as compared to February of 1993.

F. ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT - Mr. Warren Nace, Zoning Officer - Mr. Nace read the Zoning Report for the month of February, 1994, which is on file at Township office.

Supervisor Bennington stated that during the last snow storm, he had the misfortune of traveling through Rt. 113 and Bethlehem Pike when the light came down. Once he reached his office, Supervisor Bennington contacted the Township building, discovering that Mr. Nace was the only employee here and he responded very quickly to Supervisor Bennington's request. Supervisor Bennington appreciated the effort Mr. Nace made in getting to the Township building that day. Chairman Bennett commended Mr. Nace for a job well done.

1837
Page 4
Board of Supervisors Worksession Meeting
March 14, 1994

G. HILLTOWN FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT - Mr. Robert Grunmeier, II - Mr. Horrocks advised Mr. Grunmeier would not be in attendance this evening.

Mr. Horrocks would like to schedule interviews for the position of Emergency Management Coordinator prior to the March 28, 1994 Supervisors meeting, if the Board is agreeable. There are four applicants interested in the position.

H. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT - Mr. Robert Grunmeier, II - Mr. Grunmeier was not in attendance.

I. RESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

1. Mr. Ward Sargent stated there is a sinkhole forming in front of his home on Diamond Street. Chairman Bennett advised Mr. Sargent to contact PennDot, since Diamond Street is a State highway.

2. Mr. Gillespie of the Silverdale Fire Company commended the Public Works Department on the fine job they have done throughout the winter.

J. SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS: None.

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

L. ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion by Supervisor Fox, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously, the March 14, 1994 Board of Supervisors Worksession meeting was adjourned at 8:25PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynda Seimes

Lynda Seimes

Township Secretary

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