

**HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 27, 2026**

The regular scheduled meeting of the Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Torrice at 7:00 PM and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Also present were Vice Chairman James Groff, Supervisor Joseph Metzinger via phone, Hilltown Township Manager Dr. Deanna Ferry, Township Solicitor Jack Wuerstle, Township Engineer Timothy Fulmer, Chief of Police Christopher Engelhart, and Public Works Director Budd Hutchinson.

1. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a. Executive Session: Chairman Torrice announced that an Executive Session took place prior to the start of tonight's meeting to discuss personnel and legal matters.

2. CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Minutes of June 22, 2026, Board of Supervisors Meeting
b. Bills List
 i. July 7, 2026
 ii. July 14, 2026
 iii. July 21, 2026
 iv. July 28, 2026

Chairman Torrice asked for a motion to approve items 'a' through 'b', with an amendment to section 12D in the minutes. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Groff, seconded by Supervisor Metzinger, and carried out unanimously to approve items 'a' through 'b' with an amendment to section 12D in the minutes. There was no public comment.

3. CONFIRMED APPOINTMENT: None

4. BOARD APPOINTMENTS: None

5. LEGAL: Solicitors Report

- a. ZHB 2026-009, G. Duffy, 14 Beverly Road – Variance Request: Solicitor Wuerstle outlined the variance being requested, which is to exceed the minimum required side yard setback of 20 feet. After some discussion, the Board agreed that Solicitor Wuerstle would not need to attend the hearing.

6. PLANNING:

- a. Jasinski Subdivision Final Plan: Township Engineer Timothy Fulmer advised the Board that the Planning Commission recommended the approval of the final plan, conditioned upon satisfying all items in the Wynn letter dated June 3, 2026. Mr. Mease, representing the applicant, shared additional information on the project. After a brief discussion, motion was made by Supervisor Metzinger, seconded by Vice Chairman Groff, and approved unanimously.

- b. Phinney Minor Subdivision: Mr. Fulmer stated that the Planning Commission recommended the preliminary/ final approval, subject to all items contained in the Wynn letter dated July 7, 2026. Mr. Wilde addressed the Board, with the applicant and project engineer in attendance. Following brief discussion, motion was made by Supervisor Metzinger, seconded by Vice Chairman Groff, and approved unanimously.

7. ENGINEERING: None

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

9. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Motion to approve H&K extended hours for the month of August: Dr. Ferry noted that H&K is requesting an extension of hours for the month of August. Motion was made by Supervisor Metzinger, seconded by Vice Chairman Groff, and carried out unanimously to approve the extension of hours for Chalfont Asphalt and Quarry to operate between the hours of 6:30pm – 6:30am, Monday through Saturday, between August 1 and August 31, 2026, excluding holidays and private customers.
- b. Open Space Program Re-Authorization Discussion: Supervisor Metzinger suggested looking into the re-authorizing the open space program. Solicitor Wuerstle discussed the timeline and agreed to review. The Board agreed that the re-authorizing of the program should be considered.

10. POLICE CHIEF UPATE:

- a. June Report: Chief of Police Christopher Engelhart reported there were 30 incidents, 2 criminal arrests, 6 criminal offenses, 2 citations, 5 warnings, and 2 accidents within Silverdale Borough. Chief Engelhart reported there were 760 incidents with 60 criminal offenses and 33 arrests, 105 citations, 90 warnings, and 59 accidents, 25 of which were not reportable and 34 reportable with 5 accidents being DUI related within Hilltown Township. He noted there were almost 81 hours of training, approximately 15,700 miles traveled and 357.75 hours overtime with 264.75 hours reimbursed and 202.75 of those hours directly related to FIFA in Philadelphia.

Chief Engelhart stated that he will provide an update on the Mill Road study at the next meeting. He also reported receiving a thank-you letter from the Perkasi Chief of Police expressing appreciation to the department and to the Township for their assistance with Pennridge Community Day.

11. PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR UPDATE:

- a. Road Maintenance: Public Works Director Budd Hutchinson reported that all in house paving, chip sealing, fog sealing, and line striping were completed within a 3-week timeframe and under budget.

Mr. Hutchinson reported that he has ordered over 2,500 tons of road salt and anticipates having at least 500 tons in stock by the end of September in preparation for winter storm operations. He also reported that subcontractors have been secured for the upcoming winter season.

- b. Storm Water Pipe Replacements: Mr. Hutchinson noted that three stormwater pipes were installed on South Perkasio Road and one was installed on Broad Street.
- c. Vehicle Maintenance: Mr. Hutchinson commended in-house mechanic John Arnold for his hard work, noting that completing repairs in-house has saved the department both time and money.
- d. Leaf Collection Program: Mr. Hutchinson stated that leaf dumping sites have been secured in preparation for the upcoming of leaf collecting season. He noted that several residents and farms have agreed to allow leaf dumping on their properties, resulting in cost savings.

12. PARKS AND RECREATION UPDATE:

- a. Banner Motion: Chairman Torrice shared that the Parks & Recreation Committee discussed purchasing a reuseable banner for their upcoming movie night. The banner will allow dates to be changed and can be used for future movie events. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Groff, seconded by Supervisor Metzinger and passed unanimously approved to purchase the banner for \$600.00.
- b. Civic Park Cameras: Chairman Torrice shared that his contact at the camera company is no longer employed there. He suggested exploring Wi-Fi options at the park before seeking another retailer, the Board agreed.
- c. Civic Park Volleyball Court: Discussion was held regarding restoring the volleyball court at Civic Park. Mr. Hutchinson discussed the maintenance requirements of sand versus grass courts. Following brief discussion, the Board agreed not to restore the volleyball court at Civic Park at this time.
- d. Park Bench Sponsorship Form: Chairman Torrice shared that approximately half of the benches have been sponsored. A sponsorship form is available, with each bench costing \$1,750.00.
- e. Budget Items for 2027:
 - i. Gaga Pits: Chairman Torrice shared that additional Park & Recreational items, including Gaga pits and lighting at Civic Park, are to be added to the 2027 budget.
- f. Trunk-or-Treat 2027: Chairman Torrice shared that this year's Trunk-or-Treat event will be held on October 25, 2026, from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

- g. Emergency Plan and Police Presence at Events: Chairman Torrice emphasized the need for specific emergency plans for all Township events. It was noted that police are present at Township events; however, formal emergency plans are still emergency needed.

13. MANAGER UPDATE:

- a. Update on Minsi and Rt 113: Township Manager Dr. Ferry provided an update on the planned roundabout at Minsi Trail and Route 113, as well as announcing the submission of a temporary traffic signal application. Mr. Fulmer discussed the bidding process, potential construction timeline, and permit logistics. Dr. Ferry noted that while those projects are in process, the Public Works Department and Police Department have cleared some overgrowth to improve visibility at the intersection.
- b. Forest Road Park Update: Dr. Ferry shared key findings from the Township's geologists quarterly update on the fracture at Forrest Road Park, noting an increase in length and additional holes. She reported that the park will remain closed, with resident safety being the primary concern. She reminded the Board that data collection will continue through the end of 2026 to provide two years of data before determining appropriate next steps.
- c. 2026 Q2 Report: Dr. Ferry gave an extensive presentation regarding the budget for the second quarter of this year.
- d. 309 Connector Outreach: Dr. Ferry stated that the Traffic Engineer will be working with PennDOT and that the Township is awaiting an update. She noted that they will continue to follow up, as no update has been received since December 2025.

14. SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS: Vice Chairman Groff noted that, despite initial concerns regarding the oil and chip work, the completed work was excellent and expressed his appreciation.

15. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- a. Resident Barbara Gitz, 4416 Bethlehem Pike, expressed continued concerns regarding the Fiddletree project.
- b. Chris Green, owner of iSmash in Countyline Shopping Plaza, spoke about the impact of the amusement tax on small businesses and requested that the Board review the ordinance, which the Board agreed.

16. PRESS CONFERENCE: None

17. ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion from Vice Chairman Groff, seconded by Supervisor Metzinger, and carried unanimously, the July 27, 2026, Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Deanna Ferry".

Deanna Ferry
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).