

HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP  
SUPERVISORS' MEETING  
August 14, 1989

The meeting of the Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Robert H. Grunmeier at 7:30 P.M.

Members present were: Robert H. Grunmeier, Chairman  
Betty J. Kelly, Vice Chairperson  
William H. Bennett, Jr., Supervisor

Others present were: James H. Singley, Township Manager  
Gloria G. Neiman, Township Secretary  
George C. Egly, Jr., Chief of Police  
Thomas Buzby, Roadmaster  
Francis X. Grabowski, Twp. Solicitor  
C. Robert Wynn, Township Engineer

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 24, 1989 Supervisors' Meeting: Mr. Bennett indicated there were no corrections; but asked Mr. Singley if the Auditors were contacted regarding their annual report. Mr. Singley replied that the basic report has been received -and their recommendations should be received by late September or early October. Mr. Bennett also asked if a date has been set for the auction of police cars; Mr. Singley replied that the cars will be placed on bid within the next two weeks. Motion was made by Mr. Bennett to approve the minutes of the 7/24/89 Supervisors' meeting as written; motion seconded by Mrs. Kelly and carried unanimously.

July 31, 1989 Special Hearing for Amendments to Zoning and Subdivision/Land Development Ordinance: Motion was made by Mr. Bennett to approve the minutes of the 7/31/89 Hearing as written; motion seconded by Mrs. Kelly and carried unanimously.

B. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: General Fund - \$28,687.54; Street Lighting - \$362.94; and State Highway Aid - \$299.60. Mr. Bennett questioned Brinker's Fuels \$2100.00 for gasoline and asked if the Township has a large enough tank to warrant buying directly from an oil company. Mr. Singley explained that the tank is not large enough and that fuel, oil and gasoline is placed on bid annually. Mr. Bennett also questioned the following bills: Copy World \$726.00 for toner; Mr. Singley explained this is price for a two year supply; Dolecrest Medical - life support and oxygen kits for up-grading of two police vehicles; Mail Call Services - film processing for approximately 15 to 20 rolls of film. Chairman Grunmeier questioned cost per meeting of the Manpower P.C. Secretary; Mr. Singley stated that average cost per meeting is \$75 to \$90. Motion was made by Mrs. Kelly to pay all bills when due; motion seconded by Mr. Bennett and carried unanimously.

C. TREASURER'S REPORT: Mr. Singley read the report for August 1989: General Fund \$92,043.38; Street Lighting \$2,062.64; Fire Hydrant \$3,222.39; Capital Projects \$345.03; State Highway Aid \$97,348.25; Police Pension \$45,696.97; Non-Uniform Pension \$25,602.53; Federal Revenue \$3,696.45; Fire Protection \$77,127.31; Escrow Fund \$12,228.59. Motion was made by Mr. Bennett to accept the report as read subject to audit; motion seconded by Mrs. Kelly and carried unanimously.

D. CONFIRMED APPOINTMENTS:

1. John Alvarez, Menlo Business Services/Aztec Supply House - Mr. Alvarez requested his client be allowed to continue a non-conforming use of limited retail sales at the location of David's Unpainted Furniture. Mr. Singley indicated that the Zoning Officer verbally stated this would be approved with the Supervisor's consent. Motion was made by Mrs. Kelly to allow continuation of the non-conforming use under Section 605. The Board recessed at this time to review this section of the Zoning Ordinance. Chairman Grunmeier reconvened the meeting and stated that the general concensus of the Board is to wait for a written notification of the Zoning Officer's decision.

2. Texas Longhorn - Mr. Longhorn expressed concern over an incident which recently occurred in the township involving a bull which became loose. Mr. Longhorn requested that, in the future, the Board consider providing for temporary signs which could be erected in an emergency situation. The Board agreed to take this matter under advisement. Mr. Bennett stated that he received many calls from residents regarding the animal which had been loose for eight days, and that there were complaints of damage to property. Mr. Longhorn stated that he was instrumental in returning the bull back to Mr. Bolton's property.

E. MANAGER'S REPORT:

1. Happy Viking - Letter received from Albert M. Schatz, Operations Director, Happy Viking requesting installation of "No Parking Signs along Rt. 309 at location of their store. (Chief Egly expressed concern over signs which are removed by contractors, stating that they should be responsible for their replacement). Mr. Wynn indicated this matter should be referred to PennDOT. The Board directed the Township Manager to send a letter to PennDOT, requesting authority to install the signs along Route 309 (copy of this letter also to be sent to Happy Viking).

2. Fire Panel - Next meeting will be held on September 13th with the seven fire companies. Mr. Singley stated that the final report should be completed for the second Supervisors' meeting in October.

3. Parks & Recreation - Minutes of 7/18/89 copied to all Supervisors. Mr. Singley reported that, to date, there has been no reply on the grant for which the Township applied. Mr. Grabowski reported that the Blooming Glen Association and the Hilltown High School Alumni Association met on 7/17/89 for reorganization of both boards. Both Boards adopted resolutions which approved a petition transferring properties to Hilltown Township based on the condition that the property be used for recreational purposes. Mr. Grabowski has reviewed the petition and found it to be acceptable. The Hilltown Lions Club has expressed concern over an old agreement which stated they were liable for one-half of the cost of upkeep for the Scout building. Mr. Jack Fox, First Vice-President of the Lions Club, stated that Earl Smith will be contacting Mr. Singley for discussion of this matter. Mr. Singley advised that the Scouts will be using the old municipal building for their meetings.

Letter received from Paul F. Bardman, requesting continuation of the bike path which runs along the branch of the Perkiomen Creek in Perkasio. Mr. Singley will forward this to the Park & Rec. Board for their input.

4. Summit Court - Letter received from Laverne Clemons, requesting relief from sidewalk installation along Reliance Road. The Board agreed to table this until the Township Engineer has had an opportunity to investigate.

5. Personnel - Letter received from George Egly, III, stating he is unable to accept the position with the Road Department.

6. Requests received from the Police Department for schooling (Mr. Singley explained that all of the following schooling expenses are included in the police budget):

Motion was made by Mr. Bennett to approve Sgt. Watts to attend the DUI Association Annual Training Seminar for recertification as an instructor for the intoximeter and breathalyzer at a cost of \$274.88; motion seconded by Mrs. Kelly and carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Mr. Bennett to approve Sgt. Watts and Officer Kane to attend the 10th Annual Pennsylvania Juvenile Officer's Conference in York, PA at a cost of \$572.00 for both officers; motion seconded by Mrs. Kelly and carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Mr. Bennett to approve Sgt. Watts attendance at a DARE update training in Virginia at a cost of \$150; motion seconded by Mrs. Kelly and carried unanimously. (Training cost to be reimbursed by the Commonwealth of Virginia).

Motion was made by Mrs. Kelly to approve Officer Kane to attend the Intoximeter 3000 Maintenance Course in Harrisburg at a cost of \$489.80; motion seconded by Mr. Bennett and carried unanimously. In answer to Mr. Bennett's question, Chief Egly explained that this is a one-time expense.

7. Bucks County Planning Commission has requested the Township's decision on the zoning ordinance amendments and subdivision amendments; Mr. Singley has forwarded a letter to the BCPC.

8. Pleasant Meadows - requests received regarding speed limit signs to be installed throughout the development. Mr. Singley and Mr. Buzby traveled the development today and have determined that approximately ten (10) speed limit signs and six (6) "children at play" signs will be required. Chief Egly has advised a speed study must be performed in order to enforce violations. Motion was made by Mrs. Kelly to allow the police department to perform a speed study for Pleasant Meadows; motion seconded by Mr. Bennett. Mr. Bennett questioned whether a speed study would be necessary; Chief Egly stated that, without the study, the police would not be able to enforce the speed limit. A vote was taken; motion carried unanimously.

F. PUBLIC WORK'S REPORT: The report, dated 7/2/89 through 7/29/89, was read by Mr. Buzby and is on file at the Township building. Mr. Buzby indicated there were five complaints; Mr. Bennett questioned nature of same and was told that four were related to brush and grass overgrowth at intersections and the other was regarding a sign.

G. POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief Egly read the report for the month of July 1989 which is on file at the Township building. Mr. Bennett questioned overtime for this year compared to one year ago; the Chief replied that it is approximately 22% less than a year ago. Mr. Bennett also asked why the older police cars are getting better mileage than the newer cars. Chief Egly explained that the older cars are the unmarked Monte Carlos which average better mileage than the full package police vehicles.

H. ENGINEERING/PLANNING:

1. Hickory Hamlet, Phase II, Florence Circle - Mr. Wynn explained, since the trees shown on the original approved plan were not necessary, a revised landscaping plan has been made to reflect a reduction in the number of trees. Mr. Wynn also suggested that a mixture of larger deciduous trees be planted in place of the seven dogwoods in order to provide a buffer of the retention basin and house. Motion was made by Mrs. Kelly to approve this change in the Hickory Hamlet Phase II plan, motion was seconded by Mr. Bennett and carried unanimously.

2. Rex Subdivision - Mr. Rex was found to be in default on the construction of the private roadway; paving has been accomplished by Blooming Glen Contractors; township forces also performed regrading work; total cost for all funds expended by the township for this work is \$7,973.58. Mr. Wynn explained that this amount is \$1,173.58 more than previously acquired from the escrow fund. Motion was made by Mr. Bennett to approve Authorization Voucher #3 in the amount of \$1,173.58, payable to Hilltown Township, and to authorize Bucks County Bank to release the balance of \$19,915.30 to Mr. Rex; motion was seconded by Mrs. Kelly and carried unanimously.

3. Broderick Subdivision - Mr. Wynn reported that the swale, retention basin and curbing must still be accomplished. Mr. Kemmerer has advised he will complete this work as soon as weather permits. Mr. Wynn will investigate and keep the Board informed of this situation.

4. Plechner Site Development - Correspondence dated 7/25/89 has advised that this site development has been cancelled.

5. Franklin Rice, Hilltown Meadows, Phase II - Correspondence received from Mr. Rice, requesting extension of time to install buffer plantings. Mr. Rice was present and explained that when the house is sold, he will then install the buffer area and improvements. Motion was made by Mr. Bennett to grant a 3 month extension; Mr. Rice requested 6 months. There being no second to this motion, the motion was reworded as follows -- Mr. Bennett made a motion to grant a 3 month extension to the Hilltown Meadows, Phase II Subdivision, subject to a possible second extension; motion seconded by Mrs. Kelly and carried unanimously.

6. Garden Spot II - Due to weather conditions, Mr. Vince Pileggi has requested an extension to complete landscaping. Motion was made by Mr. Bennett to allow an extension until 10/1/89 for the Garden Spot II Land Development; motion seconded by Mrs. Kelly and carried unanimously.

7. Linens to be signed after the meeting: Torrissi and Kozitski Subdivisions.

I. SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

1. Ice City (R.T.M. Enterprises), Route 309 - Mr. Grabowski explained that the site development agreement has been prepared; First Lehigh Valley Bank is reviewing escrow agreement; the agreements should be in hand for the next Supervisors' meeting.

2. Howard Garges Subdivision, Stump & Callowhill Development agreements have been prepared; Bucks County Bank is the escrow agent; should be in hand for next meeting.

3. H.L. Garges Site Development (for proposed car wash on old Route 309) - Union National Bank is the agent; should be in hand for next meeting.

4. Mr. Grabowski reported that two ordinances will be advertised this week for possible adoption at the next Supervisors' meeting of 8/28/89: First ordinance (advertised for 8:00 P.M.) is to rename State Street in the village of Blooming Glen to "Blooming Glen Road"; the second ordinance (advertised for 8:15 P.M.) is to reduce the speed limit from 55 mph to 45 mph on that road.

5. Mr. Grabowski reported that several articles have appeared in the newspaper recently regarding a law suit filed in May of 1989 against Hilltown Township, the Chief of Police, and a Hilltown Township police officer. Mr. Grabowski read aloud a letter from the law firm representing Hilltown Township through the insurance carrier which stated that the court has ruled to dismiss the plaintiff's claims against Hilltown Township, the Chief and the officer. The news reporters were asked to publish this information.

J. RESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

1. Kenneth Bennington asked the Roadmaster, Tom Buzby, if he will be filling the second position on the road crew which was approved by the Board. Mr. Buzby replied that he will be allowing for a replacement in next year's budget for the applicant who turned down the job this year. Mr. Bennington questioned whether a second person is needed for the rest of this year; Mr. Buzby explained that, with the additional open space, he is running into a shortage of personnel for mowing, etc. Mr. Bennington asked if a college student could be hired in the summer; Mr. Buzby stated that, in the last few years, he has received no applications from students.

In answer to Mr. Bennington's question regarding appointment of a full-time zoning officer, Mr. Singley stated that Mr. Myers has indicated he would prefer to remain in a part-time position. Chairman Grunmeier stated that the Supervisors have discussed the possibility of hiring an Assistant Manager/Zoning Officer; however, no decision has been made as yet.

Mr. Bennington asked when the Board of Supervisors authorized the formation of a committee to study recycling and what were the names of the members of that committee. Mrs. Kelly answered that no official committee has been formed; however, she has discussed recycling with various people and has attended many meetings regarding recycling.

The Board recessed at this time; meeting called back to order at 9:10 P.M.

2. Joan Hiller, Hilltown Pike, Hilltown - Mrs. Hiller questioned the zoning permit application process regarding her proposed use of the Creciun building located in the village of Hilltown. The Board agreed to look into this matter and scheduled a meeting for Tuesday morning, August 15th, at 9:00 A.M. with Mrs. Hiller, Mr. Crecian (if he is available), the Zoning Officer, and the Supervisors to attempt to resolve this situation.

3. John Bolger, Route 152 - Mr. Bolger asked if consideration has been given to his previous request regarding a 30 day written notice to residents when zoning changes are proposed. Mr. Singley stated that the Supervisors have taken this under advisement. Mr. Grabowski suggested that this matter be referred to the Planning Commission for their review in the zoning update.

4. Jean Bolger, Route 152 - Mrs. Bolger asked that an easel be provided for residents to view plans presented to the Board. Mr. Singley indicated he is looking into purchase of an appropriately sized easel. She also suggested that nearby road names be specified when presenting plans; Mr. Wynn stated that plans are available for public review one-half hour prior to PC meetings.

5. William Godek, Broad Street - Mr. Godek asked if the Township has mailed notices regarding cutting of weeds. Mr. Bennett replied that this has been mentioned in the township's newsletter. Mr. Singley stated he has contacted Mr. Miley regarding the Habitations' property and that this will be followed up by the township. Mr. Godek also questioned heights of berms permitted around the Quarry; this will be investigated by the township.

K. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Report received from PennDOT regarding final check of the traffic light located at Souderton Square.

2. Fire reports received from Silverdale, Telford, Dublin, Souderton and Perkasio.

3. PSATS new bulletin received.

4. U.S. Postal Service has advised that they are looking for a 10,000 s.f. building/parking for the Blooming Glen postal facility.

L. SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:

1. Mr. Bennett asked if signs would be moved back at the Sunoco station on Route 113. Mr. Wynn answered that Mr. John Lackey, PennDOT, has recommended changes be made at Souderton Square light; however, those changes do not include moving stop bars. Mr. Lackey made the following recommendations: There be "no left turn for trucks" into the McDonald's area; "no parking" signs be installed across frontage of Sunoco station; and that the "no turn on red" sign be removed from the light at McDonald's. Mr. Wynn reported that a sketch plan for improvements to the expansion of the County Line Shopping Center is proposed to be discussed at the next PC meeting.

2. Chairman Grunmeier requested that a copy of the township's Emergency Management Plan be sent to the Bucks County Hazardous Incident Response Team.

3. DCA Seminar to be held 9/14/89 in King of Prussia regarding Basic Budget Preparation.

4. Invitation received from Rep. Paul Clymer regarding a Delaware Valley Conference on Obsenity to be held at the West Chester Inn.

5. Chairman Grunmeier noted that a resident of the township, Mr. Charles Murdoch, has been named the State 1989 Volunteer of the Year by the PA Health Care Association. The Board agreed to present Mr. Murdoch with a resolution at a future Supervisors' meeting.

6. The Board agreed to Chairman Grunmeier's suggestion, that Mr. Singley look into cost of providing new staves for the township flags.

7. The Board agreed to Chairman Grunmeier's suggestion that a letter be sent to all congressional representatives, requesting that a meeting be set up with the postal authorities to discuss the township's position on a new post office location.

8. In answer to Chairman Grunmeier's question regarding codification of the township's ordinances, Mr. Grabowski reported that he has contacted two companies to date without success; he will report progress at next meeting.

9. Applications still being received for Zoning Hearing Board and Park & Recreation Board.

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

There being no further business, a motion of adjournment was made by Mr. Bennett at 10:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Gloria G. Neiman  
Township Secretary