

**HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Caleb Torrice at 7:01 PM and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Also in attendance were Vice Chairman James Groff, Supervisor Joseph Metzinger, Township Manager Deanna Ferry, Township Solicitor Jack Wuerstle, Township Engineer Timothy Fulmer, and Chief of Police Christopher Engelhart.

1. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Torrice announced there was an Executive Session prior to the meeting to discuss EMS, as was noted at the prior meeting. Chairman Torrice advised that the conversation will continue under New Business.

2. CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Minutes of October 28, 2024, Board of Supervisors Meeting
- b. Bills List: November 12, 2024
- c. Financial Report: October 31, 2024

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Groff, seconded by Supervisor Metzinger, and carried unanimously to approve items A-C on the Consent Agenda. There was no public comment.

3. CONFIRMED APPOINTMENT: None.

4. LEGAL: None.

5. PLANNING:

Township Engineer Tim Fulmer stated that there were two items for review as follows:

a) Britton Industries Land Development: Land development completion status for the project involves construction of a non-residential structure and expanded facilities for the existing compost facility along Bethlehem Pike. The work is complete such that the Township can accept the completion of the improvements and authorize the entrance into the maintenance period with the two conditions being the payment of all engineering, legal and Township administration fees by the developer and for the Township to maintain financial security in a reduced amount of \$18,714.80 until the completion of the required improvements. Motion was made by Supervisor Metzinger and seconded by Vice Chairman Groff, and carried unanimously. There was no public comment.

b) Tice Estates Subdivision: There were several punch list items that were identified during the maintenance period that had to be addressed by the developer and those things have now been completed such that the Township may accept completion of the maintenance period and return all the remaining financial security to the applicant less payment of all engineering, legal and Township administrative costs. Motion was made by Supervisor Metzinger and seconded by Vice Chairman Groff, and carried unanimously. There was no public comment.

6. ENGINEERING: None.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a) EMS Designation: Chairman Torrice recapped the conversation that occurred in the executive session on Wednesday, after which the Board continued their discussion on the matter. Supervisor Metzinger spoke at length regarding his thoughts on the process to designate an EMS provider, and his disappointment on a number of events that occurred during that process. Specifically, Supervisor Metzinger noted VMSC withdrawing their proposal to come into the Township and Medic 159 going live in Silverdale in 20 days without advanced planning with Hilltown Township. Supervisor Metzinger went on to address rumors made against VMSC online. Vice Chairman Groff advised that he was happy with Chal-Brit's service to the Township. Chairman Torrice further noted that he agreed the process was disappointing, and that he sees both viewpoints which is why he tried to come up with a compromise. Solicitor Wuerstle advised that no motion was needed for the Resolution previously voted on to begin contract negotiations to designate VMSC as the primary EMS provider for the Township, since their withdrawal now makes it a moot point. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Groff to approve Township Manager Dr. Ferry to address the change of a couple of call boxes with the County, seconded by Supervisor Metzinger and carried unanimously. There was no public comment.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

Dr. Ferry apologized that live streaming video was not working due to technical difficulties.

a) Resolution 2024-18: Dr. Ferry explained there was a resolution up for consideration for the transfer of funds from PLIGIT investment account into the Township General accounts. Discussion ensued as to keeping funds invested. A motion was made by Supervisor Metzinger and seconded by Vice Chairman Groff, and carried unanimously. There was no public comment.

b) Resolution 2024-19: Dr. Ferry advised the Board that this resolution will be necessary to allow for the renewal of a multi-municipal recycling grant with Plumstead Township, Dublin Borough, East Rockhill and Hilltown Township, that the Township has had since approximately 2017. The resolution would allow the application to renew the grant indefinitely. If approved to draft, the resolution will be on the December agenda for final consideration. Dr. Ferry added that Plumstead Township volunteered their services to get the resolution together for all of the participating municipalities. A Motion was made by Vice Chairman Groff, seconded by Supervisor Metzinger and carried unanimously. There was no public comment.

c) Ordinance 2024-004: Dr. Ferry explained that this line item is to discuss increasing Supervisor salaries per Act 94 of 2024, and its impact for the current Board. Discussion ensued with regard to the amount of the caps and dates it would take effect. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Groff, seconded by Supervisor Metzinger and carried unanimously to approve drafting Ordinance 2024-004. There was no public comment.

d) Contracted Ambulance Services: Dr. Ferry noted that this is an addition to the agenda. A discussion ensued regarding what the Township has historically done with assigning a percentage based on call volume and percentage of calls served for the Township and then the Township paid according to that percentage out of the lump sum assigned for that line item. She further discussed the payment for 2024 and whether or not to include VMSC along with Point Pleasant and Chal-Brit or just Point Pleasant and Chal-Brit. Further discussion by the Board followed. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Groff and seconded

by Supervisor Metzinger and carried unanimously to approve the 2023 contracted ambulance service payout to Point Pleasant, Chal-Brit and VMSC based on their percentage of call outs for 2023.

e) Manager's Update:

1. Dr. Ferry discussed the renovation design bid that is officially posted on Penn Bid. There is a pre-bid meeting on December 21st and bids are due on December 6th with the intent to award a design architect, engineer, or similar professional by year end 2024.
2. The Hilltown Historical Society has written to request a donation for their organization in the amount of \$2,000.00. She asked if the Board wanted to consider that now or table it to 2025. It was confirmed by the Board to have this donation come out of the 2025 budget.
3. There are a number of vacancies for various Boards coming up for 2025 and Dr. Ferry discussed that interested parties go onto the Township website to complete the applicable form and submit as soon as possible as interviews will be held for applicants in December to be filled at the 2025 Reorganization meeting in January. Positions are open for the UCC Board, Planning Commission, and the Zoning Hearing Board.
4. Dr. Ferry commented on the Public Works Department's efforts in the leafing project and the great feedback received from residents and reminded everyone to check the Township website regularly for any updates to the schedule as it does change.

Dr. Ferry concluded her update recognizing Veteran's Day.

9. SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:

Vice Chairman Groff thanked all of the veterans as well as their families and anyone who served for their service. He then addressed the lack of serious rainfall and the wells in the Township and noted that the public wells are holding up just fine and he recognized the good job his staff is doing in maintaining them and they are checking them twice a day to make sure they remain in good shape. He recommended that everyone try to conserve if they can and that DEP put out through EPA a drought watch listed on the website as well as the Authority's website with restriction examples to help. His last item was a shout out to the Public Works Department for their assistance in providing a piece of their equipment to assist in unloading a shipment that they would not have been able to unload because it was packaged incorrectly.

Supervisor Metzinger recognized the fire departments' efforts in fighting brush fires and noted a minor injury sustained by a firefighter. He further reminded everyone to not flick cigarettes out of car windows and about the burn ban currently in place. He also recognized and thanked the veterans, including his sister-in-law and her husband. He closed by acknowledging the emergency services departments and the amazing job they do for the community.

Chairman Torrice noted that the EMS Designation research process has been eye opening and that he respects and appreciates all departments as everyone does an amazing job.

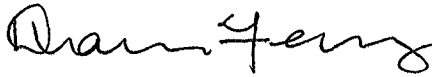
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10. PUBLIC COMMENT: Ryan Brun, Deputy Chief of Chal-Brit EMS, apologized for any negative comments that were made about the EMS designation, noting that their goal is to work with people, build a community, and hopefully save lives.

11. PRESS CONFERENCE: None.

12. ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion by Vice Chairman Groff and seconded by Supervisor Metzinger and carried unanimously, the November 11, 2024, Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors meeting was adjourned at 7:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Deanna Ferry, DPA
Township Manager

(*NOTE: These minutes were transcribed from notes and recordings and should not be considered official until approved by the Board of Supervisors at a public meeting).