

**HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP  
SUPERVISORS' MEETING  
December 14, 1987**

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  
Vincent Pischl, Supervisor

Others present were: William H. Bennett, Supervisor Elect  
James H. Singley, Township Manager  
Gloria G. Neiman, Township Secretary  
Christine Morgan, Township Bookkeeper  
Francis X. Grabowski, Twp. Solicitor  
C. Robert Wynn, Township Engineer  
George C. Egly, Chief of Police  
Thomas Buzby, Roadmaster (8:00 PM)

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: November 23, 1987 Supervisors' Meeting: Motion was made by Mrs. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Pischl and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the 11/23/87 Supervisors' Meeting as written. December 3, 1987 Bux-Mont Hearing: Motion was made by Mrs. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Pischl and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the 12/3/87 Bux-Mont/DER Hearing as written.

B. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: Current billing in the amount of \$25,454.94 was approved for payment by the Board. Motion was made by Mrs. Kelly to pay bills when due, motion seconded by Mr. Pischl and carried unanimously.

C. TREASURER'S REPORT: Mr. Singley read the report which is on file at the Township building. Motion was made by Mrs. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Pischl and carried unanimously to accept the report as given, subject to audit.

D. CONFIRMED APPOINTMENTS: Toni McMillan was present to request the Board consider the hiring of three additional police officers in 1988. Mrs. McMillan read from a prepared statement in which she requested additional patrolmen be hired to allow for the increase in population and recreational areas within the Township. She commended the Police Department and Chief Egly on their fine work. In her statement, Mrs. McMillan indicated statistics of police calls received; burglaries committed, traffic arrests, and revenues generated. Mr. Grunmeier requested copies of the report be given to the Board for their review and thanked Mrs. McMillan for her presentation. Mr. Grunmeier requested that Mr. Singley comment on this request with regard to the 1988 Budget. Mr. Singley stated that the Township cannot afford the hiring of additional officers at this time; however, the budget can be updated at a later time to a certain percentage (he indicated, however, that this percentage would not allow for hiring of 3 officers). Chairman Grunmeier requested Mr. Singley to continue with the Manager's Report, after which Mr. Singley requested that the public have an opportunity to voice their comments.

E. MANAGER'S REPORT:

1. Old Business:

a) 1988 Budget - Mr. Singley stated in his report that the 1988 budget is approximately \$67,000 less than the 1987 budget and approximately \$99,500 less than the 1986 budget; although it will provide Hilltown with the same level of service as it has in the past. He explained that, due to a decline in development, building permit revenues have also decreased;

and that instead of raising taxes, it was decided to prepare an austere budget which would maintain the same level of services and yet contain room for future growth. Mr. Singley cited the construction of the new Municipal Building as a "critical area", citing bond issue payments which have amounted to \$135,700 to date. Further, he indicated that the Township has accomplished 90% of its major budget goals for 1987 and those remaining will be completed in 1988. In closing, Mr. Singley thanked the Supervisors, Supervisor-Elect and Department Heads for their input in preparing this budget. A copy of the 1988 budget is available at the Township building for public review.

Public Comment Regarding the Budget:

(1) Ron Theis, Callowhill Road - asked if the percentage of increase would be too high to allow for hiring of officers in mid-year. Mr. Singley replied that it probably would not; and that the millage would have to be doubled to compensate for hiring of those officers (total cost for each would be approximately \$45,000 per year). He stated that 48.5% of the current budget goes to the Police Department (and this does not include care of vehicles).

(2) Carol Ross, Township Line Road, Chalfont - Mrs. Ross questioned how there could be an increase in development and yet a decline in building permit revenue. Mr. Singley explained that the permit and payment may have been received in 1986, while development not completed until the next year. Mrs. Ross also questioned contract negotiation; Mr. Singley explained that the Township is currently involved in discussions regarding the police contract (expires 12/31/87) and a contract with the Road Department (Teamsters) which has been in discussion since 1986.

(3) Dave McDowell, Upper Stump Road - asked if the Township receives a fee for construction of new homes (as many other municipalities do). Mr. Singley replied that several developers have made donations to the Township for use on equipment, roadways, parks, etc. Mr. Grabowski stated that this would also increase growth in the area.

(4) Joe Marino, Red Wing Road - In answer to Mr. Marino's question, Mr. Singley replied that the 1988 budget does not allow for hiring of additional policeman. Chairman Grunmeier stated that he contacted various municipalities today regarding amount of police protection they supply for their area (square miles and population count). In all cases, the ratio appeared to be one officer per 1,000 residents. Chairman Grunmeier stated that, in his opinion, the Police Department is doing an excellent job; however, the current force is at capacity which averages out to one officer per 1,000 residents.

(5) Mr. Pischl stated that Chief Egly requested the addition of 3 full time officers during the budget work session. Discussions were held regarding hiring of one officer in July and another at the end of the year. He further stated that, in anticipation of development in Silverdale Borough, it is his belief the Township should be prepared. However, Mr. Pischl further commented that he could not be responsible for making a budget which he would not be able to take care of in the coming year. Chairman Grunmeier stated that the Township has not received any notification from Silverdale Borough regarding additional police protection. In answer to residents' questions regarding the Township's population, Mr. Grunmeier stated the the 1980 census figure was 9,326.

(6) Mr. Theis also questioned overtime; Mr. Singley replied that the largest amount of overtime is due to appearance in court by the officers and that this is charged at 2 hours minimum, regardless of actual time spent in court. He further stated that officer's overtime in the past year has averaged at approximately \$5500 to \$5600 per officer. Mr. Singley indicated that the cost for hiring of a new officer (including benefits and pension) for 1987 would be \$45,000 to \$50,000 per year. Mr. Theis stated it is his feeling that residents would be willing to take a millage increase for additional police protection.

(7) Mrs. Peggy Scholl, Spur Road, asked when the Township would anticipate the hiring of additional officers. Mr. Singley replied that one officer has been added this year and that recommendations would be taken from the Chief of Police. He further stated that the hiring of additional patrolmen at this time would mean a drastic tax increase for the residents.

(8) Chairman Grunmeier stated that there were many variables taken into consideration when formulating the 1988 budget, such as police contract negotiations and Teamster's negotiations. He commented further that the Supervisors are trying to help those residents on fixed incomes; trying to give proper police protection without a raise in tax rates.

(9) Several residents commended Sgt. Ashby Watts on the fine work he performs in working with juveniles. They questioned whether it would be necessary to "loose" Sgt. Watts in this capacity, Chairman Grunmeier answered he did not believe this would be necessary as the Chief would make up the schedule. There followed further discussion regarding amount of time officers spend in training and amount of sick days officers are permitted to take.

8:25 P.M. - Board dismissed to go into Executive Session.

8:35 P.M. - Meeting called back to order.

(10) Chairman Grunmeier stated that there must be better management of the Police Department, and that he is sure Chief Egly has been working on this, using outside entities for back-up, etc. He further stated that many police departments are using part-time personnel to cut expenses, and that perhaps this could be instituted on a regional planning basis.

Mr. Singley read highlights of the 1988 budget, listing various amounts and percentages allotted to each department and for each category. Chairman Grunmeier announced that the 1988 budget was advertised for adoption at tonight's meeting. Motion was made by Mr. Pischl to approve adoption of the 1988 Budget; motion seconded by Mrs. Kelly and carried unanimously. Chairman Grunmeier thanked Mr. Singley for the time he spent working on this budget.

(b) Used Cars Advertised - Motion was made by Mrs. Kelly to approve sale of '83 Chevy Caprice to Ted Covington; motion seconded by Mr. Pischl and carried unanimously.

(c) Auto Maintenance - Mr. Singley stated that of 5 or 6 bids mailed to Hilltown Township shops, only two bids were received; low bid received from Mike's Service Center at \$20/hour which includes maintenance checks, inside storage of vehicles, free pick-up and delivery. Motion made by Mrs. Kelly to approve auto maintenance contract with Mike's Service Center at a cost of \$20 per hour with stipulations stated by the Township Manager; motion seconded by Mr. Pischl and carried unanimously.

(d) Post Office Update - Letter was written to Rep. Kostmayer on 11/12/87; no reply received to date. Letter was sent to Perkasio Post Office by Mr. Myers, former Zoning Officer, requesting information on projected growth -- no reply received to date.

(e) Mr. Singley requested an Executive Session be held after tonight's meeting for discussion of personnel matters.

## 2. New Business

Intex Water Study: Hydrologist's report received from INTEX regarding water study in Hilltown Village; results of which indicate there is currently no problem with the water supply in that area. Mr. Pischl asked if this would be pursued further; Chairman Grunmeier indicated that the initial intent was to determine the current water situation in Hilltown Village only (not the entire Township).

F. POLICE REPORT - Chief Egly read the report dated November 1987; same is on file at the Township office.

G. ROADMASTER'S REPORT - Tom Buzby read the report for the month which is on file at the Township office. Mr. Buzby stated that many signs are being taken throughout the Township.

## H. ENGINEERING/PLANNING:

1. Hager Subdivision - Plans were signed by Supervisors in July '87; agreements have now been fully executed; plans must be redated. Motion was made by Mrs. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Pischl and carried unanimously to allow Hager Subdivision plans to be redated.

2. Toth Subdivision - Mr. Toth has requested an extension of 90 days in order to accomplish final plan approval items. Motion was made by Mrs. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Pischl and carried unanimously to accept the 90 day extension for the Toth Subdivision.

3. Orchard Road Bridge/Calhoun Subdivision Mr. Wynn indicated that a provision of this plan is that the bridge stone arch be replaced by the developer. Developer has requested to be on P.C. Agenda for January's meeting regarding U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit for wetlands. Permit for replacement of box culvert has been approved by DER, with stipulation that the Township is responsible for notification to the Fish Commission and the Bucks County Conservation District. Motion was made by Mr. Pischl, seconded by Mrs. Kelly and carried unanimously to acknowledge receipt of the DER permit and to acknowledge that the Township is aware of requirements of that permit.

4. Stormwater Management Act - Mr. Wynn reported that he met with Robert Grunmeier, Thomas Buzby, and appointees to the Neshaminy Watershed Committee, Ed Curry and Kenneth Bennington, to discuss update on requirements of area of study. Motion was made by Mrs. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Pischl and carried unanimously to allow C. Robert Wynn and Thomas Buzby to work on stormwater management requirements for the Neshaminy Watershed Committee.

5. Act. 47 (Transportation District) - Mr. Wynn explained he is in the process of updating a method whereby future developments within the defined transportation area of the Township would be assessed a fee for capital improvements to existing roadways. Mr. Wynn is gathering information and has taken traffic counts in various areas of the Township; he stated that PennDOT's records are out of date in this regard.

He further requested a work session be held after the holidays; date to be set at next Supervisors' meeting.

6. Road Acceptance - Mr. Wynn made the following recommendations: Hickory Hamlet (Narothyn Road) - Retainage of \$33,473 for items not yet accomplished plus 10% retainage for items which have been accomplished. Motion was made by Mrs. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Pischl and carried unanimously to accept Narothyn Road in Hickory Hamlet Subdivision with stipulations stated by the Township Engineer. Schultz Subdivision (Narothyn Road) - Retainage of \$33,442.35 of which \$13,180 is 10% retainage balance for items completed. Motion was made by Mrs. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Pischl and carried unanimously to accept portion of Narothyn Road contained in the Schultz Subdivision with stipulations stated by the Township Engineer.

Brick's Way Subdivision (Brick's Way) - Mr. Hackett has offered \$3,875 (already placed in escrow) as a donation to the Township in lieu of putting in shoulders. Balance of remaining escrow is \$33,097 (\$7,520 retainage balance for items completed). Motion was made by Mr. Pischl, seconded by Mrs. Kelly and carried unanimously to accept the developer's donation and to waive stabilized shoulder requirement for the Brick's Way Subdivision. Motion was made by Mrs. Kelly to accept dedication of Brick's Way in the Brick's Way Subdivision; motion seconded by Mr. Pischl and carried unanimously. Chairman Grunmeier questioned status of the box culvert; Mr. Wynn replied that the contractor has not yet received grates from the manufacturer; boxes are made; and money remains in escrow to guarantee completion of same.

Pleasant Meadows' Subdivision (Phases #1, #4, #2 and #3) All items completed with exception of monumentation. Total escrow for Phase 1 is \$23,831.60 (10% retainage + \$1,400 for monumentation). Total escrow for Phase 2 is \$18,132.36 (10% retainage + \$1,100 for monumentation. Total Escrow for Phase 4 is \$25,290.25 (10% + \$4,100 for property pins and monumentation). Phase 3 - road not completed; Township to accept only that portion of road which has been completed - \$144,050.92 placed in escrow for completion of roadway and box culvert. Mr. Buzby stated that the roads are in very good condition; however, the Township should consider (in the very near future) enacting an ordinance to allow parking on one side of the street only. Motion was made by Mr. Pischl, seconded by Mrs. Kelly and carried unanimously to accept roads in the Pleasant Meadows' Subdivision (Steeplebush; Pleasant Springs; Thistle Lane; Yarrow Court; and Goldenrod Court), subject to conditions stated by Township Engineer and with approval of Township Roadmaster.

The Board directed the Township Solicitor to advertise an ordinance accepting these roads (including extension of Red Wing Road and Chelfield Road); with inclusion of stipulation that parking will be on one side only of those roads specified.

7. Bux-Mont Decision: Mr. Wynn investigated results of traffic count performed at Reliance Road and Bethlehem Pike by John R. Carullo Associates (dated 11/87)), taken on two separate days. Mr. Wynn stated that the information contained within the report appears to be accurate. The report did not distinguish between vehicle volumes. No heavy trucks were observed. Report also indicated there is no sight distance problem at intersection of Reliance Road and Bethlehem Pike. If requested, PennDOT would conduct a warrant study at Reliance Road and Bethlehem Pike to determine necessity of a traffic signal. No improvements proposed to Bethlehem Pike; although widening may be warranted. Mr. Wynn informed the Board that new plans were received by him at 6:40 P.M. this evening for the same site (plans dated 12/11/87); in addition to a revised stormwater management report (dated 12/11/87).

Mr. Grabowski indicated that the set of plans before the Board tonight has been reviewed by the Township staff; Chairman Grunreier stated that the Board must make a decision on those plans. Mr. Pischl stated he would not vote on this plan since the proposed site adjoins his property. Chairman Grunreier called for a vote. Mrs. Kelly made a motion to deny the Bux-Mont Land Development Plan dated 9/14/87; motion seconded by Mr. Grunreier.

At this time, Chairman Grunreier read from a prepared statement in which he requested that DER deny this permit (a copy of this statement is attached to these minutes). After reading of the statement, Chairman Grunreier called for a vote; Mrs. Kelly indicated she is in favor of the motion to deny the permit; Mr. Grunreier indicated he is favor of the motion to deny the permit; Mr. Pischl abstained from voting. (Ms. Barkee, Attorney for Bux-Mont, requested a copy of Mr. Grunreier's statement).

#### I. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

1. Mr. Grabowski reported that 30 days have passed on the Roach condemnation proceedings.

2. Mr. Janos Liptak has again been served with citations for zoning violations.

3. House Bill #2035 introduced 12/2/87 - Mr. Grabowski explained that this act would authorize funding of water and sewer in Pennsylvania. Hilltown Township was allotted to receive 2.2 million dollars for construction of and new interceptor system. However, since this project was completed 10 years ago at the Township's expense, Mr. Grabowski indicated he would contact the state legislature to inquire if allotment could be used for another project.

#### J. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Joe Marino, Red Wing Road - Mr. Marino indicated his agreement with Chairman Grunreier's statement regarding the Bux-Mont Trash Transfer Station and thanked the Supervisors for their vote.

2. Toni McMillan, Bethlehem Pike, Telford - Mrs. McMillan asked if the 1988 Budget would allow for hiring of additional officers this year. Chairman Grunreier replied that additional police officers are not budgeted for this year. Mrs. McMillan questioned the amount of time allowed for amendment to the budget; Mr. Singley indicated he will check the Second Class Township Code to determine the exact date. Chairman Grunreier further stated that the Board will take all comments and suggestions into consideration.

3. Jack Hetherington questioned ordinance which has been advertised for possible adoption at the Supervisors' Meeting of 12/28/87, "amending provisions of the Hilltown Township Zoning Ordinance of 1983 relating to utilities, industrial uses, resource recovery facilities, airportss and private landing fields." Chairman Grunreier stated that this ordinance has been sent to the BCPC and Township PC for their review; Mr. Wynn indicated that the PC plan to discuss this ordinance at their 12/21/87 meeting. Mr. Grabowski further explained content of the ordinance stated that the Township must hold an advertised hearing for adoption of an ordinance. Chairman Grunreier suggested Mr. Hetherington attend the 12/21/87 P.C. meeting or the 12/28/87 Supervisors' meeting to voice his comments and/or concerns.

4. Ron Theis questioned why the second Supervisors' meeting in December is being held and requested that the ordinance hearing be held in January or February. Chairman Grunmeier answered that this meeting was advertised in the beginning of the year and, due to the amount of business at this time of year, the second meeting is necessary. Chairman Grunmeier again emphatically suggested he attend the 12/21/87 PC meeting or the 12/28/87 Supervisors' meeting.

5. In answer to William Godek's question regarding resident's copies of reports on investigation of homes, Mr. Singley replied that Mr. Godek's report would be mailed tomorrow. Mr. Godek also questioned status of Pileggi law suit; Mr. Grabowski reported that status remains the same and that the state requires time to review the briefs on each case. In answer to his question, Mr. Godek was told the purpose of the executive session was discussion of personnel matters.

6. Philip Begley also requested discussion of ordinance be delayed beyond the 12/28/87 Supervisors' meeting. Mr. Begley further commented that Quarry trucks are still not covered. The Board suggested a meeting be set up between the Solicitor's office and the Township Manager.

7. Dale Nyce, Telford Fire Company questioned allotment to fire companies for the coming year. Mr. Singley quoted amounts allotted to each company and advised Mr. Nyce that each fire company received requests in August, asking them to submit financial statements and to advise their needs for the coming year (only 20% response received).

K. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Traffic light at Stump Road and Route 313 has been approved by PennDOT.

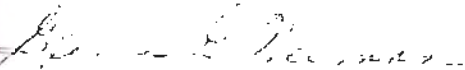
2. Silverdale Borough has agreed to the snow removal contract with Hilltown Township, at cost of \$40/hour.

L. SUPERVISORS' COMMENTS

In answer to Chairman Grunmeier's question, Roadmaster Tom Buzby stated that he telephoned PennDOT last Friday regarding large double yellow arrow on Callowhill Road.

There being no further business, a motion of adjournment was made by Mr. Pischl at 10:17 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Gloria G. Neiman  
Township Secretary

Being an elected official is not an easy job and, in my opinion, that's the way it should be. We, as your elected officials, must weigh all the factors and reach a decision in our minds that will be beneficial to the majority of our residents.

The residents of this community have great concerns with Bux-Mont Refuse Services proposed trash transfer station to be located on Reliance Road in Hilltown Township, Bucks County, PA. According to the petitions circulated within this Township, the potential problems or dangers expressed by the residents are: Pollution; Truck Traffic; Fire Potential; Toxicity; Blight on Landscape; and Eventual Expansion. With this in mind, let us analyze the Bux-Mont Refuse Services proposed trash transfer stations. There are businesses, and then there are environmental businesses, those being landfills, hazardous waste dumps, trash to steam plants, and trash transfer stations. Bux-Mont Refuse Services, of course, will fall into the latter category. In order to operate, these particular businesses must secure a permit from the Department of Environmental Resources, whose primary duty is to protect the environment and provide for the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. There has to be a certain amount of trust between Bux-Mont Refuse Services, the Department of Environmental Resources and Hilltown Township before a permit should be issued. In this particular case, that trust does not exist. We have documented proof that Bux-Mont Refuse Services has been conducting a trash transfer operation in Hatfield Township in violation of local zoning regulations and in violation of Department of Environmental Resources regulations.



No one, I am sure, wants to deny Bux-Mont Refuse Services from expanding their business, but where to expand is the key question. This particular company provides a service; that service being collection of trash which has been stated, benefits lower and central Bucks County and part of Montgomery County. My question to Bux-Mont Refuse Services, Inc. is, why not expand where your services are needed? Approximately two years ago, the Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors approved a trash transfer station located on Progress Drive in Hilltown Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, which is capable of handling 1200 Tons of trash per day. This approval was part of an Act 97 Solid Waste Plan which each municipality is mandated by the state legislature to enact. According to the Pennridge/Quakertown Solid Waste Management Base Plan submitted to the Pennridge/Quakertown Solid Waste Committee, Hilltown Township generates approximately 13.95 Tons of trash per day. This particular facility, known as the Alderfer & Frank Transfer Station, is capable of handling the trash generated by Hilltown Township for many years. Why do we need more trash transfer stations? The idea of more trash transfer stations being constructed in Hilltown Township is ridiculous! The PSYCHOLOGICAL effect on the community, in my opinion, would be devastating.

I was in Philadelphia recently, discussing different aspects of law with a well known attorney who shall remain anonymous. In the course of our conversation he stated, "Many laws have no common sense". I firmly disagree with this statement; somewhere, some court, some state agency must apply common sense when reaching a decision! Common sense tells me our residents in Hilltown Township have fulfilled their part of the trash crisis -- now it is time for others to fulfill their part! We do not need more trash transfer stations in Hilltown Township -- one is enough! Section 104 of the Hilltown Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance reads -- "Purpose - Subsection 5 (states) to promote, thereby, the health, safety and general welfare of the residents of the Township." One is enough!

I, personally, drafted a memo dated December 7, 1987 to the Hilltown Township Police Department, asking for their recommendations for traffic improvements which would be needed if, indeed, this trash transfer station was constructed. In a letter dated December 10, 1987, Sgt. Miller stated the following recommendations:

1. The addition of a traffic control signal to the area (posts and overhead).
2. The addition of expansion of Reliance Road to 50 ft. in width for approximately 785 ft. west of the intersection.

3. Painted stop lines on the roadways of both roads as indicated (location map attached to Sgt. Miller's notes).
4. A raised concrete island to allow for traffic flow from Reliance Road to southbound Old Bethlehem Pike (unrestricted, 15 ft. width).
5. The addition of "Stop Here on Red Signal" signs on Reliance Road and Old Bethlehem Pike.
6. The use of 20 ft. lane west from Old Bethlehem Pike onto Reliance Road to accommodate large truck turn radii.
7. The entrances to the station itself shall be approximately 200 ft. from the intersection to allow for large vehicles turning radii.
8. The lowering of ground level on the northwest corner (Inn of Aquarius property) to improve visibility for traffic from Reliance Road to Old Bethlehem Pike (viewing it north).
9. The use of indicated setbacks on the stop lines to allow for large vehicle traffic (this will also aid school vehicles here, for this intersection is part of normal bus routes for school).

10. The addition of painted traffic flow lines (double lines) and traffic flow arrows to aid in guiding traffic.
11. The use of "Left Turn" indications incorporated into the traffic control signal indicated above (10 second delay) to aid again in large vehicle traffic flow.

It was also stated by Mr. Jack Fox at the November 5th Bux/Mont hearing that the Supervisors could place a six month moratorium on any development within our PI District under Section 609.2, Page 19 of the Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Code. I sent inquiries dated 11/9/87 to Mr. George Spotts, Director of the Bucks County Planning Commission and to our Township Solicitor, requesting an opinion regarding if this, indeed, could be done. I received a reply dated November 15, 1987 from Mr. George Spotts, stating this could not be done and that I should seek an opinion from our Solicitor. Our Solicitor's opinion is in agreement with Mr. Spott's, as so stated in his reply letter of November 13, 1987.

Regional planning must be implemented for a successful trash plan in Bucks County. There is a proposed trash to steam plant in Richland Township; another proposed in Franconia Township; Grow's Landfill is being expanded approximately 70 acres; and also a proposed trash transfer station to be located in Plumstead Township. With the exception of Grow's Landfill, these proposed facilities are capable of handling the trash problem in Upper Bucks for many years. My question to the Department of Environmental Resources is, how much is enough? Are we going to have trash transfer stations and trash to steam plants on every corner?

In summation, I would like to read an editorial that was printed in the December 7, 1987 issue of the Daily Intelligencer:

"Give 'em an inch and they'll take a mile. It's a familiar lament of those who feel taken advantage of and is particularly appropriate these days in Hilltown Township, where residents are fighting the state over permits for trash transfer stations.

The stations are what the name implies -- central sites where refuse is dumped and stored temporarily before being taken to its final destination. Transfer stations are one method trash firms use to cut the expense involved in transporting the mountains of garbage they collect.

While these stations must meet state standards and generally are run in an efficient manner, they still aren't everyone's idea of a good neighbor. In addition, they generate a lot of heavy truck traffic. And despite assurances from those who operate the plants, questions exist involving noise, odors and possible health hazards.

The concerned officials and citizens of Hilltown who are trying to block the latest efforts to build a trash transfer station in their community are not being unreasonable. In fact, they have already done their share, in a manner of speaking. To date, Bucks County has only one trash transfer station, and it is located in Hilltown Township.

In an effort to head off possible zoning challenges, Hilltown's Supervisors amended their zoning ordinance several years ago to include an area for trash transfer stations. Subsequently, the first station was approved without a great deal of opposition.

But now the people of Hilltown are saying one is enough, and their argument is well-taken. When the state Department of Environmental Resources reviews the various criteria to determine whether to issue a permit for another trash station in the township, it must also weigh heavily the fact that every area of Bucks County produces its fair share of trash. The wealth, so to speak, should be spread around.

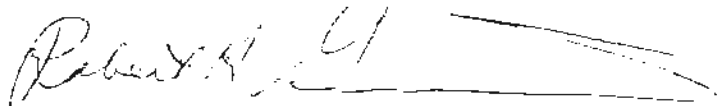
The last thing the township needs is to acquire a reputation as a haven for firms operating trash transfer stations. But that's the risk involved if the courts and DER allow too many such stations in one particular area, even if the zoning exists there.

Naturally, if two, three or more trash transfer stations are allowed to operate in Hilltown, surrounding communities and counties will lose what little incentive they have to develop trash strategies of their own. Why bother, they might ask, if they can ship their garbage and the problems that go with it to good old Hilltown?

Clearly Hilltown's zoning amendment wasn't intended as an open-door policy to trash haulers. Nevertheless, the township is being exploited, and whether the courts view it as legal doesn't change the fact.

The problem in Hilltown is indicative of a much larger dilemma involving trash disposal and who is ultimately responsible for it. Until laws are passed that clearly define and integrate the roles of state, county and municipal governments in trash management, the process will continue to be hit and miss, and the little guy, Hilltown, in this case, will be the one to suffer."

My closing remarks: DER use some common sense and fulfill your obligation to our Hilltown Township residents, and deny this permit!

  
Robert H. Grunmeier, Chairman  
Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors