

**HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING  
Monday, November 10, 2008**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Richard J. Manfredi at 7:00PM and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Also present were: John B. McIlhinney, Vice-Chairman  
Barbara A. Salvadore, Secretary/Treasurer  
Christopher S. Christman, Township Manager  
Bill E. Wert, Asst.Mgr./Dir. of Parks, Recreation & Open Space  
Christopher E. Engelhart, Chief of Police  
Lorraine E. Leslie, Finance Director  
Thomas A. Buzby, Director of Public Works  
Lynda S. Seimes, Admin. Asst. to Township Manager

A. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The Board met in Executive Session prior to this meeting to discuss outstanding litigation.

2. The newly created Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Citizens Advisory Committee will hold its first meeting on Thursday, November 13, 2008 at 7:00PM at the Municipal Building.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY: None.

C. CONSENT CALENDAR:

- Approval of minutes of September 22, 2008 Supervisor's Meeting.
- Acceptance of Financial Report for month of October 2008.
- Acceptance of Public Works Reports for September and October 2008.
- Acceptance of Police Report for month of October 2008.
- Acceptance of Fire Company Reports for month of October 2008 – Perkasio, Silverdale, and Souderton.

Motion was made by Supervisor Salvadore, seconded by Supervisor McIlhinney, and carried unanimously to approve and accept the Consent Calendar as listed above. There was no public comment.

D. CONFIRMED APPOINTMENT:

1. Mr. Jim Groff, HTWSA Manager – Hilltown Walk Subdivision (aka: Guttman Tract) Request for Easement through Township Open Space – The Hilltown Walk Subdivision previously received approval for public water and sewer service to the

site. The Authority is proposing the installation of a gravity sewer line, which would run north on Diamond Street toward Rt. 113, crossing through the Township's former maintenance garage property and then tying into the line for the Longleaf Subdivision behind it. There would be less maintenance and operation costs involved with a gravity fed system versus force mains and/or pump stations. Further, this would address the problem of several failing on-site sewage systems on Diamond Street. Mr. Groff advised that the developer has requested that the Supervisors consider the concept of using the Township open space, while still maintaining the ultimate authority for final plan approval. Mr. Groff would require the developer to survey, locate and identify any mature trees, wetlands, or other existing features along the proposed route of the line.

Supervisor McIlhinney asked if the line would be placed along the property lines in the event the Township decides to do something with the open space in the future. Mr. Groff replied that the line would be installed within the property setbacks in order to avoid any conflict. Supervisor McIlhinney asked the status of the Hilltown Walk Subdivision, noting that the applicant previously proposed excluding one property from the development. Mr. Groff has not discussed that aspect of the development with the applicant.

Chairman Manfredi asked if conceptual approval would be setting a precedent for the use of Township open space for easements in the future. Solicitor Grahowski replied that it would not, noting that each situation would be considered on its own merit.

The Board unanimously agreed to the concept of granting an easement through Township open space for the installation of a gravity-fed sewer line for the Hilltown Walk Subdivision, with the comments as noted above. There was no public comment.

E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Ludlow Trail Easement Status Report – Mr. Wert's memo dated November 6, 2008 was discussed. On November 3, 2008 Mrs. Ludlow left a message indicating that she and her husband were not prepared to discuss or commit to the trail easement at this time, however they would be open to consideration in the future. Discussion occurred. Supervisor Salvatore does not want the Ludlow family to feel harassed, but wondered when follow-up might occur. Mr. Wert commented that it would be at the discretion of the Board. Supervisor McIlhinney wondered if Mr. and Mrs. Ludlow, who were initially open to his request for consideration of a trail easement, are now resistant to the idea since settlement has occurred. Mr. Wert replied that he has not received any resistance from Mr. and Mrs. Ludlow whatsoever. Since Supervisor Salvatore and Chairman Manfredi passed on the Ludlow's initial offer to grant an easement during the meeting where the purchase of development rights occurred, Supervisor McIlhinney does not feel it would be harassment to contact Mr. and Mrs.

Ludlow on a limited basis, perhaps every 2-3 weeks. Supervisor Salvadore does not agree with Supervisor McIlhinney's characterization that she and Chairman Manfredi turned down the offer of a trail easement, noting that to continue with a trail easement would have delayed the approval of the agreement that evening.

F. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Bid Awards - #2008-4 Diesel Fuel and #2008-5 Heating Oil – Only one bid was received for each proposal. Bid results are as follows:

- Bid #2008-4 – Diesel Fuel  
Farm and Home Oil Company (Inergy Propane LLC)  
8,000 gallons of Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel (Picked up) \$2.443/gallon  
3,000 gallons of Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel (Delivered) \$2.643/gallon
- Bid #2008-5 – Heating Oil  
Farm and Home Oil Company (Inergy Propane LLC)  
14,000 gallons of Heating Oil \$2.393/gallon

Both Diesel Fuel and Heating Oil were originally bid in early October, however due to the cancellation of the October 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, both were re-bid. It was noted that fairly significant cost savings on price per gallon were realized to the re-bidding.

Motion was made by Supervisor Salvadore, and seconded by Supervisor McIlhinney to award Bid # 2008-4 for Diesel Fuel to Farm and Home Oil Company; and to award Bid #2008-5 for Heating Oil to Farm and Home Oil Company at the bid prices noted above. Prior to a vote, public comment was heard.

Public Comment:

1. Mr. Joe Marino of Redwing Road suggested the Board approach the vendor for consideration of lowering the price per gallon if oil prices continue to drop.

There was no further public comment. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Reaffirming previously adopted Planning Module Resolutions on DEP forms – Ashland Meadows and the Preserves Subdivisions – At their meeting on January 23, 2006, the Board passed Resolutions to adopt and submit to PADEP a revision to the Official Sewage Facilities Plan of Hilltown Township, an amendment to the Sewage Facilities Planning Modules for the developments known as Ashland Meadows and the Preserves, for approval to serve both subdivisions by sewer extension connection to the Hilltown Township Water and Sewer Authority's Highland Park Road Wastewater

Treatment Plant. Proofs of such adopted Resolutions were supplied to PADEP in the form of minutes of that Supervisors meeting. The two Resolutions presented this evening merely correct any oversight that may have occurred by not supplying the Resolution for Plan Revision for New Land Development on the form published by PADEP.

Chairman Manfredi advised that his vote this evening will reflect his actions on January 23, 2006.

Motion was made by Supervisor Salvadore, and seconded by Supervisor McIlhinney to **adopt Resolution #2008-14, reaffirming Planning Modules for the Ashland Meadows Subdivision, as noted above.** Chairman Manfredi was opposed. Motion carried: 2:1. There was no public comment.

Motion was made by Supervisor Salvadore and seconded by Supervisor McIlhinney to **adopt Resolution #2008-15, reaffirming Planning Modules for the Preserves at Hilltown Subdivision, as noted above.** Chairman Manfredi was opposed. Motion carried: 2:1. There was no public comment.

3. Consideration of the Proposed FY 2009 Budget – Mr. Christman noted that the FY 2009 Budget proposes no tax increase, with Township taxes remaining at 6.75 mills. A \$7 million dollar spending plan is proposed, with \$6.4 million dollars allotted for general operations including \$3.2 million dollars for police and fire protection services, \$1.9 million for general government operations, \$1 million for street and highways, and \$270,000.00 allocated to retire outstanding debt. There is \$600,000.00 in capital improvements proposed, with \$253,000.00 for general capital improvements, \$210,000.00 for park system improvements, \$32,000.00 for open space preservation, and \$138,000.00 for road equipment. Capital expenditures proposed for FY 2009 include improvements to the Municipal building, upgrades to the current computer equipment, one replacement police vehicle, installation of a traffic signal at Diamond Street and Orchard Road, installation of 6 new street lights at major intersections, purchase of additional Public Works equipment, and roadway resurfacing. The park improvements proposed for the Blooming Glen Playground include replacement of the pavilion, renovations to the former Scout Cabin, construction of a new tot lot, and the purchase of outdoor equipment.

Supervisor's Questions and Comments with respect to proposed FY2009 Budget:

1. Chairman Manfredi asked if the \$600,000.00 of Capital Improvements is from existing funds. Mr. Christman replied that was correct.

2. Supervisor Salvadore is very aware that the community and the nation as a whole is in a crisis, with job and health care losses, increasing health insurance costs, and individuals living on fixed incomes. With that said, Supervisor Salvadore is concerned that the Real Estate and Earned Income Taxes are projected to be higher than they were this year. Mr. Christman had submitted a draft budget for the Board's review by October 1<sup>st</sup>, at which time the revenue that was projected in that first draft Budget was much higher than what is projected in the draft Budget before the Board this evening. Mr. Christman has since revised the revenue figures based on best estimates from many sources, including Berkheimer in particular with respect to EIT. More importantly, there are portions of the community, such as Orchard Hill, who were recently awarded much lower assessments, which directly impacts the Real Estate revenues. That number has been downgraded and is reflected in this budget. Supervisor Salvadore believes that those numbers should be downgraded even further.

3. Supervisor Salvadore is opposed to "Miscellaneous expenses" or Miscellaneous revenue" categories, stating that each line item should be explained and categorized for clear understanding.

4. Supervisor Salvadore asked the Board to consider a placeholder in the General Fund to fund EMS. She has been working on this for well over a year, and believes that a total of approximately \$42,000.00, which would be equivalent to 0.25 mill, would be necessary to assist with funding of these services. This amount would equate to approximately \$10,500.00 to each of the EMS organizations.

5. Supervisor Salvadore noted that a large amount of printing expenses have been proposed for the coming year and suggested consolidation of printing categories.

6. Supervisor Salvadore feels that the Board must be mindful of proposed salary increases for next year, and hopes that the Police Department take that into consideration during contract negotiations.

7. Supervisor Salvadore noted that the significant amount of funds budgeted for "Special Legal Services," which she had hoped would be reduced by now.

8. Since contract negotiations are not yet complete with the Police Benevolent Association, Mr. Christman advised that 2008 salary figures were used in the proposed budget. Therefore, figures for the 2009 police portion of the budget will most certainly increase, which is why Supervisor Salvadore has urged all parties involved to be mindful of the economy as labor negotiations proceed.

9. Supervisor Salvadore was pleased that only one police vehicle has been proposed for purchase.

10. Supervisor Salvadore wondered why disability, medical and life insurance were budgeted under the "Planning and Zoning" category, since those are contracted services. Mr. Christman explained that the full-time receptionist position is split between Planning/Zoning and Administration.

11. Supervisor Salvadore proposed a hiring freeze for all open positions, which currently includes one Public Works employee, one Police Officer, and one Part-Time Bookkeeper. Supervisor McIlhinney noted that the Public Works vacancy has remained open for 2007 and 2008, even though the position was funded in each previous budget. He reminded Supervisor Salvadore that Mr. Buzby did not fill that vacancy for the past two years at the Board's request, however there is a dire need for additional help in that department due to the increase in workload.

12. In past years, Supervisor McIlhinney noted that at the end of the fiscal year, the Board has transferred \$250,000.00 from the General Fund to the Operating Reserve Fund, however that will not occur this year. Mr. Christman replied that the way the budget is structured at this time provides for a cash balance on hand in the General Fund, and there is a deficit of \$200,000.00, however, a cash balance in the transfer from one year to the next will cover that deficit. Supervisor McIlhinney commented that there is also an item showing that the Township will receive a one-time only payment in the amount of \$160,000.00+ for the leaf collection program. So basically, Supervisor McIlhinney advised that there is approximately an extra \$100,000.00 being shown as income that will not repeat in coming years, which would leave the Township at a \$300,000.00 deficit in the future. Mr. Christman felt it was fair to say that revenues from year to year are subjective.

13. Keeping Supervisor Salvadore's comments in mind with monumental movements in the economy both locally and nationally, Supervisor McIlhinney felt that the Board must be extremely conservative with estimates for revenue for the coming year. That being the case, he would be hard pressed to add expenses to our budget such as funding any additional outside groups in the coming year.

14. Supervisor McIlhinney advised that the servicing fire companies receive \$171,000.00 of Fire Tax Distribution, and \$135,000.00 of Foreign Fire Tax, plus the home fire company also receives \$11,000.00 of worker's compensation insurance. Since this information is not centralized within the budget, Supervisor McIlhinney suggested that a note be added directing attention to additional fire company funding throughout the budget.

15. Supervisor McIlhinney asked if specific funds had been budgeted for the development of Frontier Road Park. Mr. Christman replied that capital expenditures have been allocated to the Blooming Glen Playground only, however the Board could

certainly allocate specific funding to that park if it so chooses from funds that were unused and carried over from the 2008 budget. Supervisor McIlhinney referred to the County's new Bond Issue, which unlike the restrictive open space funding, could be disbursed to municipalities for unrestricted use for park improvements. Since Hilltown previously purchased the Frontier Road park property in conjunction with Dublin Borough, he advised that the funding from Bucks County could be used for the purposes for which they are intended, and he suggested that Mr. Christman contact Dublin Borough to gauge their interest in proceeding. Mr. Christman advised that there is a sufficient fund balance in the Recreation Capital Fund as shown on page 19 could be allocated for the Frontier Road property for 2009.

16. Supervisor McIlhinney asked the overall percentage that was saved by switching from medical insurance through Blue Cross Personal Choice to Aetna through the Delaware Valley Insurance Trust. Mr. Christman replied that there has been an overall 7% savings due to the change.

17. Supervisor McIlhinney noted that \$90,000.00 was budgeted in 2008 for Special Legal Services, however costs have already reached approximately \$89,000.00 for a 9-month period, and will most likely exceed the budgeted \$90,000.00 figure.

18. Supervisor McIlhinney questioned the amount and location shown for heating fuel. Mr. Christman referred to page 6, where Heating Fuel has been consolidated under "Buildings and Grounds" for all departments and locations.

19. Due to the current economy, Chairman Manfredi felt that the number for EIT appears to be inflated. Mr. Christman advised that the estimate of EIT was provided directly from Berkheimer Associates, who is confident that number will be met. If it should be slightly higher, the revenue could certainly be adjusted downward though doing so would then affect the \$209,000.00 deficit. Since this is an austere budget, Chairman Manfredi wishes to insure that Berkheimer's projection takes the economy into account. It appears to him that the 2009 number is higher than the 2008 number.

20. Chairman Manfredi asked how much savings would be realized if the job vacancies are not filled as Supervisor Salvadore suggested. Mr. Christman advised that \$180,000.00 would be saved by not filling those three vacancies.

21. Chairman Manfredi wondered where the cash would come from if a Police contract is negotiated and settled. Mr. Christman explained that it would be reflected through the General Fund Reserve. If General Fund Reserves are utilized, Chairman Manfredi noted that the disparity would be further increased between operating expenses and operating revenues. Mr. Christman advised that there is almost \$1.2 million dollars moving forward, and he is confident that whatever settlement that is reached, there will

be enough cash on hand to satisfy that. Chairman Manfredi explained that what this and the previous Board have done was establish a reserve that could be used as a "rainy day fund." The Operating Reserve Fund has been capped as required by law. Following that logic, Mr. Christman advised that the Board would also have to dictate freezing all of the Capital Projects because that \$500,000.00 would be moving from that fund.

22. Chairman Manfredi noticed that \$70,000.00 has been budgeted for Police overtime, and asked if that figure is based upon hiring an additional officer. Chief Engelhart replied that it is and explained that he temporarily assigned an officer who is presently flexing back and forth between night and day shift until such time as a new officer is hired. He noted that the overtime number would not decrease by hiring a new officer, however that number could increase if a new officer is not hired.

23. Chairman Manfredi commented that \$75,000.00 has been budgeted for Planning and Zoning Services. Mr. Christman replied that the funding is for professional planning services by Ms. Stern-Goldstein of Boucher and James. Chairman Manfredi felt that the planning projection could be drastically reduced, perhaps to \$55,000.00 since Ms. Stern-Goldstein's main objective is the Blooming Glen Village project, with most of the funding coming from the planning grant.

24. With respect to the Capital Project Fund, Chairman Manfredi asked what the \$40,000.00 budgeted for the Township Building represents. Mr. Christman advised that it represents a carryover amount not utilized in 2008. Prior to his hire, it was Mr. Christman's understanding that an evaluation was to be completed of this building to address the possibility of lowering the dais in the meeting room, and possibly lowering the ceiling in the meeting room to create a second mezzanine level for storage. Proposed architectural renderings of these projects will be available for the Board's review in the immediate future. A figure of \$10,000.00 has also been budgeted for "Other Township Properties," which would include possible minor repairs at the Blooming Glen High School building. Chairman Manfredi asked if those minor repairs might include the flooring replacement in the Blooming Glen High School building that he had requested in the past. Mr. Christman replied that it would be a start to the flooring replacement, however early estimates anticipate a cost of \$20,000.00 to improve the flooring, \$900.00 of which would be required for asbestos abatement. He recommended that a full structural analysis of that building be completed before considering flooring replacement.

25. Chairman Manfredi advised that the Board of Supervisors has the ability, via Resolution, to propose a supplemental appropriation to move money from one fund to another during the fiscal year. The Board however cannot exceed 10% in aggregate or 25% in any category.



26. Chairman Manfredi explained that yearly salary increases are addressed for both the Public Works Bargaining Unit and the Police Benevolent Association through negotiated agreements and/or contracts. However, excluding Mr. Christman and Mr. Wert, there are only six full-time administrative employees who are not included in any agreement or contract. At the present time, a 3% salary increase for these six individuals is included in the budget. If a salary freeze were to be imposed as suggested by Supervisor Salvadore, those six would be the only employees impacted, which Chairman Manfredi feels is unfair. Supervisor McIlhinney agreed.

27. Chairman Manfredi recalls that there was a considerable savings realized when medical insurance coverage switched from Blue Cross to DVIT, and asked what that dollar amount was. Mr. Christman will make that dollar amount available to the Board prior to final adoption of the budget.

28. Supervisor Salvadore believes that the dollar figure budgeted for office supplies can be significantly reduced with cooperation from all staff members.

29. Chairman Manfredi noted that Supervisor Salvadore had previously requested a placeholder in the dollar amount equivalent to .25 mills of the General Fund for distribution to the EMS providers in 2009. While Chairman Manfredi agrees that this proposed budget could be cut even further, he is uncertain that available unfunded equity would be available to provide funding for EMS. He referred to the unknown costs associated with a contribution to EMS since the Board has not yet reviewed a draft agreement. Supervisor Salvadore advised that the issue of EMS will be up for discussion at the November 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, and has suggested funding in the amount of .25 mills or \$10,500.00 per ambulance squad for a total of \$42,000.00. Chairman Manfredi noted that the value of a ¼ mill of tax is \$52,300.00, and asked what fund this money would be appropriated from. Mr. Christman replied that it could come from the Cash Fund Reserve balance if the Board so desires. Supervisor Salvadore believes that funding could be found by seriously reducing expenses across the board. Supervisor McIlhinney felt discussion of funding EMS is premature since he has not yet had his questions answered as to why four squads are now proposed, rather than the initial three that had previously been interviewed. He also has not had the opportunity to review any EMS contracts. Prior to establishing funding for emergency services, Supervisor McIlhinney would like it to be clear that he would not support a mandate for yearly funding for EMS, particularly in this uncertain economy. Supervisor Salvadore has not proposed raising taxes to support EMS, however she believes it is Hilltown's obligation to provide funding to insure that the necessary emergency services are provided to its residents. She noted that the Township Solicitor is drafting an EMS agreement for the Board's consideration, which will be reviewed at the November 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. Chairman Manfredi is comfortable with establishing a line item of \$52,000.00 for EMS for the purpose of advertising the budget in order to meet the required 20-day public inspection period.

Mr. Christman anticipates that final adoption of the 2009 Budget could occur at the December 8, 2008 meeting.

30. Supervisor McIlhinney referred to \$70,000.00 for police overtime, and equated it to the cost involved with the salary and benefits necessary to hire a new officer, which he feels would be economically unreasonable to do. Chief Engelhart is more concerned with the level of police coverage, explaining that normal police operations entails two to four officers on duty at any given time. It is his preference to operate with four officers at a time. Reducing that number for another year would reduce the level of police coverage to two officers per shift on a regular basis, which Chief Engelhart would then equate to a dangerous officer safety issue over time. Supervisor McIlhinney cited a commonly used formula of one officer per every 1,000 of population, which would equate to fourteen officers for Hilltown. Chief Engelhart noted that is an old formula used in the 1970's-80's, which in his opinion is no longer relevant. Supervisor McIlhinney disagreed, and believes that Chief Engelhart could rearrange staffing to coordinate with time periods that are most needed, while still providing adequate or excellent police protection without severely impacting the budget. He reminded Chief Engelhart that the Board must still consider the further impact on the budget that contract negotiations will bring forward.

While Supervisor Salvadore fully understands the difficulty with being understaffed, she encouraged both Chief Engelhart and Mr. Buzby to be very cognizant of the way work is currently being done, and to do it better.

Chairman Manfredi is very proud of actions taken by this Board five years ago to insure that Hilltown Township's financial future was sound. He explained that the reason the Operating Reserve Fund was created was specifically for the possible need for additional funding should there be an emergency or a shortfall in revenue in the future. Over the last few years, the Board was also very cognizant to avoid the use of excess revenues to offset operating expenses, and to bank those funds in a general reserve fund. Chairman Manfredi stated that Hilltown Township is in very good financial condition and can most likely weather this economic storm, while still providing an excellent level of service without a tax increase. Chairman Manfredi is happy to say that with this proposed budget, the Operating Reserve Fund will not be utilized at this time.

Mr. Christman sought clarification as to whether the three vacant positions should or should not remain in the proposed budget. Supervisor McIlhinney felt that the additional police officer position should be removed from the proposed budget. Chairman Manfredi believes the positions should remain in the budget to be considered at the December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting during the final adoption process, at which time those positions could be cut if the Board feels it is necessary. It is Supervisor Salvadore's opinion that the three vacant positions remain in the budget at this time, however she suggested that

their removal might be a cost saving mechanism in order to deal with the outcome of police contract negotiations.

Motion was made by Supervisor Salvadore, and seconded by Supervisor McIlhinney to authorize the advertisement of the proposed FY2009 Budget for the required 20 day public inspection period and for consideration for adoption at the December 8, 2008 Supervisors meeting, conditioned upon the suggested changes as directed this evening. Prior to a vote, public comment was heard.

Public Comment:

1. Mr. Joe Marino of Redwing Road noted that Supervisor Salvadore referred to a \$42,000.00 equating to .25 mill, while Chairman Manfredi referred to a \$52,000.00 figure. Chairman Manfredi advised that the value of .25 of a mill is \$52,300.00, however Supervisor Salvadore's specific request was for \$42,000.00.

2. Mr. John Gillespie of 310 Moyer Road believes that the anticipated EIT for next year will be much less than what has been projected by Berkheimer Associates. Supervisor Salvadore agreed.

Motion carried unanimously. There was no further public comment.

4. Setting Goals and Objectives of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Citizens Advisory Committee for 2009 – Mr. Wert's memorandum dated November 7, 2008 was discussed; a copy of which is on file at the Township office. Mr. Wert is seeking the Board's suggestions for goals and objectives for this committee.

During Mr. Wert's interview process, Chairman Manfredi believes the Board very clearly outlined their priorities, including development of the Frontier Road Park, Forest Road Park, and the Beyer property, along with open space purchases. Supervisor McIlhinney noted that he also encouraged the development of various recreational programs such as theater and arts/crafts camp, etc. Chairman Manfredi felt it was important to continue with the development of a trail link plan. Supervisor Salvadore questioned the Community Participation/Public Input component of Mr. Wert's memo, which appears to be similar to the process of the village visioning committees. Supervisor Salvadore does not believe that funding has been budgeted for the Planner's participation with this Committee. Mr. Wert advised that there is money available in the Parks and Recreation Capital Fund, which he has proposed to move forward for that purpose. He had hoped that the Township Planner would assist in the development of the Township's Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Greenway Trail Plan. Supervisor McIlhinney never anticipated the assistance of the Township Planner for the PROS Committee. Chairman Manfredi noted that the idea of changing and consolidating this

committee's structure was for it to be a resource, through the Township Manager to the Board of Supervisors, for recommendations on how they should proceed. He felt that the PROS committee members should be the eyes and ears of the community to garner public input and participation. Frankly, Chairman Manfredi felt that the purpose of hiring Mr. Wert was to lead and assist the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Committee, and therefore he would not be in favor of allocating funds to the Township Planner for this purpose. Supervisors McIlhinney and Salvadore echoed those sentiments.

Supervisor Salvadore has heard several residents request that the Township conduct an updated parks, recreation and open space survey. She would also like the committee to review the existing plans for the Frontier Road and Forest Road Parks to see if they agree with what has been proposed. Supervisor Salvadore also noted that some residents have shown an interest in developing ATV trails and horse trails. Chairman Manfredi would also support discussion of developing bike lanes along local roadways.

The Board unanimously consented to the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Citizen Advisory Committee to move forward in the direction as outlined in Mr. Wert's November 7, 2008 memo, to include the additional comments as noted above.

G. BOARD MEMBER COMMENT:

1) Supervisor Salvadore congratulated Mr. Christman and the Township staff on the preparation and presentation of the proposed 2009 Budget.

2) Chairman Manfredi also extended his appreciation to Mr. Christman and the staff on the budget presentation. He feels that all of the Township employees do an outstanding job and should be commended for it.

3) Chairman Manfredi asked when Mr. Christman would begin providing a comprehensive monthly Manager's Report. Mr. Christman anticipates that he will begin providing a Manager's Report at the first meeting in December.

H. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

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

J. ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion by Supervisor McIlhinney, seconded by Supervisor Salvadore, and carried unanimously, the November 10, 2008 Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors meeting was adjourned at 9:06PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynda Seimes

(\*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).