

HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
REGULARLY SCHEDULED WORKSESSION MEETING  
Monday, March 8, 1993  
7:30PM

The Worksession meeting of the Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman William H. Bennett, Jr. at 7:30PM 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

Chairman Bennett announced the Supervisors, the Police Chief, and the Township Manager, met in Executive Session prior to this meeting to discuss personnel and legal matters. The Supervisors and the Township Manager will also hold a short Executive Session following this meeting to continue their discussion concerning legal matters.

A. MANAGER'S REPORT - Mr. Bruce G. Horrocks -

1. Mr. Horrocks requested authorization to bid on a third police vehicle. This bid would be for a four wheel drive vehicle to replace a current vehicle in the system. The reason for this purchase is the increased municipal discount that General Motors is offering this year. Chairman Bennett asked the cost of the four wheel drive vehicle. Mr. Horrocks believes the cost will be approximately \$11,000.00+. This will take us \$2,000.00 over the budgeted item for capital expenditures in the Police Department, however with the discount being offered by General Motors this year only, Mr. Horrocks believes it would be prudent to take advantage of it. Chairman Bennett commented this is something which has been in the police budget for a number of years. Supervisor Fox asked Chief Egly for an estimate of what amount will be saved due to the extra municipal discount being offered by General Motors. Chief Egly replied the Township can save approximately \$2,200.00 per vehicle by utilizing the discount in 1993.

Motion was made by Supervisor Fox, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to advertise bids for the purchase of one four wheel drive police vehicle.

2. In December of 1992, Pennsylvania law was changed to allow non-working Supervisors to be covered under the same medical insurance benefits which are available for Township employees. The law states if the Board of Supervisors wish to accept this offer, coverage benefits would be the same as what is offered to employees, at the same percentage cost.

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Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to authorize health, dental, and life insurance coverage of any Supervisor who wishes to take advantage of the insurance program, as stated above, at the same percentage cost which is being offered to the Township employees.

3. Mr. C. Robert Wynn, Township Engineer, received correspondence from PennDot today, granting a 35 m.p.h. speed limit on portions of Rt. 113 and Blooming Glen Road, through the village of Blooming Glen. One stipulation made by PennDot was that the new speed limit signs not be erected until they remove their speed limit signs.

4. Mr. Horrocks mentioned the art work displayed in the rear of the meeting room was supplied by the Pennridge School District art department. Mr. Horrocks encouraged the public to view the art display during normal business hours.

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

1. Correspondence has been received from the Silverdale Borough Fire Company inquiring as to whether the Township would be interested in donating one of it's used police vehicles which we will be bidding to replace. Mr. Horrocks advised the 1993 budget did show revenue coming in for those two vehicles which will be replaced. The Board will take this matter under advisement.

2. Chairman Bennett noted correspondence has not been received from Bunny's Animal Shelter lately, and asked what the latest animal count is. Mr. Horrocks promised a Township resident that he would visit the site himself, since a quarterly report has not been received from Mrs. Amons for approximately five months.

C. CONFIRMED APPOINTMENTS - None.

D. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT - Mr. Thomas Buzby - Mr. Buzby read the Public Works Report, dated January 24, 1993 through February 20, 1993, which is on file at the Township office.

Mr. Buzby mentioned work has begun on the stormsewer project on Broad Street, with a few problems being experienced due to culverts being manmade, as opposed to being pre-cast.

E. POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT - Chief George C. Egly - The Police Chief's Report for the month of February 1993 was read by Chief Egly, and is on file at the Township building.

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

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G. HILLTOWN FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT - Mr. Jim Gill, Fire Chief - Mr. Gill read the Hilltown Fire Chief's Report for the month of February, 1993, which is on file at the Township Building.

Mr. Gill wondered if notice could be given in the upcoming newsletter regarding posting reflective house numbers within the Township. Mr. Horrocks will mention it in the upcoming newsletter, just as it has been included in past newsletters.

Mr. Gill was contacted by Mrs. Nadine Ritchie of the Hawk Ridge development, regarding the private road issue in the proposed Santos' Subdivision bordering her property. Mr. Gill inspected the site and presented a letter for the Board of Supervisors concerning this issue.

It is the concern of the Hilltown Fire Company that the present state of this private road or "tractor path", is inadequate. The weight of fire trucks, the height, and also the turning radius, should all be considered as to whether this is considered a "road". Mr. Gill feels this road is unsafe for trucks in it's present condition. The matter was first brought to the fire department's attention in October, 1992. The Fire Chief at the time, Mr. Robert Grunmeier, II, asked for plans to review the subdivision proposal, however, to this date, the fire company has not received them. Mr. Gill feels it is important that the fire company receive these plans for review from a safety standpoint, not necessarily a legal standpoint. Presently, the Hilltown Fire Company has in their coverage area, many driveways which are too long, too narrow, and not strong enough to support 44,000 lb. fire trucks. The trucks today are much bigger and heavier than they were many years ago. Mr. Gill feels it is important to have the opportunity to review any plans for subdivision, in order to continue to serve the community in a safe, and timely manner.

Supervisor Fox noted the issue of the proposed Santos' Subdivision is a legal matter, which should not be brought before the Township.

Supervisor Bennington mentioned the blue reflectors to be placed in the roadway near fire hydrants, and asked when they will be installed. Mr. Gill replied the reflectors will be installed when the weather breaks and the road surface temperature reaches approximately 70 degrees.

H. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT - Mr. Gill explained Mr. Grunmeier will be sending a report to the Board of Supervisors.

I. RESIDENT'S COMMENTS -

1. Mr. Bill Godek noticed a change in meeting procedure, which is listed on the reverse side of the agenda. Mr. Horrocks

explained the reason that change took place was because the Worksession meetings were not previously addressed. Mr. Godek asked if Worksession meetings are not recorded. Mr. Horrocks replied there are minutes recorded of every meeting, of every public hearing, of worksession meetings, etc. The only portion of a meeting where minutes are not transcribed, word for word on, are press conferences. Mr. Horrocks advised meeting procedures will be clearly stated to address that.

2. Mr. Godek asked if the Township Solicitor is required to be present at all Township meetings, including the Worksession meetings. Chairman Bennett replied that the Township Solicitor is not required to be present at Worksession meetings. A Second Class Township is only required to have one public meeting per month, and are not required to hear public comment at all, even at the one meeting per month.

3. Mr. Godek mentioned old Township records which were on file in the former municipal building, and were then moved to the present municipal building. Mr. Godek asked if those records were all in tact at this building, or if some have been lost. To Chairman Bennett's knowledge, though he did not personally participate in that move, all records should have been transferred to the present Township building. Records were sorted, and those which were considered out-of-date or insignificant were destroyed.

Mr. Godek asked if any records were damaged due to water or humidity. Chairman Bennett did not honestly know the answer to that question. Mr. Horrocks was not present at the time, however he has heard that some files were damaged beyond saving, but he is not sure what type of files they were. Mr. Godek asked who was the source of the information that files were damaged and how long ago that was. Mr. Horrocks does not recall.

Mr. Godek asked if the correspondence files which were in boxes marked "A through C", "D through J", "L through S", and "S through Z" from 1984 to 1987 still exist. Mr. Horrocks does not know, and stated the Supervisors have established a policy that if a resident should wish to review certain information, there is a form which must be completed. Mr. Godek replied he is not asking to review those files, he is simply asking if those files exist. Mr. Horrocks would need to know the specific type of information Mr. Godek is requesting in order to search for those files. Mr. Godek advised these files included information on the quarry, and minutes from the gentleman who was Township Solicitor at that time, Mr. Charles Wilson. Mr. Horrocks will look into this.

Chairman Bennett noted the Second Class Township Code also specifies how long certain files shall be maintained. Some files have a record life of a certain number of years, while others must

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be kept forever.

4. Mr. John Gillespie, Vice-President of Silverdale Fire Company, was in attendance this evening upon recommendation of the Township Manager. Mr. Gillespie is present in an attempt to establish a working relationship with the Township, and a more cohesive communication with the Supervisors, the Fire Panel, and Hilltown Fire Company. The Silverdale Fire Company feels the need to establish better communication with the Township, as their own fire district is experiencing more and more development. Chairman Bennett thanked Mr. Gillespie for his concern, and invited his attendance at any Township meeting.

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 8, 1993 Hilltown Township Board of Supervisor's Worksession was adjourned at 8:19PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynda Seimes  
Township Secretary

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