

HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULARLY SCHEDULED WORKSESSION MEETING
Monday, December 13, 1993
7:30PM

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
Bruce G. Horrocks, Township Manager
George C. Egly, Chief of Police
Thomas A. Buzby, Director of Public Works
Eric D. Applegate, Code Enforcement Officer
Warren L. Nace, Zoning Officer

Chairman Bennett advised the Board met in Executive Session three times this month. The first was on Monday, December 6, 1993 with the Township Manager to discuss personnel matters relating to the budget, the second took place this evening, prior to this meeting, to discuss the Police Collective Bargaining Agreement, and the third will be another Executive Session following this meeting to discuss personnel matters relating to the budget.

Chairman Bennett announced the Board of Supervisors have reached a tentative agreement with the police department for their three year contract beginning January 1, 1994.

The regularly scheduled Worksession meeting will be adjourned at 8:00PM in order to conduct a Public Hearing to consider the adoption of an Ordinance reducing the speed of motor vehicles on Broad Street from the terminus of Hilltown Pike to the intersection of Upper Church Road.

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

1. Mr. Horrocks asked the Board to consider changing their regularly scheduled meeting date of Monday, December 26, 1994, since that will be a legal holiday next year. The Board was in agreement to change that meeting to Tuesday, December 27, 1994.

2. At the last meeting, the Board authorized the Zoning Officer to notify a party on Green Street that the Township would take potential sanctions against them if they continued conducting operations that a Court of Common Pleas judge has said is illegal, according to the Hilltown Township Zoning Ordinance. Mr. Horrocks has received two phone calls advising that the party located on Green Street is still conducting business. If the Board so desires, Mr. Horrocks is seeking authorization to contact the Township Solicitor to enact certain sanctions against that operator, who, apparently, is still performing the function they were told to cease.

Supervisor Fox suggested Mr. Horrocks visit the site himself in order to determine whether the business is still being performed. Mr. Horrocks has visited the site twice, however he has never seen it himself.

Motion was made by Supervisor Fox that if the illegal operation is still continuing at the site on Green Street, the Township should proceed with further action to the District Justice. Supervisor Bennington is concerned that the Township Manager might not actually see that the illegal operation is continuing, and the matter could go on indefinitely before it is resolved. Mr. Horrocks noted the person whom he received a phone call from today said they would be willing to testify in any court as to what they have seen.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Chairman Bennett, and carried unanimously to proceed to the next level of courts regarding the illegal operation on Green Street.

3. The Board has been presented with the second half payment to the seven responding fire companies that service Hilltown Township for the remainder of this year. Subtracting the reserve, there is \$63,000.00 available for disbursement through those fire companies. The payment should be made as soon as possible. Chairman Bennett noted the first payment in the amount of \$42,600.00 was made on July 1, 1993.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to authorize the same distribution to fire companies for the second payment of the year.

4. A request has been received from Gum Insurance concerning Public Officials Errors and Omissions in which they are seeking employment policies on recruitment, selection and separation. Upon reviewing the model policies given to Mr. Horrocks, he discovered that most, if not all of them, are referring to civil service jobs and positions, of which Hilltown Township does not have. Mr. Horrocks is requesting the Board to authorize the Township Solicitor to review the model policies, and to re-word them accordingly into policies that Hilltown Township could adopt.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to authorize review by the Township Solicitor of the model policies supplied by Gum Insurance regarding Recruitment/Selection and Separation for Hilltown Township administrative clerical personnel.

5. Mr. Horrocks updated the Board on the 1994 Budget, stating that since the last worksession meeting, the Township is still \$72,000.00 out of balance. Some significant changes have been

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made, both in revenues and expenditures. Mr. Horrocks has spoken to Silverdale Borough, and while they expressed their concern, if Hilltown Township chooses to raise the fee for police coverage by the 3% allowed by contract, they will not object. Chairman Bennett asked how much the 3% amounts to, and Mr. Horrocks replied it is approximately \$876.00.

One other change that has been made in the proposed budget is taking the \$17,800.00 budgeted number for the Hilltown Fire Company insurance, which includes property, liability, and vehicle, out of the General Fund and placing it into the Fire Tax Fund. Mr. Horrocks explained this is allowed, and as long as it does not affect payments to fire companies, no one would be shortchanged any monies they had previously received.

Chairman Bennett commented the most recent proposed budget is certainly an improvement from the original, which was short \$234,000.00. Chairman Bennett also noted the budget that is tentatively proposed is 6% less than our actual expenditures in 1993. Frankly, the Board has been looking at every line item in the budget, and additional cuts will have to be made.

B. CORRESPONDENCE: None.

C. CONFIRMED APPOINTMENTS: None.

D. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT - Mr. Thomas Buzby -

Mr. Buzby read the Public Works Report dated October 31, 1993 through November 27, 1993, which is on file at the Township office.

Chairman Bennett is pleased to see that guiderail was erected on the south side of Fairhill Road at Diamond Street. Mr. Buzby replied the guiderail project is presently underway, with nine locations remaining for installation.

Mr. Buzby advised the underground gas tank at the former municipal building has been removed. The Township is waiting for the test results on the stone surrounding the tank.

E. POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT - Chief George C. Egly -

Chief Egly read the Police Report for the month of November, 1993, which is on file at the Township office.

Chief Egly advised the Motor Vehicle Code was amended to allow for an increase in the fee for accident reports to \$15.00. In the past, Hilltown Township has been charging \$8.00 for accident reports. Chief Egly is requesting that the Board raise the fee for accident reports from \$8.00 to \$15.00 for 1994.

Chief Egly was recently questioned by a reporter as to Supervisor Bennington's remarks, which the reporter felt was chastisement, for Chief Egly going over his 1993 budget. Chief Egly believes his budget is fairly well under what was projected for this year. Supervisor Bennington asked when these supposed remarks were made and what exactly was said. Chief Egly does not know, and advised he directed the reporter to contact Supervisor Bennington personally. Chairman Bennett noted as of December 3, 1993, it appears the Police Department will come in approximately \$8,000.00 to \$9,000.00 under the original budget number. Further, Chairman Bennett does not recall Supervisor Bennington making any such remarks. Supervisor Bennington stated he merely suggested that the police portion of the budget was the largest part of Hilltown Township's overall budget, which is obvious.

F. CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT - Mr. Eric D. Applegate - Mr. Applegate read the Building Report for the month of November, 1993, which is on file at the Township office.

Chairman Bennett commented fees are down substantially in all categories from the previous year, and asked if Mr. Applegate foresees any significant improvement as far as building is concerned in 1994. Mr. Applegate believes there will be a slight increase in building for 1994.

G. 8:00PM - PUBLIC HEARING to consider the adoption of an Ordinance reducing the speed limit of motor vehicles on Broad Street, from the terminus of Hilltown Pike to the intersection of Upper Church Road.

Mr. Horrocks explained the Public Hearing was advertised on November 17, 1993 and November 24, 1993. Mr. Horrocks read sections of the proposed Ordinance, which follows: "The operation of any motor vehicle in excess of thirty-five (35) miles per hour on Broad Street in Hilltown Township, from it's terminus at Hilltown Pike to the intersection of Upper Church Road is hereby prohibited.

Motion was made by Supervisor Fox, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to **adopt Ordinance #93-6, reducing the speed of motor vehicles on Broad Street, from the terminus of Hilltown Pike to the intersection of Upper Church Road.**

*8:05PM - The Public Hearing was adjourned, and the Board reconvened the regularly scheduled Board of Supervisor's Worksession meeting at 8:05PM.

H. ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT - Mr. Warren L. Nace - Mr. Nace read the Zoning Report for the month of November, 1993 which is on file at the Township office.

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Chairman Bennett introduced Mr. Nace, the new part-time Zoning Officer.

H. HILLTOWN FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT - Mr. Robert H. Grunmeier, II - Mr. Grunmeier read the Hilltown Fire Department report for November, 1993, which is on file at the Township office. Mr. Grunmeier advised the refurbished unit is not due in until late January.

I. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT - Mr. Robert H. Grunmeier, II - Mr. Grunmeier has compiled a listing of equipment in his department, which includes one set of binoculars, two sets of work uniforms issued to himself and Mr. Tuttle, assorted notepads, pens, markers and stationary, two pocket pagers, assorted printed information pertaining to emergency management, and one field station. Mr. Grunmeier advised the field station was constructed by Mr. Tuttle and himself, however monies for it's construction came from the Emergency Management account.

Mr. Grunmeier asked if a replacement has been found for Emergency Management Coordinator. Mr. Horrocks replied the position will be officially advertised this week, and there are several people who have expressed interest in the position.

Mr. Grunmeier advised on December 15, 1993, the fourth quarter Bucks County Training Session will be held in the Emergency Services Training Center, which he plans to attend.

J. RESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

1. Mrs. Mary Muse of 1341 Blooming Glen Road, stated Hilltown Township was allocated monies by the State for installation of a traffic light at Diamond Street and Rt. 113. Mrs. Muse asked why that light was never installed. Chairman Bennett does not recall that the Township was allocated funds from the State for a traffic light. Chairman Bennett stated there were Community Development funds that the Board thought could be used to install a traffic light, however at that particular intersection, there were qualifications that could not be met. The qualification for which the Township was denied funds was due to the fact that the area is not low income. Mrs. Muse did not understand what income had to do with a traffic light. Chairman Bennett explained Community Development will only distribute funding when their requirements are met. Mrs. Muse feels a traffic light should be installed at that intersection since it is such a high traffic area and there have been many accidents at that intersection. Chairman Bennett stated \$4,500.00 has been spent to erect a flashing warning signal on Diamond Street, warning of the upcoming intersection. With the growing population in Hilltown Township, Mrs. Muse believes it would behoove the Township to

install a traffic light at that very dangerous intersection, and asked the Board to consider the possibility within the next two years. Chairman Bennett advised these things are always being considered, and wished to point out that there are literally dozens of "bad" intersections in Hilltown Township.

Supervisor Bennington asked Chief Egly how much a new traffic light might cost. Chief Egly believes the Township Engineer told him a new traffic light costs approximately \$75,000.00 - \$80,000.00, which is approximately 3 mills in tax money. Supervisor Bennington noted there are at least three intersections in Hilltown Township that could use traffic lights, including Rt. 113 and Diamond Street, Callowhill Road and Rt. 113, and Hilltown Pike and Callowhill Road. Therefore, it would cost approximately \$225,000.00 to install the traffic lights. Chairman Bennett commented that is the total amount the Township collects from real estate taxes. At the same time the Township was considering installation of a traffic light at the intersection Mrs. Muse mentioned, Chairman Bennett explained Silverdale Borough applied for funds to install a traffic light at Walnut Street and Rt. 113, which was considerably less expensive. Silverdale Borough was able to obtain most of that money through Community Development funding, because their study indicated that was a low income area, according to Community Development standards. Chairman Bennett stated the Board did consider using monies from the General Fund, however the last estimate received two years ago was approximately \$90,000.00.

If the Brickjalik property at the corner of Rt. 113 and Diamond Street is developed, Mrs. Muse asked what the chances might be to have a traffic light installed at that site. Chairman Bennett does not know, and stated the Township would have to re-study it at that time.

Since the Township is rapidly growing, Mrs. Muse asked if the Township has any concrete plans for the future. Chairman Bennett replied the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors approved a study last year called the Comprehensive Plan, which is normally updated every five years. The Comprehensive Plan is the overall comprehensive plan for the direction of the future growth of the Township. In addition to that, the Planning Commission is currently reviewing the updated Zoning Ordinance, which should be completed by April of 1994. Mrs. Muse asked if this includes the projected developments that have been proposed. Chairman Bennett replied that it does. Mrs. Muse asked about those developments that are still in the working stages. Supervisor Fox replied there will not be many of those due to the problems with the sewer plant and the lack of available EDU's for new developments. Only those developments that have been approved and can begin work within six months, have received EDU's. Once the available 400 EDU's are used, there will not be any available for a long time until a new

sewer plant is built. Mrs. Muse asked what the time projection might be for construction of a new sewer plant. Supervisor Fox replied the time period is projected as in excess of five years.

Since the community is developing at such a rapid rate, Mrs. Muse would like to state that the Hilltown Township Police Department is doing a fantastic job, not only with the residents, but with businesses as well. Mrs. Muse would not like to see Hilltown's Police force united with regionalization because of the large area of the community. Mrs. Muse feels Hilltown Township should maintain our own police force. Chairman Bennett stated this is a subject which has not been addressed at this time. The present police department encompasses approximately 60% of the budget.

2. Mr. Del Muse of 1341 Blooming Glen Road, who is also the owner of Frederick's Flowers in Hilltown Township, presented a newspaper clipping regarding the budget and the proposed DCA study of the Hilltown Police Department. Mr. Muse feels the study should have been done before the proposed budget was worked up. Mr. Muse does not see any attempts to lure businesses to Hilltown Township which would generate more revenue, yet the Board is suggesting a DCA study to determine whether the police force should be reduced or regionalized. Chairman Bennett noted if, after the study is completed, DCA would recommended an addition to the police department, there is no way the Township could financially deal with it. Mr. Muse asked what the Board's intentions are concerning following the DCA recommendations. In the previous study which took place five years ago, it was recommended that several officers should be added to the force, however that was not done. Chairman Bennett replied since that study, one new officer was hired. Any other additions to the police force could not take place because the Township could not afford it. Chairman Bennett stated if DCA recommended reducing the police force as it is today, he does not believe it could be done by way of contract requirements. As a business man, Mr. Muse relies on a solid police force, and hopes that there is no reduction of officers for Hilltown Township.

Chairman Bennett explained when working on the budget, it begins with revenues. The largest source of Township income is the Earned Income Tax, which accounts for approximately \$900,000.00 out of a \$2.3 million dollar budget and is the biggest single revenue. Revenue for the past few years and the rate of growth is also discussed before a dollar figure is arrived at. The Township has received absolutely no federal revenues since 1985, and no State revenues are received either, except partially for road work. This, unfortunately, is the bind that Hilltown Township has been in the past few years. Chairman Bennett noted taxes have been raised several times in the past few years, though personally, he is against raising taxes. The alternative to lay offs, unfortunately, is raising taxes. Chairman Bennett stated the Board

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of Supervisors have been working very hard the past few months to avoid raising taxes.

K. SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:

1. Mr. Horrocks presented linens for signature for the Hilltown Baptist Church Subdivision.

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

M. ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion by Supervisor, seconded by Supervisor, and carried unanimously, the December 13, 1993 Board of Supervisors Worksession meeting was adjourned at 9:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynda Seimes

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Township Secretary

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