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**HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULARLY SCHEDULED WORKSESSION MEETING
Monday, July 12, 1993
7:30PM**

The Worksession meeting of the Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman William H. Bennett, Jr. at 7:35AM, 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
Eric D. Applegate, Code Enforcement Officer
John Friel, Zoning Officer

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

1. The Township has received a request from Bolar Engineering, proposing site improvements at the WaWa Market, located at the intersection of Rt. 113 and Rt. 313. For the Board's information, the request will be forwarded to the Planning Commission for their review and recommendations.

2. The property owners of 611 Hillcrest Road have been issued a notice of violation for high grass and weeds. Due to the safety concerns that the Township has with possible rodents and raccoons in a residential area, Mr. Horrocks advised the Township has attempted to make contact with the owners, who have moved and are using a post office box as their mailing address. At this time, Mr. Horrocks requested the Board's authorization for the Public Works Department to mow the property at 611 Hillcrest Road at least one time. Calls from neighboring residents to the police department confirmed a very real concern about the infestation of raccoons and rodents on the property, and Mr. Horrocks feels it is an important issue to address.

Chief George Egly served as constable in Hilltown Township for approximately 13 years, and dealing with similar incidents was part of his job. Chief Egly recalls a similar situation, where he and another individual who mowed a property were sued because the property owner claimed to have valuable shrubbery that was mowed down. Whether that shrubbery was originally in place or not, Chief Egly does not know, however the insurance company did pay on that claim. Chief Egly wished to make the Board aware of the liability which may be involved in a situation such as this.

Supervisor Fox felt Chief Egly made a very good point. In protecting the health, safety and welfare of Township residents, Supervisor Fox suggested a video be taken of this particular property before it is mowed. Supervisor Fox is also concerned about setting a precedent, and believes the property owner should be billed for mowing of the property.

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Chairman Bennett noted the Nuisance Ordinance calls for any growth higher than 10 inches to be mowed, a height he personally feels is a bit too low.

Motion was made by Supervisor Fox, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to authorize the Public Works Department to mow the property at 611 Hillcrest Road, after video taping the property, and billing the property owner of said site, in the name of health, safety and welfare of the residents of Hilltown Township.

2. For the Board's approval, Mr. Horrocks is seeking authorization for the general release of all claims between Hilltown Township and Robler Associates, Inc.

Chairman Bennett asked if the Township is satisfied with the response received from Robler Associates concerning the heating/air conditioning system in this building. Chief Egly feels the Township will not get any further satisfaction from Robler Associates, even though he believes they are responsible for the moisture problem in the municipal building. Supervisor Bennington asked the Board and Chief Egly not to issue any more statements concerning this case due to a condition of settlement that requires no additional information be provided to third parties at this time.

Motion was made by Supervisor Fox, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to release all claims between Hilltown Township and Robler Associates, Inc..

3. For the Board's approval, Mr. Horrocks is seeking authorization for the general release of all claims between Hilltown Township and Gary and Cheryl Derr.

Supervisor Fox commented if the same type of situation takes place with other claims, as has taken place with the Derr claim, Hilltown Township will be bankrupt within the next two years. This claim cost Hilltown Township a fortune, and yet we are now agreeing to no longer pursue the matter. Therefore, Supervisor Fox cannot vote for it.

Supervisor Bennington stated every move the Township has made with the Derr case was done with public knowledge, and it has been voted on publicly.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, and seconded by Chairman Bennett to release all claims between Hilltown Township and Gary and Cheryl Derr. Supervisor Fox was opposed to the vote.

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4. Since the last meeting, two additional speed checks have been performed. The Police Department was successful in their efforts to keep speed down in the Township.

5. The final two Fire Agreements have been received and will be signed by the Board following this meeting.

6. Correspondence was received today from Perkasio Borough advising of a 20 minute presentation by Mr. Rodney Fisk of Rail Easton with regards to the possibility of rail service on the Lansdale-Bethlehem branch. Mr. Horrocks is willing to attend this meeting, if the Board wishes. The Board of Supervisors would like Mr. Horrocks to attend this meeting.

7. Mr. Horrocks advised he will be unable to attend the next two Board of Supervisor's meetings, since he will be on vacation. Supervisor Bennington also noted he will be on vacation for the July 26, 1993 Board of Supervisors meeting.

B. CORRESPONDENCE - Mr. Bruce G. Horrocks, Township Manager -

1. A letter was received from the Bucks-Mont Coalition for Evangelism, once again thanking Hilltown Township for their cooperation and support with regards to the March For Jesus.

2. The Dublin Volunteer Fireman's Relief Association audit for the period of January 1, 1991 through December 31, 1992 was received and will remain on file at the Township office.

3. Notification was received from the North Penn Water Authority that mandatory water restrictions are in effect immediately. Between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 6:00AM, non-essential use of water is banned until further notice, including watering lawns and gardens, washing cars and pavements, and utilizing automatic sprinklers.

4. A complete report and photo documentation was received from Mr. Wynn's office concerning underground storage tank removal. The two underground storage tanks have been removed from the maintenance building, and DER has been notified. The remaining underground tank must be removed from the former municipal building by December 31, 1993.

C. CONFIRMED APPOINTMENTS - None.

D. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT - Mr. Thomas Buzby, Director of Public Works - Mr. Buzby read the report dated May 30, 1993 through June 26, 1993, which is on file at the Township office. Due the recent heat wave, Mr. Buzby noted the Public Works Department has been working 5:00AM until 1:00PM.

E. POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT - Chief George C. Egly - Chief Egly read the Police Report for June, 1993, which is on file at the Township office.

Chief Egly also received a letter of appreciation from the Bucks-Mont Coalition of Evangelism, which he read aloud.

Concerning Town Watch, Chairman Bennett noticed that they are only averaging approximately 5 hours per week of patrol. Chief Egly replied some of the members of Town Watch have moved out of the area, and those remaining don't seem to be able to generate enough interest in the organization.

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

Supervisor Fox asked if building has picked up at all during the summer months. Mr. Applegate replied that it has not, and permits are down in all categories. The only development in progress at this time is Country Roads. Of the eligible 30+ permits the developers of Country Roads could take out, they have only taken out 11 in order to construct some sample homes.

G. ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT - Mr. John Friel, Zoning Officer - Mr. Friel read the Zoning Report for the month of June, 1993, which is on file at the Township Office.

H. HILLTOWN FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT - The Fire Chief was not in attendance this evening.

I. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT - Mr. Grunmeier was not in attendance this evening.

J. RESIDENT'S COMMENTS - None.

K. SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS -

1. Supervisor Bennington has received many letters concerning the Jamesway Shopping Center entrance on Rt. 113, the site of a recent serious accident. When the Jamesway Shopping Center was being constructed, Chief Egly suggested the entrance be aligned to be directly opposite the Souderton Shopping Center entrance, however the developers did not wish to do that. Mr. Horrocks spoke with Mr. Wynn, who advised the executives of Jamesway were less than completely cooperative while construction of that shopping center was taking place. Chairman Bennett asked if the Planning Commission could have made that conditional to approval. As a member of the Planning Commission, Supervisor Fox stated he does not even recall that subdivision since it took place

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so long ago. Chairman Bennett asked if it would help to make it a right turn only when leaving the Souderton Shopping Center. Supervisor Fox mentioned the difficulty in sight distance when leaving to parking lot due to the high walls along the Souderton Shopping Center. Discussion took place on some alternatives to help make that section of Rt. 113 safer for travel. Chief Egly commented since Rt. 113 is a State highway, it is PennDot's responsibility. Supervisor Bennington suggested placing a metal guard rail down the center of Rt. 113, which would solve the problem. Mr. Horrocks suggested a meeting between the owners of both shopping centers, who may be willing to discuss the issue. Supervisor Fox also felt Mr. Wynn should review the site to see if re-engineering of the entrances might help.

2. Supervisor Bennington mentioned that in the past, the Board has discussed people running out of water. Supervisor Bennington lives in a high density area of the Township, yet he knows of three neighbors whose wells went dry last week.

3. Chairman Bennett read a Proclamation from Hilltown Township to the Mayford Athletic Football Club of Woking Borough, England, proclaiming Sunday, August 8, 1993 as Deep Run Valley Sports Association/Mayford Athletic Football Club Recognition Day in Hilltown Township. In the coming weeks, teams from the Deep Run Valley Sports Association will be traveling to England to compete in soccer tournaments.

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

M. ADJOURNMENT - Upon motion by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously, the July 12, 1993 Board of Supervisors meeting adjourned at 8:16PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynda Seimes
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Township Secretary