

HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULARLY SCHEDULED WORKSESSION MEETING
Monday, April 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 7:37PM, 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

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

1. Mr. Horrocks presented Resolution #93-31 for the Board's approval, establishing street light tax rates for 1993 for the various districts. Chairman Bennett questioned the differences in rates. Mr. Horrocks explained the tax rates are based upon the cost of the street light and the number of homes utilizing that street light.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution #93-31, establishing street light tax rates for 1993.

2. Mr. Horrocks announced the Hilltown Township Easter Egg Hunt, which was rained out on the original date of April 3, 1993, and again on April 10, 1993, has been rescheduled for Saturday, April 17, 1993. With the Board's permission, the Egg Hunt will be held here at the Township Building, due to a conflict of events being held at the Pearl S. Buck Foundation. The Egg Hunt will begin at 10:00AM for those under 4 years old, 10:45AM for ages 4 through 7 years old, and 11:30AM for ages 8 through 10 years old. The Board was in agreement to allow the Easter Egg Hunt to be held at the Hilltown Township Municipal Building on Saturday, April 17, 1993.

3. Mr. Horrocks requested the Board's approval to waive rental fees for Brownie Troop #392 to utilize the Scout Cabin for their camp out on May 21, 1993 through May 23, 1993.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to waive rental fees for Brownie Troop #392 for their use of the Scout Cabin the weekend of May 21, 1993 through May 23, 1993, with the condition that a refundable security deposit be posted.

4. The next Surplus Food Distribution, sponsored by the Bucks County Opportunity Council, will be held on Thursday, June 10, 1993 between the hours of 2:00PM and 4:00PM here at the

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Hilltown Township Municipal Building.

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

1. Correspondence has been received from Florence Ammon of Bunny's Animal Shelter advising that the total number of dogs remaining is 161.

2. Notice has been received from the Bucks County Board of Elections thanking Hilltown Township for offering the use of this building for general election voting purposes on May 18, 1993. The correspondence also serves to notify of a special election to be held on July 13, 1993 for the office of State Senator.

3. Correspondence has been received from the Penridge Aquatic Club requesting a donation. Mr. Horrocks suggested this matter be brought to the attention of the Park and Recreation Board for their recommendation. The Board was in agreement.

4. A note of thanks was received from Mr. Jeff Trauger concerning lowering the speed limits through the village of Blooming Glen. That change should be taking place within the next few weeks.

5. PennDot has approved the installation of a traffic signal at Bethlehem Pike and Reliance Road. The traffic signal will be the sole financial responsibility of BFI, as part of their land development requirements.

6. Chairman Bennett questioned correspondence received from the owners of Spin-A-Round, requesting a Certificate of Occupancy from Hilltown Township. Mr. Horrocks explained these same circumstances were experienced last summer when some individuals were re-financing their home. Financial institutions are apparently requesting very current certificates from municipalities authorizing the function of the site in question before re-financing can be approved. At the very least, prior to issuing a new Occupancy Permit to Spin-A-Round, Mr. Horrocks felt a site inspection should be conducted.

C. CONFIRMED APPOINTMENTS:

1. Sgt. Robert Miller - Rt. 309 Safety Blitz Program - Sgt. Miller presented the Board with a series of grant packets received from PennDot, which require signatures and a Resolution to be adopted by the Supervisors.

The previous "Rt. 309 Blitz" program was very successful. Due to the reduction of accidents and seat belt law enforcement by those police departments located along Rt. 309 corridor, funds have been

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made available to provide strictly for salaries. The next Blitz should hopefully begin in July. A series of eighteen such programs are scheduled, one every month for six months, and one every other month for the existing eighteen month time period.

Along with this grant is a new type of program called "Spot Location Grants", which requires a listing of several "problem" State roadways within Hilltown Township. A certain amount of funds have also been allotted to allow Hilltown Township Police to be on those State roadways strictly for enforcement purposes. The police department will have a determined amount of latitude on either side of the State road intersections for the enforcement of speed limits, etc.

Chairman Bennett asked if Hilltown Township Police will be working alone, or in conjunction with other police departments. Sgt. Miller replied they are planning on operating most of the "Blitz" operations corridor-wide, all the way up to, and including, Lehigh County and Upper Saucon Township.

Motion was made by Supervisor Fox, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution #93-32 authorizing grant packets for the Rt. 309 Safety Blitz Program.

D. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT - Mr. Thomas Buzby - Mr. Buzby read the Public Works Report, dated February 21, 1993 through March 20, 1993, which is on file at the Township office.

Mr. Buzby wished to thank the Public Works Department for the effort they put forth during the Blizzard of 1993, and felt his crew did an excellent job under the worst of conditions.

Mr. Buzby has begun preparation of truck, guide rail, and road material bids, and is requesting authorization to advertise these bids once they are complete. The Board authorized advertisement of the abovementioned bids.

Road inspection was discussed and scheduled for Saturday, April 24, 1993 at 7:00AM.

Chairman Bennett commended Mr. Buzby and his crew for a job well done during the snow storm.

Supervisor Bennington asked if Mr. Buzby was given the option to take back any State roads, would he be willing to do so. At this time, Mr. Buzby replied, he would not because the Township does not have the proper equipment or personnel to maintain those extra roads in a satisfactory manner. In order to take over any more roadways, Mr. Buzby believes it was proven in the snow storm, that more personnel and more equipment would be needed.

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Supervisor Bennington noted three large potholes on Rt. 152, and asked if the PennDot could be notified to repair them. Mr. Buzby has already contacted PennDot, who promised the potholes located on Rt. 152 will be patched tomorrow.

Chairman Bennett advised Representative Tom Druce will be here for a photo opportunity on Thursday, April 15, 1993, and asked Mr. Buzby to supply a list of potholes on State roadways to be passed along to PennDot via Mr. Druce.

Earlier, Mr. Horrocks commented, Mr. Buzby had thanked his department for their fine work during the snow storm, stating that he understands that they get paid for their overtime, yet felt they did an outstanding job. Mr. Horrocks would like to publicly thank Mr. Buzby for his overtime efforts during the blizzard, and advised his overtime, as Director of Public Works, is not reimbursed by the Township. Chairman Bennett also mentioned that Mr. Buzby has been Hilltown Township's longest term employee for the past 22 years.

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

Chief Egly also wished to commend the Public Works Department for their assistance in getting emergency vehicles in and out during the blizzard. Further, Chief Egly thanked Mr. Ken Beer for his assistance to both the Police Department and the Public Works Department on both State and Township roadways. Chief Egly did not give PennDot any compliments whatsoever for their care of State roads during the blizzard.

F. CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER REPORT - Mr. Eric D. Applegate - Mr. Applegate read the Code Enforcement Officer's Report, dated March, 1993, which is on file at the Township Office.

G. HILLTOWN FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT - Due to a prior commitment, Mr. Jim Gill was not in attendance. Mr. Dave Crouthamel, Deputy Fire Chief, read the Hilltown Fire Company report for the month of March, 1993, which is on file at the Township Building. The Hilltown Fire Company has scheduled two drills with Telford Fire Company to be held this month at the Bucks County Fire School. The Fire Prevention committee also sponsored a demonstration for children who are educated at home.

H. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT - Mr. Robert Grunmeier, Emergency Management Coordinator - During the blizzard, Mr. Grunmeier advised two snow mobiles were available to Hilltown Township Fire Department. Hilltown Township Emergency Management was in contact with Mr. Earl Heverly of the Richlandtown Snowrunners, a snowmobile group that aids municipalities, in the event of an emergency.

There was also an ambulance on standby. Hilltown Township had an in-house crew remain at the station. No serious problems were experienced, other than closing Hilltown Pike for two days. Some residents were housed in the fire house for several hours and returned to their homes by the department. Mr. Grunmeier explained weather exercises scheduled for March 25, 1993, were cancelled due to the real thing.

Mr. Grunmeier asked if anyone had attended the meeting held at Buckingham Township concerning reimbursement for funds expended during the blizzard. Mr. Horrocks and Mr. Buzby both attended that meeting. Mr. Grunmeier felt better communication was needed because Mr. Tuttle was scheduled to attend, however he was never informed of the time and date of that meeting. Mr. Horrocks explained the meeting was held to review the forms and information required to submit for reimbursement. Mr. Horrocks spent approximately two days and Mr. Buzby spent approximately one day compiling information, and those application forms have been mailed to Harrisburg.

During the quarterly meeting of Emergency Management Agencies held at the Bucks County Emergency Services Training Center, it was discussed that residents and municipalities can be reimbursed for damage sustained while Pennsylvania was under a state of emergency. A damage assessment of damages caused by the snow, rain, etc. during the storm is required.

Mr. Grunmeier asked Mr. Horrocks to supply a written procedure for reimbursement of costs incurred for any person or persons involved in Emergency Management during an emergency situation.

Mr. Horrocks advised the Blizzard of 1993 cost Hilltown Township \$20,772.00, and we are hoping for a potential 75% reimbursement in the amount of approximately \$15,500.00. Approximately 60 million dollars was allotted for the state of Pennsylvania.

I. RESIDENT'S COMMENTS - None.

J. SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS -

1. Mr. Fox cited an article that appeared in the Intelligencer on March 24, 1993, concerning developers providing funding for construction of new schools, by charging them a one time fee on new development. Recently, in the Pennsburg area, 70 new students would have enrolled in their school system due to the construction of just one proposed development. The idea of municipalities collecting impact fees for road improvements or parks and recreation was also mentioned. Hilltown Township has never had the opportunity to collect these fees since the law was passed, per the recommendation of the Township Solicitor.

2. Several meetings ago, the Board had made a motion to take Mr. Derr to the District Justice for zoning violations. However since that time, due to several letters received by the Township Solicitor, the Board has changed it's mind and this never occurred. For the record, Supervisor Fox believes a motion should now be made stating that the Board has changed it's mind, and will not be taking Mr. Derr to the District Justice for the infractions so claimed.

Supervisor Bennington advised the Board had decided to give Mr. Derr until April 15, 1993 to move out. Mr. Derr informed the Township Solicitor that if he was not out by April 15th, he would not contest the Township filing the case with the District Justice. Supervisor Bennington had hoped to avoid the expense of filing with the District Justice by attempting to find a compromise.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington and seconded by Chairman Bennett, to give Mr. Derr until April 15, 1993 to move out, and if he does not, he will be required to appear before the District Justice at that time. Supervisor Fox was opposed and voted nay. Motion passed.

Chairman Bennett clarified that a settlement out of court, which is what Supervisor Bennington has suggested, would be more financially advantageous to Hilltown Township.

3. Supervisor Bennington noted correspondence from Mr. Bob Wendig, a member of the Agricultural Security District, stating that on July 28, 1986 Resolution #86-39 was passed creating an Agricultural Security Area in Hilltown Township. The seven year life span will expire on July 28, 1993, and some type of action is required at least 180 days before the end of the seventh year. Supervisor Bennington asked if a decision must be made at the next Board of Supervisor's meeting.

Mr. Horrocks explained the Agricultural Area Advisory Committee will meet again to review the entire package. Their decision and recommendation will be passed along to the Supervisors. There will be another Public Hearing and every one will be entitled to enter the Agricultural Security District again. Mr. Horrocks is hoping the committee will look into the elimination of one acre lots, since we are the only Township in Bucks County that allows that. Mr. Horrocks feels there should be a ten acre requirement, however even a five acre requirement would be helpful. Supervisor Fox believes that to be considered at all, ten acres is required under Act 43. Mr. Horrocks replied that is not a requirement, since Bucks County has stated that size requirement is at the discretion of the municipality.

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4. For the record, Mr. Horrocks advised the Tax Map Parcel number for Blooming Glen Quarry is 15-029-040, and the Tax Map Parcel number for the Skunk Hollow Quarry is 15-034-085.

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

L. ADJOURNMENT - Upon motion by Chairman Bennett, and carried unanimously, the April 12, 1993 Board of Supervisor's Worksession Meeting was adjourned at 8:40PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynda Seimes

Lynda Seimes
Township Secretary

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