

HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP
SUPERVISOR'S MEETING
March 9, 1987

The meeting of the Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman, Vincent Pischl, at 7:30 P.M.

Members present were: Vincent Pischl, Chairman
Robert H. Grunmeier, V. Chairman
Betty J. Kelly, Supervisor

Others present were: James H. Singley, Twp. Manager
Gloria Neiman, Secretary
C. Robert Wynn, Twp. Engineer
Francis X. Grabowski, Solicitor
George C. Egly, Police Chief

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion was made by Mrs. Kelly to accept the minutes of the February 23, 1987 Supervisors' meeting as written; motion seconded by Mr. Grunmeier and carried unanimously.

B. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: Current billing in the amount of \$48,298.20 was approved by the Board. Motion was made by Mrs. Kelly to pay bills when due; seconded by Mr. Grunmeier and carried unanimously.

At this time, Chairman Pischl read a statement in which he stated that 5 years ago on this date, the Supervisors hired George C. Egly, Jr. as Chief of Police of Hilltown Township. Mr Pischl commended Chief Egly for the committment and professionalism he has brought to the Hilltown Township Police Department. The Board expressed their congratualtions to Chief Egly.

C. TREASURER'S REPORT: Mr. Singley read the Treasurer's Report dated 3/01/87 - 3/05/87; same is on file at the Township building. Motion was made by Mrs. Kelly to accept the report as given; seconded by Mr. Grunmeier and carried unanimously.

D. CONFIRMED APPOINTMENTS: Jim Kemmerer was present to request clarification from the Board regarding their conditional approval of the Broderick tract (at their 2/23/87 meeting). The single well located on Lots #4 and #5 is to be owned and operated by a homeowners' association and conform to specifications of the HTWSA; upon availability of public water, the association shall be dissolved and the well dedicated to the Authority or abandoned. Mr. Kemmerer indicated that the Water & Sewer Authority is not interested in the well. After determining that Mr. Wynn has been advised of this verbally by the Authority Engineer, Mr. Grunmeier stated that he would like to see something in writing from HTWSA indicating that they are not interested in the well. Chairman Pischl asked if there is money in escrow to cover any potential problems; Mr. Kemmerer indicated there would be a sufficient escrow amount. Mr. Grabowski confirmed that, as a result of the agreement, there is sufficient money escrowed for connection fees to HTWSA. He further suggested that the Township Engineer work with the Authority Engineer to establish specifications for the system, assuring that it would never be dedicated for public use; the Board was in agreement to this.

Mr. Wynn stated that at the last meeting, the Board approved the Broderick preliminary plan which included approval of extension of the public sewer line into the tract. (In order to submit the resolution for plan review to DER, a separate resolution for Act 537 revision is required before DER will review same.) Motion was made by Mr. Grunmeier to adopt Resolution #87-8 - Act 537 revision for Broderick tract; motion seconded by Mrs. Kelly and carried unanimously.

E. MANAGER'S REPORT:

1. Old Business:

a) Fire Service Agreements - Silverdale Fire Company agreement received at this meeting. Mr. Singley reported the following agreements have been received to date: Dublin; Line Lexington; Souderton; and Silverdale. Fire companies were requested to return the agreements by 2/23/87.

b) Bookkeeper Position - status remains on hold.

c) Traffic Light at Rt. 313 and Stump Road Mr. Singley reported he is awaiting input from New Britain regarding cost factor.

d) Request for Street Signs - Mr. Singley discussed this with Roadmaster, Tom Buzby, who is handling the situation.

e) Refinancing Fire Loans - Mr. Singley reported he will meet with Ernie Klee of Union National Bank regarding refinancing of loans for Line Lexington Fire Company.

f) Liquid Fuels - Application for County aid for repair of potholes for period ending 12/31/87. Motion was made by Mr. Grunmeier to adopt Resolution #87-9, Application for County Aid; motion seconded by Mrs. Kelly and carried unanimously.

g) Poust Property, Hilltown Pike - Mr. Singley indicated a letter was sent to the Supervisors from the Zoning Officer, Clarence Myers, explaining his review of the parcel. It was noted that the lintel of the double door on the left should be replaced; and floor area and wooden steps to "loft-type" office area should be reinforced and strengthened in the interest of safety. Mr. Myers further recommended, "continuance of the zoning variance for the present non-conforming use and hold the Use & Occupancy Permit in abeyance until alterations and/or repairs have been made. Motion was made by Mr. Grunmeier to adopt Resolution #87-10, allowing continuance of the zoning variance for the present non-conforming use and issuance of a Use & Occupancy permit after necessary repair/alterations have been made; motion seconded by Mrs. Kelly and carried unanimously.

Mr. Poust and Mr. Baker were present and requested the Board clarify their decision. They were informed that a Use & Occupancy permit (for a machine shop operation) will be issued after repairs are made (reinforcement of wooden stairs and replacement of lintel).

2) New Business

a) Resignation - Mr. Singley read a letter of resignation from Township Secretary, Anna Marie Walsh (effective 3/2/87). Mr. Grunmeier requested that a letter be sent to Mrs. Walsh complimenting her on services to the Township. The Board accepted Mrs. Walsh's resignation

b) Appointment of Secretary - Mr. Singley recommended that Mrs. Gloria Neiman, Assistant Secretary, be named Township Secretary. Motion was made by Mr. Grunmeier to appoint Mrs. Neiman Township Secretary with duties as stated in the Second Class Township Code; motion seconded by Mrs. Kelly and carried unanimously.

c) Recommendation for Adoption of Demolition Fee - The Township Building Inspector has requested the Board's consideration of a demolition permit fee; his recommendation being: \$25.00/Residential and \$50.00/Commercial-Industrial. At the present time there is nothing on the fee schedule which addresses demolition. Chairman Pischl and Mr. Grunmeier both questioned whether this fee would be the same regardless of size of building (i.e. small shed as opposed to larger building). The Board requested further input from the Building Inspector and tabled a decision until receipt of additional information.

d) Emergency Management Meeting - Mr. Singley reported that a meeting was held on March 4, 1987. In addition to the Supervisors and Mr. Singley, present were: Chief George Egly; Roadmaster, Tom Buzby; Robert Grunmeier, Jr., Line Lexington Fire Company; and PEMA Coordinator, Richard McCoach.

F. ENGINEERING REPORT:

1. Eileen Berger Site Plan, Route 313 - Mrs. Berger has requested the Supervisors waive 15' setback requirement for parking spaces. Mr. Wynn explained that one of the requirements of conditional approval of site plan at Supervisors' meeting of 2/23/87 was that right-of-way of Dublin Pike be dedicated to the Township and parking spaces be moved to conform to requirements of the Hilltown Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance. Mrs. Berger (by letter) has requested the Supervisors waive the 15' setback requirement for parking spaces. Mrs. Berger was present and explained that this would involve destroying many large trees. Motion was made by Mrs. Kelly to amend Supervisors' approval of the H & H Site Development Plan, waiving the 15' setback requirement; motion seconded by Mr. Grunmeier and carried unanimously.

2. Mr. Wynn advised the Board of receipt of application for Bucks-Mont Trash Transfer Station; at this point, no review has been made.

G. SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Chanoff Subdivision, Reliance Road - Motion was made by Mr. Grunmeier, seconded by Mrs. Kelly and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution #87-11, Acceptance of Deed of Dedication and Resolution #87-12, Declaration of Public Purpose for the Chanoff Subdivision.

H. POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Egly read the report for the month of February which is on file at the Township building. He also reported that two police vehicles which arrived last week are now in full service.

I. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Roadmaster, Tom Buzby, read the report dated 2/1/87 through 2/28/87; same is on file at the Township office. An item added to the report was the replacement of blades on the grater. Mr. Buzby also publically thanked Foreman, Scott Lear for the fine job he did during his absence.

J. PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. John Snyder reported on use of Township's donation to Line Lexington Fire Company -- a bid was placed for 2,000 feet of 5-inch hose, adaptors and apparatus which is to be delivered in two weeks.

2. Dr. Richard Koitzsh, 627 Meadow Creek Lane, Perkasio: Dr. Koitzsh read from a prepared statement in which he indicated he represented several families on the northwest side of Pleasant Creek (lower side of Glenn Garis' Pleasant Meadows' development). The purpose of the statement was "to be put on record as to the contractor violations of the Pleasant Creek bed which have taken place since the start of the project, and the destruction which has taken place as a result of sewer line construction 6 years ago." Dr. Koitzch indicated he had addressed the Township on this subject in 1978. He maintained the initial problem began with the construction of temporary bridges which were built from sand and stone and then washed out continuously; or the bridges were not removed and sludge washed downstream.

Dr. Koitzch further complained of current "contractor violations" resulting in sediment being washed downstream, and neighboring properties (Mosher, Roman, and Bozarth) losing ground, causing damage to properties and trees. In closing, Dr. Koitzch requested the Township have the contractor rectify these problems immediately. He also provided a video tape for review after the meeting.

Mr. Wynn explained that he had noted severe erosion on the Koitzch property during a previous investigation; he also stated the contractor has been cited on numerous occasions for failure to control sedimentation. Mr. Wynn had contacted Mark Bahnick of Cowan Associates regarding erosion occurring on the manhole at the creek and was informed by him that they are aware of the problem and are taking steps to correct same. He further explained that an inspection is scheduled for Friday, 3/13/87 by which time Mr. Garis is to conform with all requirements of the Bucks County Soil Conservation Service (including installation of a dam and construction of sedimentation area behind it to allow for stone and gravel to come out). In answer to a question from Mrs. Koitzch, Mr. Wynn indicated the maximum fine allowed would be \$1,000/day; and that the Soil Conservation Service is responsible for citing fines and penalties.

Chairman Pischl requested that Dr. Koitzch supply Mr. Wynn with a copy of the complaint for his investigation.

K. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. North Penn Water Authority - Municipal Banquet to be held at Indian Valley Country Club - invitations to be sent to all Township officials. All those wishing to attend should advise the Township Secretary.

2. Office of Community Development - addition of \$1,100 to block grant funds; current balance is now \$12,300.

3. Office of James C. Greenwood - invitation to Supervisors, Township Manager, and Roadmaster to attend meeting Friday, 3/20/87 at 10:00 a.m. in the Community Room of the Bucks County Courthouse. Roadmaster, Tom Buzby, will attend this meeting.

4. Borough of Telford - notice received of a public hearing to be held at 7:30 P.M. on 3/11/87 in the Council Chamber, Borough Building, Telford, PA for application of H. Wm. Castor to construct addition to printing shop, 358 S. Washington St., Telford, PA.

5. 1986 Fire Reports received from the following fire companies: Telford; Dublin; Souderton; Silverdale; and Line Lexington.

L. SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:

1. Chairman Pischl reported he received 26 letters from Valley Vista residents regarding County Line Road traffic situation and their request for warning lights in that area. Mr. Pischl submitted the letters to the Township Secretary.

2. Mr. Pischl announced that the Civic Association has requested a forum be held on Tuesday, March 24, 1987 at 8:00 P.M. with the Supervisors, Police Chief, Township Manager and Architect at the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church on Route 152 to discuss the pros and cons fo the new municipal building. The Supervisors have indicated they will attend.

3. Mr. Grunmeier suggested a letter be sent to the Bucks County Commissioners, requesting that the County give top priority to reconstruction of the following bridges: 1) Rickert Road - between Frontier & Forest; 2) Quarry Road - between Rt. 313 and Meadow Drive; 3) Schwenk Mill - between Old Bethlehem Road & Blue School Road. Since they are in need of repair, the County has reduced weight limits on these bridges, causing re-routing of school buses, emergency vehicles and road equipment.

4. Mr. Grunmeier also reported that complaints have been received from residents advising that they have not received tax statements. He contacted Tax Collector, Florence Simons who advised all taxes had been mailed. After further investigation, Mr. Grunmeier determined that, according to the County of Bucks, it is the taxpayers responsibility to make sure their taxes are paid.

5. Mr. Grunmeier attended a meeting at Dublin Borough on March 5, 1987 and reported that there is a lack of communication between Hilltown Township, Bedminster and Dublin regarding a Joint Water Study meeting date. The Supervisors directed Mr. Singley to follow-up on this as quickly as possible.

6. Further, regarding the water situation, Mr. Grunmeier indicated he would like to see a water study performed for the village of Hilltown which could be coordinated through the Hilltown Township Water & Sewer Authority and their Engineer. The Board approved a suggestion by Mr. Grunmeier to proceed with obtaining proposals for same.

7. The Planning Commission has requested that Mr. Wynn work with them in update of the Zoning Ordinance. Mr. Grabowski advised that, since Mr. Wynn is a professional consultant, this would not have to be bid. The Board directed Mr. Wynn to submit a proposal for the Zoning Ordinance update.

8. At this time, Mr. Grunmeier read a prepared statement regarding his views on the need for regional planning. He stated that, in his opinion, the Pennridge and Upper Bucks Chambers of Commerce could fulfill the position of a regional planning coordinator. Mr. Grunmeier expressed the need for a yearly conference where local officials could express their needs to county and state officials, who in turn could see that these concerns are made known to the appropriate agencies. He further stated, "We must start realizing government is a business and, as such, should be run as a profitable business -- benefits being reasonable taxes." Mr. Grunmeier requested the Board's permission to send his comments to various boards of Upper Bucks County and the Upper Bucks and Pennridge Chambers of Commerce. Copies were also distributed to the press.

8:45 P.M. - A press conference was held to answer any questions or concerns of the reporters present.

There being no further business, a motion of adjournment was made by Mr. Grunmeier at 8:52 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gloria G. Neiman".

Gloria G. Neiman
Township Secretary