

**HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
REGULARLY SCHEDULED WORKSESSION MEETING  
Monday, September 9, 1996  
7:30PM**

The regularly scheduled 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  
Thomas Buzby, Director of Public Works  
George C. Egly, Chief of Police

A. APPROVAL OF CURRENT BILLING: Chairman Bennett presented the Bills List, dated September 10, 1996 with General Fund payments in the amount of \$40,485.73, State Highway Aid payments in the amount of \$1,610.44, and Escrow Fund payments in the amount of \$259.28; for a grand total of all funds in the amount of \$42,355.45.

Supervisor Fox noted the high fee for building inspections, though he understands they stem from the Hilltown Crossings Shopping Center.

Motion was made by Supervisor Fox, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to approve the Bills List dated September 10, 1996, subject to audit.

B. HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY REPORT - Mr. Jim Groff - Mr. Groff read the Authority Report for the month of August, 1996 which is on file at the Township office.

Mr. Groff asked when construction will begin on the Telegraph Road bridge for the Country Roads development. Mr. Horrocks noted all approvals have been given, and he expects work to begin within two weeks.

Supervisor Fox asked the estimated date for water to be flowing through the Dublin waterline project. Mr. Groff replied it could take up to 1 1/2 years because the well has not yet been dug which would keep the plume back. Mr. Groff believes an outside entity and E.P.A. are working in conjunction on that project.

Supervisor Fox asked if there has been any progress finding a site for the Authority's water tower. Mr. Groff replied there is not, however the Authority is reviewing five sites.

C. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT - Mr. Thomas A. Buzby - Mr. Buzby read the Public Works Report for the period of August 4th through August 31, 1996, which is on file at the Township office.

Supervisor's Worksession  
September 9, 1996

The Township is in receipt of a request from Mrs. Robert Newman for "Children at Play" signs to be erected on Minsi Trail. Mrs. Newman is willing to pay for the cost of the signs. Mr. Buzby noted a PennDot permit must be obtained since there is a State road involved. The Board directed Mr. Horrocks to proceed ahead.

D. POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT - Chief George C. Egly - Chief Egly read the Police Report for the month of August, 1996 which is on file at the Township office.

Supervisor Bennington noted the police responded to 1400 calls in the month of August, 1996, and asked how many complaints were received that the police calls were not answered expeditiously. Chief Egly stated he received no complaints for the month.

Supervisor Bennington asked the Chief to supply the Board with copies of the Silverdale Borough patrol report. Chief Egly agreed to supply that information.

Supervisor Bennington asked the speed limit on Green Street and Chief Egly replied that the speed limit is 45 m.p.h.. Supervisor Bennington received a letter from Mr. Louis Crawford concerning speeding on Green Street and requesting that the speed limit be lowered. Supervisor Bennington agreed that speeding on Green Street is out of control. Supervisor Fox asked if speed studies are still being conducted every two or three weeks. Chief Egly stated there have been no speed studies conducted in 1996.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington to authorize the use of police overtime to conduct a speed study on Green Street. Supervisor Fox suggested that speed studies be expanded to approximately two per month on various roads throughout the Township.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to authorize the use of police overtime to conduct two speed studies during the month of September, and two speed studies during the month of October, with one of those studies being conducted on Green Street.

E. PARK AND RECREATION REPORT - Mr. Nick Lupinacci - Mr. Lupinacci was not present at this time.

F. HILLTOWN FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT - Mr. Devlin was not present at this time.

G. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT - Mr. Devlin was not present at this time.

Supervisor's Worksession  
September 9, 1996

H. SILVERDALE FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT - Mr. Chuck Stockert - Mr. Stockert read the Silverdale Fire Company Report for the month of August, 1996 which is on file at the Township office.

Mr. Stockert commented the number of calls received by the Silverdale Fire Company are increasing. The Silverdale Fire Company is asking for the Board's consideration at budget time pertaining to the development and population growth in their fire protection district. The company is dealing with an increased call volume and increased operating costs, yet there is no increase in donations from residents. The company is especially in need of equipment that can be purchased from the Foreign Fire Relief Fund, and would be grateful for an increase in that distribution as well. As always, the Silverdale Fire Company greatly appreciates the Township's support. Mr. Stockert stated the fire company is finding that with the increased call volume, it is harder on the trucks and equipment, and therefore is requesting consideration for more financial assistance.

Chairman Bennett replied the Supervisors will begin the budget process in October and will give serious consideration to Mr. Stockert's request. Supervisor Fox asked if Mr. Stockert has taken into account how many new homes were constructed in the Silverdale Fire Company service area. Mr. Stockert believes there were 130 or 140 new dwellings constructed within Silverdale's service area last year and the traffic increase has impacted the fire company as well.

Supervisor Bennington commented the UGI gas lines running up Rt. 152 used to have sniffer holes drilled into the roadway which allowed the gas to drift out, however those holes have since been paved over. Supervisor Bennington asked where the gas is now going since it is no longer seeping out through the sniffer holes. Mr. Stockert stated UGI's explanation to him was that the homes in that area are far enough back so that the gas is dissipating into the rock beneath the roadway. Mr. Stockert is very concerned about this issue and is as frustrated with UGI as Supervisor Bennington is. Mr. Stockert suggested State Representatives be contacted. Mr. Horrocks advised correspondence was sent to UGI in the past, with copies of that letter sent to Representative Druce, Senator Heckler, and the Public Utilities Commission. The Township received a response from a director of UGI acknowledging a "situation" and that they would be addressing the issue. No follow-up letter was ever received. The Board of Supervisors suggested additional correspondence be sent to UGI.

Mr. John Gillespie, president of the Silverdale Fire Company, stated that the new fire contracts and maps were formally and unanimously approved by the fire company at their last meeting.

With regard to Mr. Stockert's request, Mr. Gillespie stated there are three critical areas for the fire company, which includes volunteers, fund raising and equipment purchases. Those three combinations make the fire company, in Mr. Gillespie's opinion, and without all three, the company can not function properly. It seems that within the last month or two, the fire company may have lost more volunteers than they have gained. During the last month, there was one daytime fire call where the fire company was strapped for volunteers. Concerning fund raising, Mr. Gillespie stated the fire company is having as many breakfasts as possible and is attempting to seek new sources of donations. Mr. Gillespie feels the explosion of housing developments in Hilltown is no more apparent than in the Silverdale service district and this will only increase in coming years. Coupled with the new school coming to fruition within the next year and a half, there will be an increased burden placed on the Silverdale Fire Company to efficiently and effectively service their fire district. In order to keep abreast of the necessary training for fire fighters, Mr. Gillespie asked the Board to carefully review the population and housing report submitted by Mr. Stockert. Mr. Gillespie requested that the Board of Supervisors consider an increased budget that is both fair and equitable for the Silverdale Fire Company's coverage area.

I. CONFIRMED APPOINTMENTS:

1. Mrs. Gisela Schafsteller - Teed Zoning Hearing Board Decision - Mrs. Schafsteller stated the Teed Zoning Hearing took place in March of this year and asked the status of that case. Mrs. Schafsteller advised the situation at the Teed property is continuing as it was before, however the noise level has been reduced. Mr. Horrocks has discussed the situation at the Teed property with Mrs. Schafsteller, and noted that the Teeds are continuing operation that was going on prior to their Zoning Hearing, even though their variance was not granted. The thirty day appeal period has passed and no appeal was forthcoming. Mr. Horrocks strongly suggested that the Board consider sending this matter to District Justice Court for further action, and requesting any neighbors to attend that hearing to substantiate the Township's case even further. The Supervisors agreed.

Motion was made by Supervisor Fox, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to send the Teed matter to District Justice Court.

Chairman Bennett stated it is very important that Mrs. Schafsteller and her neighbors appear at that hearing when a date is scheduled.

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

1. Mr. Horrocks presented the following bids:

Bid #96-9 Heating Oil

Bids received: Farm and Home Oil Company - \$.7855/gallon

Bid #96-10 Diesel Fuel

Bids received: Farm and Home Oil Company -

\$.81/gallon (card system)

\$.8005/gallon (delivered)

Bid #96-11 Super Unleaded Gasoline

Bids received: Farm and Home Oil Company - \$.8575/gallon

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to award Bid #96-9 for Heating Oil in the amount of \$.7855/gallon; Bid #96-10 for Diesel Fuel in the amount of \$.81/gallon (card system) and \$.8005/gallon (delivered); and Bid #96-11 for Super Unleaded Gasoline in the amount of \$.8575/gallon to Farm and Home Oil Company.

2. Mr. Horrocks presented five escrow releases for the Board's authorization:

Country Roads Phase I	Voucher #54	\$ 54,132.04
Country Roads Phase II	Voucher #28	\$ 2,655.00
Country Roads Phases III & IV	Voucher #04	\$ 871.12
Hilltown Crossings	Voucher #23	\$ 755.22
Schade Tract	Voucher #7A	\$ 74.16

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to approve the release of the five escrows as listed above.

3. A request has been received from Mr. Bill Kee, the Dublin Borough Engineer, with regard to the restoration of Quarry Road for the Dublin waterline. Because there are two 8" waterlines on each travel lane of Rickert Road, Dublin Borough will literally reconstruct that road with BCBC and sealer, however there is a 6 ft. center strip which is currently scheduled for just 1 1/2" overlay. Mr. Kee states that the center area appears to be buckling, and therefore recommends that Dublin Borough and Hilltown Township pay the contractor to include 4" of BCBC and a 1 1/2" overlay for that center 6 ft. strip. The total cost to Hilltown Township would be \$1,365.00. Discussion took place with the Director of Public Works. The Board of Supervisors directed Mr. Buzby to discuss this matter with Mr. Kee and Dublin Borough officials.

Supervisor's Worksession  
September 9, 1996

4. A request has been received from the residents of Blooming Glen who would like to hold a neighborhood pig roast at the Scout Cabin in early October and are requesting a waiver of rental fees. Mr. Horrocks noted this is not a non-profit organization, however the residents of Blooming Glen are planning a Neighborhood Day. Chairman Bennett is agreeable to waiving the rental fee, however he feels a security deposit should be required. Supervisors Fox and Bennington agreed.

Motion was made by Supervisor Fox, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to waive the rental fee of the Scout Cabin for the residents of Blooming Glen, with a security deposit required.

5. Mr. Horrocks presented a proposal from a computer training company who will be providing a 6 hour in-house training session with the Hilltown Township Water and Sewer Authority. Mr. Horrocks asked the Board to consider approving this type of training for three Administrative employees. The cost is \$400.00 per person.

6. A request has been received from Joyce and Richard King who recently purchased a home on Chefield Road which includes an outbuilding housing a non-conforming kitchen. Mr. and Mrs. King stated they will only use that building for family members and have no intention of ever using the building as a rental unit for profit. The Supervisors dealt with a similar request from residents on Fairhill Road several weeks ago who provided a notarized letter identifying the fact that it is a non-conformity that can not be enlarged without applying to the Zoning Hearing Board, and stating that they will never utilize the building as a rental unit for profit.

Supervisor Fox commented there are a great deal of supposed "in-law" apartments in Hilltown Township that actually do not house in-laws. Supervisor Fox believes this is why a great deal of tax dollars are lost and census figures are inaccurate. Supervisor Fox noted that the Ordinance allows the Township to periodically inspect these types of properties, and suggested that the Zoning Officer inspect these types of dwelling units from time to time.

Motion was made by Supervisor Fox, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to allow Mr. and Mrs. King to use the above mentioned building as an in-law apartment for family members only with documentation provided to the Township, and that they will agree to periodic Township inspections to insure compliance.

K. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Correspondence has been received from the Board of Elections, advising the County Solicitor has reviewed the open space question, accepting it as written to be placed on the ballot at the November election.

Chairman Bennett asked if notification has been received from the Board of Elections regarding the change of polling place for the Fairhill II voting district. Chairman Bennett understands they are considering changing the polling place from the John M. Grasse School to St. Peter's Lutheran Church on Hilltown Pike. Mr. Horrocks is not aware of any change, however he will look into the matter.

2. A Financial Statement/Treasurer's Report has been received from the Perseverance Volunteer Fire Company for the period of July, 1995 through June, 1996.

L. LINENS FOR SIGNATURE: None.

M. RESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

1. Mr. Dale Ott of 246 Mill Road expressed his support for the financial request made by the Silverdale Fire Company. Mr. Ott agreed that the Silverdale Fire Company is absorbing a great deal of the Township's population growth within their coverage area.

2. Mr. Henry Moore, an employee of Farm and Home Oil Company, stated that his job requires him to work closely with the Bucks County Fire Marshall. Mr. Moore wondered if the Fire Marshall was consulted when dealing with the natural gas problem on Rt. 152 which had been discussed earlier. Chairman Bennett stated he had never thought about contacting the Bucks County Fire Marshall, and thanked Mr. Moore for his suggestion. Supervisor Bennington asked Mr. Horrocks to phone the Fire Marshall to bring him up to date on the situation. Mr. Moore noted the Fire Marshall is aware of all the dangers involved with flammability, and it is possible that he can assist the Township with UGI.

N. SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:

1. Mr. Horrocks noted the Board of Supervisors, the Township Manager, and the Township Solicitor met in Executive Session following the Conditional Use Hearing held on September 5, 1996 to discuss labor negotiations.

2. Chairman Bennett announced that Hilltown Township's Community Day will be held Saturday, September 14, 1996 to celebrate the 275th anniversary of Hilltown Township and the 50th

Supervisor's Worksession  
September 9, 1996

anniversary of the Hilltown Civic Association. Community Day will be held at the Hilltown Civic Park approximately 1 mile south of this building on Rt. 152, beginning at 9:00AM and ending at 7:00PM with a fireworks display. Chairman Bennett encouraged everyone to attend, and noted volunteers are still needed.

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

P. ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion by Supervisor Fox, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously, the September 9, 1996 Board of Supervisors Worksession meeting was adjourned at 8:40PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynda Seimes

Township Secretary

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