

1603

HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
REGULARLY SCHEDULED WORKSESSION MEETING  
Monday, June 14, 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  
Thomas A. Buzby, Director of Public Works  
George C. Egly, Chief of Police  
Eric D. Applegate, Code Enforcement Officer  
John Friel, Zoning Officer

Chairman Bennett announced the Supervisors and the Township Manager met in Executive Session prior to this meeting to discuss legal and personnel matters. There will also be a short Executive Session held following this meeting.

At 8:00PM, there will be a temporary adjournment to conduct a public hearing to consider the adoption of the Neshaminy Creek Watershed Stormwater Management Ordinance, and to consider the adoption of an Ordinance amending the Hilltown Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance of 1981.

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

1. Road material bids were opened previously and awarded this evening for the following items:

Proposal #93-4 - Asphalt - ID2 Wearing - 1,250 Tons  
ID2 Binder - 1,000 Tons

Bidders: H & K Materials was the only bidder for Bid #93-4 in the amount of \$42,750.00.

Proposal #93-5 - Aggregate - #1B Crushed Stone  
#2 Crushed Stone  
#3A Modified Stone  
#5 Modified Stone  
#2A Modified Stone  
#3A Crushed Stone  
#4 Crushed Stone  
Surge

Bidders: H & K Materials was also the only bidder for Bid #93-5 in the amount of \$16,487.50

1604  
Page 2  
Board of Supervisors' Worksession  
June 14, 1993

Proposal #93-6 - Bituminous Seal Coat  
Fairhill Road - Rt. 152 to Spur Road  
Highview Road - Fairhill Road to Rickert Road  
Fairhill School Road to Church Road  
Maron Road - Fairhill School Road to 309 Bypass  
Spur Road - Rt. 309 Bypass to Rt. 309 Bypass  
Schultz Road - Keystone Drive to Diamond Street

Bidders: Hi-Way Maintenance and Supply Co., Inc. in the amount of \$49,402.62

Windsor Service, Inc. in the amount of \$50,834.58

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to award the bid for Proposal #93-4 - Asphalt, and the bid for Proposal #93-5 - Aggregate to H & K Materials in the amounts as specified above.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to award the bid for Proposal #93-6 for Bituminous Seal Coat to Hi-Way Maintenance and Supply Co. in the amount as specified above.

2. Mr. Horrocks is requesting the Board's authorization to approve a requisition for release of funds from the Bond Fund for Capital Projects (Parks) in the amount of \$16,398.19. This release will cover two items including the tot lot in Blooming Glen, and the paving of the basketball court in Blooming Glen. Chairman Bennett asked if both these items were on the original list of expected expenditures, and Mr. Horrocks agreed that they were.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to authorize the release of funds from the Bond Fund for materials in the Blooming Glen Playground area in the amount of \$16,398.19

3. For the Board's signature this evening, Mr. Horrocks presented Fire Agreements from Dublin, Hilltown, and Sellersville. Silverdale Fire Agreement was signed previously. The Township is waiting for receipt of signed Fire Agreements from the following fire departments - Perkasio, Telford, and Souderton.

4. For the Board's information, Mr. Horrocks noted approval was received from those three Hilltown Township businesses located on County Line Road concerning the March for Jesus. Also, a certificate of insurance was received, as requested. Mr. Horrocks stated the March for Jesus took place this past Saturday with no problems experienced.

5. The third and final \$50,000.00 payment to the Tax Anticipation Note will be made this week. This is the second year in a row that the Tax Anticipation Note has been paid off very early.

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

1. There is a home currently for sale next to the Blooming Glen Park, and a request has been received from the realtor concerning the possibility of planting trees along the driveway to the park, to act as an additional buffer. The homeowner has also requested that the proposed basketball court be changed to a tennis court instead. Mr. Horrocks asked the Board for suggestions as to buffer plantings.

Supervisor Bennington noted that the house has always been located next to the playground and wondered why the property owners are concerned at this time, since the proposed basketball court is located closer to the former municipal building. Mr. Horrocks commented the tot lot has brought more visitors to the park than in the past. Since the property is currently for sale, Mr. Horrocks believes the owner is concerned about sale of the house. Supervisor Bennington is not adverse to taking the suggestion of buffering to the Park and Recreation Board for their input, however he does not really see any reason for it. Supervisor Fox agreed, stating he does not feel it is necessary for the Township to take the responsibility for supplying buffering to a house that has always been located next to a playground. Concerning the property owner's request for a tennis court instead of a basketball court, Chairman Bennett stated construction of a tennis court would cost the Township approximately \$28,000.00 to \$30,000.00 for a single court.

2. Correspondence has been received from a resident of Morgan Lane, requesting that the Township install speed limit signs and "Children at Play" signs. Mr. Horrocks commented the Township does not erect "Children at Play" signs any where, to his knowledge. Mr. Buzby, Director of Public Works, replied in the past, residents have purchased "Watch Children" signs themselves at a cost of \$60.00 per sign, including installation by the Township.

Mr. Horrocks noted the Orchard Station Subdivision was constructed without any speed limit sign requirements. In essence, the Township has taken dedication of those roads, however at this time there is no requirement for any signage. Supervisor Fox asked if Morgan Lane is a cul-de-sac street and Mr. Horrocks replied that it is. Supervisor Fox asked what kind of a speed limit should be proposed for a small cul-de-sac development. In order to make it a legal speed limit, Chief Egly replied, a speed study must be

conducted, and it is very difficult to do a speed study in such a small area. Chief Egly has not asked how the new District Magistrate feels about speed limits in individual developments containing dead end streets or cul-de-sac streets, and how she might feel about enforcing the posting of automatic 25 m.p.h. speed limit signs. The former District Magistrate wanted a speed study conducted each time.

Supervisor Bennington suggested Chief Egly check into the speed limit signs for Orchard Station, and directed Mr. Horrocks to advise those concerned residents they may purchase "Watch Children" signs to be installed by the Township.

3. Correspondence has been received from both Glenn Garis and a resident of Gentry Drive, concerning speed limits on that street and the possibility of erecting a four-way stop sign at the intersection of Sterling Drive and Gentry Drive. Upon speaking with the Township Engineer, Mr. Horrocks advised that intersection would not qualify for a four-way stop sign. Mr. Wynn also commented that once the Township takes dedication of those roadways, the speed limit will be posted at 25 m.p.h., which hopefully will resolve this complaint. Chief Egly suggested that a requirement be added to the Subdivision/Land Development Ordinance requiring the installation of speed limit signs before the roadways are accepted by the Township. The Board of Supervisors was in agreement with this suggestion.

4. For the Board's information, the Township has received an order of conference in the Jones' zoning matter which was discussed at a previous meeting. That motion for conference has now been signed by a judge, and the date has been established.

5. The Indian Valley Public Library will be holding a carnival from June 28th to July 3rd, and they have requested a waiver of temporary sign permit fees from the Township. The 4 ft. by 8 ft. signs will be in place from June 7th through July 5th. The letter was received by Hilltown Township on June 8, 1993. Assuming that the Board would be in agreement to handle this request as they did last year, the Indian Valley Public Library is making Hilltown Township aware that the signs are there, and they will be removed.

C. CONFIRMED APPOINTMENTS -

1. Mr. Wayne Dunden - Green Street Speed Limit - Mr. Dunden is a resident of Green Street who is very concerned about the traffic conditions on that street. Mr. Dunden conducted a survey with 90% of the residents of Green Street responding, asking how they felt about the traffic situation. Mr. Dunden discovered that 76 residents would like to reduce the speed limit to 35 m.p.h., 17

Page 5  
Board of Supervisors' Worksession  
June 14, 1993

residents requested a stop sign, and 26 residents of the 76 would also like to see "no passing" lines installed. The residents of Green Street are concerned with the high speed traffic flying through their neighborhood and the dangerous passing which takes place. In speaking with Sgt. Miller, it has been determined that there have been 16 accidents reported on Green Street during the past five years. The residents of Green Street would like to see a reduction of the speed limit on their street.

Supervisor Bennington does not disagree with Mr. Dunden that motorists speed on Green Street, however every street in the Township is basically experiencing the same situation. Supervisor Bennington lives on Rt. 152 and has witnessed speeds in excess of 80 m.p.h..

Chief Egly believes a speed study was conducted on Green Street two years ago, and following PennDot's formula is how that speed limit was determined at 45 m.p.h.. The speed checks which have been conducted have clocked motorists as high as 80 m.p.h., fortunately those motorists are not Hilltown residents. It appears that motorists from developments above Hilltown Township are using Diamond Street, Green Street, and Rt. 152 as a short cut, rather than Rt. 309 and Rt. 313. Chief Egly believes this is what is increasing the traffic and the speed of those vehicles on Green Street. Chief Egly noted that in the last 3 1/2 weeks he has received notification from 16 different residents concerning speeding vehicles. Chief Egly was about to ask the Board for authorization for overtime to set up speed traps, due to the accident rates continually increasing. The regular police patrols are quite busy with the normal calls. Chief Egly noted it does not matter what the speed limit is set at if the personnel is not available to enforce that speed limit. Supervisor Bennington feels Green Street is one of the worst streets for speeding throughout the Township. Chief Egly agreed that it is, and also the narrowness of the street is a detriment. Chief Egly commented his department must cover 26.7 square miles of Township, which includes 150+ miles of both State and local roadways. The number of calls the police receive from businesses and residents keep the department busy enough that the two officers on each shift write very few tickets.

Mr. Dunden suggested a stop sign be erected at Fairhill Road where most of the accidents have occurred in order to interrupt the traffic flow. Chief Egly explained a study must be done to obtain a stop sign, and also a four way stop sign must be authorized by PennDot before it can be erected. Chairman Bennett commented it is almost impossible to get a stop sign. Mr. Dunden advised five school buses a day cross that intersection. Chief Egly understands Mr. Dunden's concern, and is just as concerned himself, however PennDot does not view the situation the same way, they have a

1609  
Page 6  
Board of Supervisors' Worksession  
June 14, 1993

certain criteria that must be followed. Chief Egly cited the numerous fatalities which have taken place at Diamond Street and Rt. 113, and Callowhill Road and Rt. 113, yet we have not yet met PennDot's requirements.

Recently, Chief Egly noted PennDot was kind enough to lower the speed limit in Blooming Glen on Rt. 113 and Blooming Glen Road. He personally followed a vehicle moving at 81 m.p.h. through Blooming Glen, and obviously the change in speed limit did not impress that motorist at all. Chief Egly explained to conduct a speed study to PennDot's requirements, 100 vehicles must be clocked in both directions, and 80 percent of that is what the speed limit is allowed, give or take 3 m.p.h..

Mr. Tom Buzby, Director of Public Works, noted double yellow lines will be placed on Green Street this fall for the entire length of the roadway. Mr. Buzby advised Green Street is a full 18 ft. width for it's entirety, which is the width of a legal roadway.

An unidentified resident stated there is also a contractor business located on Green Street whose trucks are constantly dropping dirt and gravel into the roadway.

Chairman Bennett commented he is in total sympathy with these residents and is very familiar with the situation because he lives on Fairhill School Road, and travels Fairhill Road nearly every day. The Board of Supervisors has been aware of this problem for some time. One of the problems Chief Egly has already mentioned is that many motorists are traveling through Hilltown Township to avoid using Rt. 309. With results from a previous study done on another street, it was discovered that a vast majority of these motorists - almost 80% - are not Hilltown residents. Unfortunately, posting a speed limit sign is not enough, and Chairman Bennett believes more will have to be done in the way of enforcement, even though it is very expensive.

Mr. Buzby advised if Hilltown Township does not go by the formula regulated by PennDot and a speed limit sign is erected, that speed limit will not be legally enforceable. An unidentified resident asked how residents of Blooming Glen were able to get their speed limits lowered. Chief Egly replied PennDot performed the traffic study in that instance because both the roadways involved are State roads.

Supervisor Bennington suggested an unannounced speed trap be conducted on Green Street before the next Township meeting, to determine whether it warrants completing another speed study for PennDot approval.

Page 7  
Board of Supervisors' Worksession  
June 14, 1993

After the Township conducts another speed study, a resident asked if there is any way that PennDot could suggest that the speed limit be increased rather than decreased. Chief Egly replied that PennDot would not increase the speed limit, because usually when a study is conducted, it is being done in hopes of decreasing it.

If the Township were to begin tomorrow morning with a traffic study, Chairman Bennett asked for a realistic time table for completion of that study. With the amount of vehicles traveling Green Street now, Chief Egly believes the study would be complete in one week. He is not sure, however, how long PennDot might take to make their recommendation. Chief Egly feels the present 45 m.p.h. speed limit should be enforced for a few weeks before a study is conducted.

Mr. Dunden is concerned because he circulated a petition which was signed by 90% of the residents of Green Street, and now it appears nothing can be done to alleviate the situation. Chief Egly stated a legal speed limit must be established following PennDot procedures before speed limits can be changed.

The Board of Supervisors and Chief Egly will discuss the possibility of overtime to enforce the speed limits and other avenues they might take to correct the situation at the Executive Session following this meeting.

**8:18PM - THE JUNE 14, 1993 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' WORKSESSION MEETING ADJOURNED FOR THE ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF NESHAMINY CREEK WATERSHED STORMWATER MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE, AND TO CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE OF 1981.**

Supervisor Fox explained every municipality bordering on the Neshaminy Creek has been involved in the proposed Neshaminy Creek Watershed Stormwater Management Ordinance for the past five years. The Ordinance deals with the construction of new homes, industrial buildings, parking lots, and how to cut the flow of wastewater into the Neshaminy to deter flood damage. Supervisor Fox advised the Ordinance is available for the public's review. The Bucks County Planning Commission has reviewed this Ordinance, and their recommendation is that Hilltown Township adopt the proposal as submitted, since it appears to be consistent with the Ordinance requirements as prescribed by the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code. This Ordinance will be officially voted upon at the June 28, 1993 Board of Supervisors meeting. There was no public comment concerning this Ordinance.

**8:22PM - The regularly scheduled Worksession meeting of the Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors was called back to order by Chairman Bennett at 8:22PM.**

C. CONFIRMED APPOINTMENTS (Continued) -

2. Mr. William Smith - Deep Run Valley Sports Association Waiver Request - Mr. Smith is the president of Deep Run Valley Sports Association. Deep Run Valley is a non-profit corporation, operated by volunteers in Hilltown Township. Currently, they are planning to construct an accessory building in the form of a 30' X 40' pole barn. In speaking with Township personnel, Mr. Smith was informed there would be a 50 ft. setback requirement. Deep Run desires a variance from this requirement and is seeking relief of the \$1,500.00 fee to appear before the Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Smith understands the Board of Supervisors have waived Zoning Hearing Board fees in the past for non-profit organizations.

Supervisor Fox asked if the site is located in a Rural Residential Zoning District, or if Deep Run Sports Association is an industrial concern, or if it is a money making organization. Mr. Smith replied that the site is located in the Rural Residential area, is not an industrial concern, and is a non-profit organization. Then, Supervisor Fox replied, the fee to appear before the Zoning Hearing Board is not \$1,500.00, but rather it is \$500.00. Mr. Smith would still request that the Board of Supervisors waive the \$500.00 Zoning Hearing Board fee. Supervisor Fox advised the Board has been waiving these fees for non-profit groups, however it is his personal opinion that the fee must be paid by someone because the Township pays the Zoning Hearing Board members, the solicitor, and the court stenographer. Therefore, if the Board waives these fees, they are trickled down to the taxpayers in this community. Supervisor Fox sympathizes with the Deep Run Valley Sports Association, however he believes a non-profit organization must pay the fees the Township has to pay. Supervisor Fox doesn't believe all Township residents should have to pay for whatever a non-profit organization might wish to do.

Chairman Bennett asked what portion of their property the proposed building will be constructed on. Mr. Smith replied there is obviously field space they wish to maintain, and therefore, they wish to construct the building 12 - 16 ft. from the property line. In view of the number of Township residents involved in Deep Run Valley Sports Association, Chairman Bennett would tend to go along with Mr. Smith's request for a waiver of the \$500.00 fee.

Supervisor Bennington remarked that every person who works for Deep Run Valley Sports Association, whether it be coaches, umpires, referees, etc., are volunteers. Also, a large number of people who belong to Deep Run and utilize their facilities are Hilltown Township residents who are getting pleasure out of using the fields.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, and seconded by Chairman Bennett to approve the request for a waiver of the Zoning Hearing Board fees to the Deep Run Valley Sports Association. Supervisor Fox abstained from the vote, however he stated he sympathized with their plight.

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

Chief Egly read a letter written by Mrs. Barbara Renschler who is retiring from Grasse Elementary School, thanking Hilltown Township for sponsoring the D.A.R.E. Program. A very special thanks goes out to Sgt. Ashby Watts, who has become an important member of the John M. Grasse School staff.

Chief Egly has received numerous complaints of speeding vehicles, not just from Green Street, but also from the Blooming Glen area, Diamond Street, Callowhill Road, Rt. 113 and South Perkasio Road.

Chief Egly reported that the March for Jesus held last Saturday went very well. Chief Egly thanked all seven members of the Silverdale Fire Police who volunteered their help. Of the approximately 2,000 people who turned out for this event, Chief Egly does not believe there was one person who missed saying thank you to all the police and fire police involved. Chairman Bennett asked if this is the beginning of an annual affair. Chief Egly understands next years March for Jesus has been scheduled to take place in Lansdale Borough.

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

Supervisor Fox asked for a comparison of permits from 1992 to 1993. Mr. Applegate replied permits are down in almost every category this year, as compared to last year.

F. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT - Mr. Thomas Buzby, Director of Public Works - Mr. Buzby read the Public Works Report, dated May 2, 1993 through May 29, 1993, which is on file at the Township office.

Supervisor Fox asked how much of the park has been completed. Mr. Buzby replied most of the park is done, with the exception of installation of the electric and telephone lines. The Public Works Department has done all they can do, until the grass begins to grow. The field has been seeded and mulched.

G. ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT - Mr. John Friel, Zoning Officer - Mr. Friel read the Zoning Report for May, 1993, which is on file

at the Township office.

H. HILLTOWN FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT - Mr. James Gill - Mr. Gill read the Hilltown Fire Report for the month of May, 1993, which is on file at the Township office.

I. RESIDENT'S COMMENTS -

1. Mr. Jack Morgan, chairman of the Hilltown Township Fire Commission, stated he has been a member of the Fire Commission ever since it was established, and was appointed chairman two years ago. Since that time, the Commission has devoted much time and energy to the Township, and Mr. Morgan believes we have come a long way in progressing the seven fire departments that service the Township. The Fire Commission has been successful in creating good will between the seven fire departments and some financial problems which were being experienced have been solved. However, during the past year, Mr. Morgan commented, there have been some things occurring without his knowledge, and he is present this evening to resign as the chairman of the Fire Commission of Hilltown Township. It is Mr. Morgan's opinion that Hilltown Township no longer requires his services due to increased involvement of the Township Manager and the Board of Supervisors in matters regarding the fire companies. Mr. Morgan stated there are many reasons he is resigning from this position. He was present at a meeting the other night where the main topic was open communication. Mr. Morgan thought about open communication for several days following that meeting, and came to the conclusion that there cannot be open communication when six of the seven fire companies that service this Township are dictating to the Supervisors as to what they want to do, excluding the seventh fire department. Mr. Morgan does not appreciate being "blind sided", receiving phone calls at his home concerning issues he has not been privy to, and being excluded from meetings and conversations which take place between the Supervisors and the Township Manager concerning the fire departments. Mr. Morgan feels he can no longer conduct business as the chairman of the Fire Commission under these circumstances. Mr. Morgan wished the Board luck in finding a new chairman of the Fire Commission.

Chairman Bennett thanked Mr. Morgan for his many fine years of service as the chairman of the Fire Commission. The Board was in agreement.

J. SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS -

1. Motion was made by Supervisor Fox to request that the Bucks County Fire Radio Administration not change any territory lines without authorization from the Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors.

Page 11  
Board of Supervisors Worksession  
June 14, 1993

Supervisor Bennington was under the impression that a territory change can not be done without the Board of Supervisor's authorization and approval, and Chief Egly agreed. According to Mr. Dennis Forsythe of that office, Mr. Horrocks noted it can be changed if two fire chiefs agree to the same box change or territory change, unless the Township advises to the contrary. Supervisor Fox felt that for liability purposes, any changes to territory or boxes should be authorized by the Supervisors. Given the feelings among the seven fire companies, it would be best if the Township is aware of all aspects of what is going on.

Supervisor Bennington seconded the original motion made by Supervisor Fox, and it was carried unanimously. Motion passed.

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 June 14, 1993 Board of Supervisor's Worksession Meeting was adjourned at 9:01PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lynda Seimes*

Lynda Seimes  
Township Secretary

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

T