

**HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
APRIL 10, 1989**

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

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

Others present were: James H. Singley, Township Manager
Linda D. Hangey, Police Secretary
(filling in for Township Secretary)
Francis X. Grabowski, Township Solicitor
C. Robert Wynn, Township Engineer

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Bennett corrected the spelling of Janet Aichele's name from last meeting minutes. Motion was made by Betty Kelly to approve the minutes of March 27, 1989 Supervisor's meeting as corrected; motion seconded by Mr. Bennett and carried unanimously.

B. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: Billing in the following amounts was approved by the Board: General Fund - \$74,689.37; Street Lighting - \$96.41; Capital Improvement Fund - \$1737.00; State Fund \$3789.55. Motion was made by Mrs. Kelly to pay bills when due; motion seconded by Mr. Bennett and carried unanimously.

C. TREASURER'S REPORT: Mr. Singley read the Treasurer's Report for the month of April, 1989 which is on file at the Township office. Motion was made by Mr. Bennett to accept the report as given, subject to audit; motion seconded by Mrs. Kelly and carried unanimously.

D. CONFIRMED APPOINTMENTS:

1. Jim Strothers, was present with Dick and Tom Muller, representing Ice City, for their proposed facility at Rt. 309 opposite Orvilla Road, where old Adventure Park was located. Mr. Strothers requested the Board of Supervisors to start negotiations and costs with Hatfield Township regarding a traffic signal at this location. They have met with the developer on Hatfield's side of Rt. 309 (where a shopping center is proposed) and they will both share in the cost of a traffic light. The Board directed Mr. Wynn, Township Engineer to enter into negotiations with Hatfield Township and agreement will be brought back to the Board for approval. PennDot has no plans to construct a medial barrier at this location. Frank Grabowski states we will rely on Ice City's guarantee of this promise of payment and negotiation from Hatfield Township. The Board was in unanimous agreement with this solution.

2. Greg Mondjack - Mr. Mondjack was present to discuss sewer hook-up for St. Phillip's Orthodox Church property located on Clearview Road, approx. 7.202+ acres. Mr. Mondjack presented some history on this subject when the Taggs owned the property. Mr. Grunmeier stated he was in contact with DER who could see no problem; the Board agreed and approved public sewer hook-up for St. Phillip's Church. (Chairman Grunmeier requested that the Board be invited to the dedication ceremonies).

Regular Meeting was adjourned at 8:00PM.
Public Hearing

A. Flood Plain Ordinance #89-1

The proposed ordinance would amend the Flood Plain Ordinance of Hilltown Township and provide for certain general requirements. The reason for the Ordinance is to maintain and continue eligibility requirements for flood insurance and to comply with Federal regulations. Mrs. Kelly made a motion to adopt Ordinance 89-1, Flood Plain Ordinance and Mr. Bennett seconded it. It was approved unanimously. The hearing adjourned and regular meeting called to order.

B. Hearing for Bid Openings

Bids were presented by Mr. Singley for the paving of a private street in the Rex Subdivision. Blooming Glen Contractors \$5503.50; O'Hara Brothers \$7845.00; Cicero Construction - \$6595.00; Drum Construction - \$7753.00; P.K. Moyer - \$6516.50; Reese's Landscaping - \$6905.00. Mr. Bennett motioned to award the bid to Blooming Glen Construction and the motion was seconded by Mrs. Kelly. Mr. Grunmeier agreed, with the stipulation that the Roadmaster and the Township Manager review the bid.

Hearing adjourned and regular meeting called to order.

D. CONFIRMED APPOINTMENTS (continued):

3. Jack Fox

Mr. Fox, Planning Commission, questioned Mr. Grunmeier's position regarding rules governing the election of a Chairman for the Planning Commission. The subject had been discussed at previous meetings where Chairman Grunmeier quoted Act 170, (535) which he felt requires an election to fill the vacated position of Board chairman. Mr. Fox stated he was elected Planning Commission Secretary and, since the previous Chairman, Kenneth Bennington, was not reappointed to the board, Mr. Fox moved up to Chairman position and, therefore, felt an election was not necessary. Chairman Grunmeier read Section 207 of Municipal Planning Code, Act 247, as amended under Act 170 which states, "Conduct of Business - The commission shall elect it's own chairman and vice-chairman and create and fill such other offices as it may determine. Officers shall serve annual terms and may succeed themselves.....". Chairman Grunmeier questioned why the P.C. Board held their election in December; he stated that he called other municipalities and their boards organize in January. Mr. Fox stated that the P.C. has been following this procedure for 32 years.

Chairman Grunmeier stated that the members appointed to the various boards should have the right to vote for their choice of Chairman or Vice-Chairperson. There followed discussion regarding the proper procedure. The general consensus of the Board was that the rules and by-laws were misinterpreted by both parties (being Mr. Fox and Chairman Grunmeier). Chairman Grunmeier stated that he would like it recorded that he disagrees with this; that he thinks it is asinine that Supervisors appoint members of the various commissions in January, and the Planning Commission holds elections in December and those new members (on the various boards) have no right to vote for their officers.

4. Robert Grunmeier, II

Mr. Grunmeier, II - Fire Chief of Hilltown Township Volunteer Fire Co., addressed the letters written in the local newspapers criticizing the Hilltown Township Volunteer Fire Co. A copy of the written document is on file at the Township building. Mr. Grunmeier, II and the Hilltown Township Volunteer Fire Company feel they have been judged and criticized inaccurately and unfairly and wish to maintain the high level of service they have provided in the past.

5. John Gillepsie

Mr. Gillepsie, resident at 623 South Perkasio Road, is presently a member of two fire companies, one being Silverdale. Mr. Gillepsie stated that he is concerned with the amount of square miles his fire company covers and the safety of the Township's residents.

Mr. Gillepsie was concerned as to where the manpower would come from to man a sub-station. He also expressed his disagreement with the appointment of the Fire Chief to Fire Marshall.

E. MANAGER'S REPORT:

1. An executive session was held prior to the Board of Supervisors Meeting to discuss legal and personnel matters.

2. Municipal Building Update - Temporary heat will be installed this week. Hardware, ceiling grids, ceiling tiles, ceramic floor tiles, vinyl wall coverings, finished carpentry, painting, retention equipment, overhead door equipment, vinyl tile flooring, handrails, exterior building signs and patch paving required will be completed by April 12. Tentative projected date for completion of entire project is 4/19/89 and inspection will be made at that time.

3. Community Development

Waiting for determination by HUD on the traffic light at Diamond Street and Route 113. Supervisors were copied a letter from Mr. Harry Staller, Deputy Regional Administrator. They concur with the advice of Bucks County regarding this proposal. Board of Supervisors were asked if a letter could be returned to Mr. Staller asking him to provide the criteria for Community Development Funds. Supervisors feel that the intersection of Rt. 152 and Diamond Street which has received Community Development Funds is comparable to the intersection of Rt. 113 and Diamond Street and should be entitled to these funds. All Board members were in complete agreement regarding this matter.

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4. Parks and Recreation

At the 3/27/89 meeting, it was recommended that a committee be formed consisting of Mr. Singley, Scott Tagg (Park and Recreation Chairman) and Mr. Feryl Spaninger in regards to the Township Building and the adjoining parcels owned by Blooming Glen Playground Association and Hilltown Alumni Association. Mr. Singley asked approval of the Board to direct Mr. Grabowski to initiate paperwork to consolidate all parcels in question. Also, it was the recommendation of the panel that the Parks and Recreation Board be enlarged from 5 to 7 members; that a survey of property be completed for the deed; that a legal review of the documents take place after Mr. Grabowski is completed; and all costs be paid by the Township. (Mr. Singley noted that, based on that decision, the Township would maintain ownership of the present municipal building for future use as open space and recreational purposes forever.) Mrs. Kelly motioned to accept this recommendation and Mr. Bennett seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Also, a letter was received from Linda Miller and husband Ron Gradofski of Pleasant Meadows, in regards to purchasing some land from the township. Mr. Singley advised that he will reply.

5. Traffic Light - Route 313 and Rickert Road

The State Police are asking for Hilltown Township's support. The Board agreed to support the recommendation but will not pay for the traffic light.

6. Silverdale

Mr. Singley received a letter from Mayor Al Reese of Silverdale, in reference to a proposed parade route that he would like approved by the Township. Chief Egly was given a copy of this letter and asked for any input regarding the parade route itself. Chief Egly cited one correction to be made on the map regarding a street name, but concurred with the proposed parade route. All board members agreed.

7. Road Inspection

Road Inspection was scheduled for 4/29/89. Mr. Singley requested a change in the inspection date due to the move to the new Township Building proposed for 4/27 - 4/30/89. The Board of Supervisors agreed to reschedule Road Inspection for April 18th at 8:00AM.

8. Fire Panel

The panel was set up to study and review proposals of fire protection and distribution of monies from the fire tax. At the present time, the panel consists of Mr. Singley and Mr. Bennett. There are five people that Mr. Singley will be contacting to make up the Fire Study Panel. The committee will be named on May 8, 1989.

F. ROAD REPORT: Report was read by Township Manager due to the absence of Mr. Tom Buzby, Roadmaster who is attending a snow removal seminar. The report, dated 2/26/89 to 3/25/89, is on file at the Township Building.

The phone for the Road Crew Building will roll over after four rings to the new Municipal Building after the move. The new phone number for the Municipal Building will be 453-6000 and the new number for the Police Department will be 453-6011.

G. POLICE REPORT: Chief George Egly read the police report for the month of March which is on file at the Township Building. Hilltown Fire Police was in service for 10 hrs. 50 minutes for the month.

H. ENGINEERING/PLANNING:

Good Land Development - Mr. Wynn presented a plan for a proposed truck repair area with large stone area for trucking business on Reliance Road. Site to be serviced by public water & public sewer by Telford Borough Authority. Sketch plan previously presented to the Board (last Fall); Mr. DelCiotto had requested the Board's direction regarding ultimate improvements at intersection of Reliance Road and Bethlehem Pike. Traffic studies performed indicated intersection was close to meeting criteria for traffic signal; however, construction of a right left turn lane would alleviate problems at the intersection. Current preliminary plan recommended for approval by PC subject to resolution by the Board of Supervisors of road improvements along frontage and intersection of Reliance Rd. & Bethlehem Pike. Current plan does not provide for stormwater management or improvements along Reliance Rd. frontage and in absence of an extension by Mr. Good, Mr. Wynn recommended denial of plan due to insufficient road improvements. Motion was made by Mr. Bennett to deny the Good Land Development; motion seconded by Mrs. Kelly and carried unanimously.

I. SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Grabowski reported that the municipalities of Silverdale Borough, Sellersville Borough, East Rockhill Township, Telford Borough and Hilltown Township filed suit last week against Perkasio Borough Authority, Perkasio Borough and Pennridge Wastewater Treatment Authority on the failure of these three agencies to provide for the restructuring of the PWTB Board. The restructuring was to have occurred upon the connection of the last municipal customer which occurred approximately three years ago. The purpose of the lawsuit is to provide for the one man-vote representation on the PWTB Board pursuant to the representation of Perkasio Borough Council who enacted a Resolution to such effect as well as the written Agreement of all other municipalities.

It appears that Perkasio Borough is conditioning the restructuring upon the revision of the existing Treatment Agreement. The proposed revision of the Treatment Agreement has not occurred because of an impasse between Sellersville Borough and Perkasio Borough.

Frustrated with the condition of Perkasio Borough to continue the delay of the restructuring until a revised Agreement should occur, Silverdale Borough insisted that a lawsuit be filed immediately. With the lawsuit being prepared, the municipalities of Telford, Sellersville, East Rockhill and Hilltown had to choose whether they wished to join in the lawsuit with Silverdale Borough, or to side with Perkasio Borough in this instance. Given such choice, Hilltown Township had directed the Solicitor to join into the Complaint, and such was accomplished last week.

J. RESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

Prior to resident's comments, Chairman Grunmeier read from a prepared statement responding to recent letters to the editors of local newspapers regarding his proposed fire study proposal. (A copy of this statement is attached to these minutes). In his statement, Chairman Grunmeier stressed that adequate fire protection could be accomplished by getting the companies together through group purchasing, group training and compatible equipment. He stated that his proposal is "a proposal only" and that he has presented it at this time for review by the residents, the fire companies and the Fire Study Commission. Mr. Grunmeier also stated that he hopes there will be other proposals submitted for the Commission's review. Mr. Grunmeier read his proposal to the public which proposes Silverdale Fire Company provide fire services to the central portion of Hilltown Township; Dublin Fire Company provide service to the eastern portion; and Hilltown Fire Company (home base) to provide protection to the western part of the township; with mutual aid agreements without compensation instituted with Souderton, Telford, Perkasio, Sellersville, Hatfield Borough and Hatfield Township. Chairman Grunmeier again stressed that this is a proposal only and stated that any resident's suggestions would be welcome and should be submitted to the Fire Review Board.

K. RESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

1. Kenneth Beer, E. Creamery Road - Mr. Beer noted when there is a major fire or a disaster, all fire companies tend to unite; that there is a strong unity among firemen and that he regrets the recent animosity. Chairman Grunmeier stated that Silverdale Borough would find it difficult to obtain monies for a fire station and fire truck without the support of Hilltown Township. He also stated that monies are needed for training of the firemen; that he is attempting to get the three companies to work and train together to provide better protection.

2. Jean Bolger, Route 152 - Mrs. Bolger questioned the reason Line Lexington is named Hilltown Township Volunteer Fire Company and not Line Lexington. Mr. Grunmeier advised her it was the only fire company chartered in this Township since 1941. She also questioned the fire proposal's appearance in the newspaper and why the proposition was made before a fire panel was selected. Chairman Grunmeier stated that he submitted his proposal to the Fire Review Board; Mr. Singley advised her that Mr. Bennett and himself were appointed to the fire panel in January; that other appointees will be selected.

3. John Bolger, Route 152 - Mr. Bolger questioned the division of the three mill fire tax recently passed and Mr. Singley explained that during 1987-88 over \$60,000 has been given to the fire companies; the 3 mill tax is allowed by the Second Class Township Code. Mr. Bolger also expressed concern over the explosion which occurred at the trucking company last week. Mr. Grunmeier II explained that the high humidity mixed with the chemicals caused it to become reactive and explode. He explained that samples were sent for analysis and that nothing has been received as yet. He stated that, to his knowledge, it has not been listed as a DOT regulated hazardous material.

4. Mike Ott, Summit Street - Mr. Ott, a member of the Souderton Fire Company, indicated his concern over the distribution of funds stated in the fire proposal. He also questioned building and equipment cost of the substation.

5. Jack Fox, Hilltown Pike - Mr. Fox questioned the zoning of the Abrams parcel and stated that the plans for the retirement village were not officially submitted to the PC. (Plans were later submitted to the Zoning Hearing Board).

6. Donald Beck, Beverly Road - Mr. Beck stated his concern over distribution of fire money and compensation to other municipalities if the fire proposal is passed. Chairman Grunmeier again explained the mutual aid agreement.

7. Donald Strouse, Dublin - Mr. Strouse stated that he feels tax money should be divided to the area in which the fire company services.

8. Richard Ott, Central Avenue - Mr. Ott questioned if Souderton or Telford Fire Companies have given adequate service in the past. Mr. Grunmeier advised him to voice his opinion to the Fire Chief for his input.

9. Jim Gill, Hilltown Fire Company - Mr. Gill suggested the Fire Panel hire an outside consultant.

10. John Gillespie, South Perkaspie Road - Mr. Gillespie questioned the qualifications needed to be a member of the fire panel. Mr. Singley advised he received a list of eight persons who would be reviewed by the Supervisors. Qualifications consist of a fire fighting background. Mr. Bennett stated that the object is to obtain an unbiased panel.

11. Mark Scholl, Cherry Road - Mr. Scholl questioned first due calls by mutual aid companies. Chairman Grunmeier stated it would depend upon the municipality.

12. Arden Keller, Indian Valley Camping Center Mr. Keller was not permitted to speak since he is not a resident of the Township. He was advised to telephone Mr. Singley for a confirmed appointment at the next Supervisors' meeting.

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13. Jean Bolger, Rt. 152 - Mrs. Bolger expressed concern over the area covered by Silverdale, Hilltown and Dublin fire companies if the proposal is passed. She was advised to consult the fire map.

Meeting adjourned for short recess 10:25 P.M.
10:30 P.M. - Meeting called back to order.

Further discussion followed regarding fire company coverage area.

L. TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S COMMENTS: Mr. Singley stated that this is only a proposal; and that he has been in contact with several fire companies regarding the agreement. The budget was formed in 1988 to reflect funding given in 1987. He stated that monies are not paid until September. Mr. Singley stated that the reason he suggested a fire panel be instituted was to determine distribution of monies from the 3 mill fire tax. He further stated that after the fire panel has been set up, a meeting could be held to receive input from the Fire Chiefs, Presidents and Assistant Chiefs, and residents of the township. Mr. Singley further stated that there could be other proposals which would also be reviewed by the fire panel.

M. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. March Fire Reports received from Dublin, Souderton, Hilltown and Telford Volunteer Fire Companies.

2. Land Use Seminar - Bucks County Planning Commission: copies submitted to Supervisors.

3. Pennridge Chamber of Commerce Newsletter and PSATS Newsletter.

N. SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:

Mr. Bennett stated he felt it is unfortunate this proposal become public before it reached the fire panel and that his main concern is maximum fire protection for the Township and its residents. He stated that he would like to insure maximum cooperation among the fire companies and recommended that the present contract be extended through this year. Chairman Grunmeier stated that this contract is presently in effect. Mr. Dale Nice questioned the letter mailed to the fire companies on 12/27/88; Mr. Singley read the letter which was sent to all fire companies. The letter requested the fire company's budget requests by 10/14/88 in order to formulate the 1989 budget with a notation that Hilltown Township, per signed agreements, reserves the right to make changes to the 1988 agreement in order to conform with any fiscal matters that may arise in the 1989 budget. Mr. Singley explained that the letter was sent to determine what funding would be required in order to formulate the 1989 budget.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:37 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,


Gloria G. Neiman
Township Secretary

Note: These minutes typed from transcripts of the meeting taken by Mrs. Linda Hangey and tape recordings of this meeting.