

HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Special Meeting to Conduct 2006 Board/Commission Interviews
Thursday, December 8, 2005
7:30PM

The special meeting of the Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors to interview candidates for 2006 boards and commissions was called to order by Supervisor Barbara Salvadore at 7:30PM. Also present were Supervisor Elect Jack McIlhinney, and Lynda Seimes, Township Secretary, to record and take minutes of this meeting. Supervisor Salvadore explained that Chairman Egly was ill, and Supervisor Manfredi was out of town on business.

Supervisor Salvadore advised that the purpose of this evening's meeting is to interview candidates who have indicated their interest in volunteering to serve Hilltown Township. She understands that the format for interviews was decided several months ago, and specifically, the Board decided to hold public interviews for various Township boards and commissions that had more than one individual interested. Since this is the first time interviews have been conducted in this manner, Supervisor Salvadore asked for patience. If the Board of Supervisors determine that tonight's procedure requires change, those appropriate changes would be made with feedback from residents. The interviews this evening are being held to assist the Board of Supervisors deciding appointments, which will be made at the annual Reorganization meeting on January 3, 2006. On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Salvadore stated that she appreciates the candidate's willingness to serve the community and hopes that the public's interest will continue. If a candidate is not chosen to serve on a board, Supervisor Salvadore encouraged those individual to continue to remain involved. Mr. McIlhinney commented that he is participating in the interview process since he will be taking office in January and will be working with the selected candidates beginning in 2006.

A. PLANNING COMMISSION VACANCIES (2 seats – 1 @5 year term and 1 @3 year term –

1. Mrs. Nancy Boice – Mill Road - Mr. McIlhinney asked what Mrs. Boice views as the task of the Planning Commission, and how she would suggest that it could be improved. Mrs. Boice replied that she has the time available to be a member of the Planning Commission, and hours to devote to research and review of the Township's Ordinances and Codes. Mrs. Boice stated that the Planning Commission is charged with reviewing incoming development plans and feels it is their job to insure responsible growth in a productive manner for the Township, and to provide the best outcome for both the Township and the developer.

Supervisor Salvadore asked what Mrs. Boice would hope to accomplish if she were appointed to the Planning Commission. Mrs. Boice replied that consistency is very important, and she would like to insure that the Township's Ordinances, rules and regulations are fairly applied to each and every applicant.

Supervisor Salvadore asked what Mrs. Boice felt she might have to learn to become an effective member of the Planning Commission. Mrs. Boice, who is fairly familiar with the current Zoning Ordinance, believes she would have to learn the new Zoning regulations. She noted that the Zoning Ordinance is undergoing radical changes during the review process. Mr. McIlhinney commented that the proposed Zoning Ordinance has been tabled, and therefore, it may or may not be revised. Mrs. Boice is aware that there are many inconsistencies within the Zoning Ordinance, which she hopes will be rectified. She would like to make the Zoning Ordinance as easy to navigate and as simple as possible to understand, which would require removal of certain verbiage and redundancy.

Mrs. Boice has been a member of the community for 20 years and both of her children have attended Pennridge High School.

2. Mr. Joe Marino – Redwing Road – Supervisor Salvadore asked what Mr. Marino's perception is of the purpose and function of the Planning Commission. Mr. Marino has attended many Planning Commission meetings in the past, and feels that some of their decisions are done very well, however he believes that the Planning Commission should concentrate on the future needs of the Township, rather than working in the "now." Mr. Marino stated that most times the Planning Commission takes an adversarial position against developers, which he feels is unproductive. He believes that the process of planning and development should be a joint venture, working together for the benefit of the Township, not for individuals or for individual agendas. Mr. Marino stated that the Township will "miss the boat" if long-term planning is not implemented. It is his opinion that all Township boards, committees, and staff including the Public Works Department and the Police Department must give careful consideration as to the future requirements of the Township.

Mr. McIlhinney asked Mr. Marino's vision for the Village Center Districts of the Township. Mr. Marino, who was involved with the development of the Comprehensive Plan, referred to the village of Blooming Glen, which was designated an historic district according to a study accomplished in 2002 at a cost of \$20,000.00. If there are going to be shops and businesses developed in a Village Center, without the benefit of surrounding land for development, Mr. Marino does not feel that the businesses will survive. At the same time, Mr. Marino has read documentation regarding the Village Center, where 6,000 sq. ft. lots, 20,000 sq. ft. lots, multiple housing, rental properties and government housing is being considered, which he feels would be detrimental and would destroy the character of Blooming Glen.

Supervisor Salvadore asked what skills Mr. Marino would bring to the Planning Commission. Mr. Marino replied that he was a topographic engineer for two years, and a businessman with a company that had 35 locations in ten states. He served the last 15

years of his career as territory manager covering five states for a Fortune 500 company. Mr. Marino enjoys doing research and is willing to spend the necessary time and effort involved to be an active participant on the Planning Commission.

3. Mr. Jim Sensinger – Rt. 113 – Mr. McIlhinney asked what Mr. Sensinger envisions as the primary responsibility of the Planning Commission. Mr. Sensinger's concept of the Planning Commission is to review development plans to insure that they adhere to Township Zoning and Subdivision/Land Development Ordinance requirements. Mr. Sensinger feels that the Planning Commission should direct and guide the developer toward a subdivision/land development plan that is aesthetically pleasing, while still meeting Ordinance requirements. He believes that the Planning Commission should also take into account the opinions of the neighboring property owners, while avoiding imposing their own personal views on all areas of the community. Further, Mr. Sensinger believes that the Planning Commission is charged with providing thoughtful feedback to the Board of Supervisors with respect to inconsistencies in the Zoning Ordinance. He believes this would avoid the scenario of property owners approaching developers to do something with their property because, in his opinion, the Zoning Ordinance does not permit individual property owners to do what they like with their own land.

Supervisor Salvadore asked what skills Mr. Sensinger would bring to the Commission. Mr. Sensinger is retired from an electronics company where he worked for 37 ½ years as an electrical and mechanical engineer. He knows how to read blueprints, knows the land, and grew up on a farm that has been in his family for three generations. Mr. Sensinger is a proponent of consistency, which he would like to see more of on the Planning Commission.

4. Mrs. Marilyn Teed – Mill Road- Mrs. Teed stated that she has interviewed for various board and commission vacancies for a number of years, but has been overlooked for approximately 14 appointments. Supervisor Salvadore asked Mrs. Teed's perception of what the Planning Commission's purpose is. Mrs. Teed replied that the Planning Commission's purpose is to plan and have a vision for the future. She does not want Hilltown Township to look like every other municipality. Mrs. Teed believes that any trade-offs the Township can make with developers in order to obtain everything they want should be considered. She feels that the Planning Commission ought to be "stroking instead of poking." Too many times, Mrs. Teed has noticed Planning Commission members attacking developers, which she is opposed to. Mrs. Teed would encourage collaboration with the developers in order to do what is best for the Township.

Mr. McIlhinney asked what skills Mrs. Teed could bring to the table. She replied that she has attended almost every Planning Commission meeting for the past four years. Mrs. Teed and her husband own a landscaping business so she is very familiar with reading

blueprints and drawings, checking grades, etc. She feels she has clear vision that would help with picturing how a development could look. Mrs. Teed has a degree in business, marketing and economics from Ursinus College, and feels that she would bring a great deal of patience to the table. She believes that there are many personal agendas by the members of the Planning Commission, which should be exposed as such, and which should not be permitted to come into the discussion.

5. Supervisor Salvadore advised that Mr. Robert Anderson of South Perkasio Road had also applied for a vacancy on the Planning Commission, however he was out of town on business and had asked that his application be considered based upon his resume.

6. Supervisor Salvadore noted that Mr. John Kachline of Mill Road has withdrawn his application for vacancy on the Planning Commission.

B. OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE – (2 seats @ 5 year terms each) –

1. Mr. Charles Moyer - Keystone Drive – Mr. Moyer has been a member of the Open Space Committee since its formation, and believes that he can provide two types of continuity including his previous service on the committee, and his legal experience as a practicing lawyer. Mr. Moyer has 30 years of real estate law practice experience, including zoning law, representing landowners, developers and municipalities. Mr. Moyer sees the role of the Open Space Committee as an advisory committee to the Board of Supervisors, while being sensitive to the resident's opinions and concerns. In terms of future work for the Committee, Mr. Moyer believes it is time to review and revise the Township's Open Space Plan to give consideration to the route of the Township's walking trail, and where further park land acquisition should take place. At one point, the Open Space Committee had planned for a regional park in each of the four quadrants of the Township, particularly in the northwest quadrant near the Green Meadows development. The Open Space Committee had worked very closely with the Park and Recreation Board in the past, and Mr. Moyer would like to see that relationship continue with joint meetings, and with representatives of both committees attending each other's monthly meetings.

Mr. Moyer arranged the most recent Open Space Committee Landowner Forum, with guest speakers, Tom Sutner, a Doylestown tax attorney who previously worked for the IRS, and Dick Brosious, the head of the Bucks County Board of Assessments. He noted that Bedminster Township recently experienced developments that consist of, for instance, a forty-acre parcel with four lots of four acres each, with the remaining land obtained as open space conservation easements, which is something the Hilltown Open Space Committee would encourage. With this scenario, Mr. Moyer stated that the landowner, depending upon their tax situation, can realize a fair profit while still

providing for a much more attractive development. Further, since no one particular method works for acquiring land and dealing with landowners, Mr. Moyer commented that one very valid issue has arisen with respect to senior citizens, who would like to stay in their homes after retirement. The Open Space Committee has considered the possibility of some tax effective and cost effective means for the Township, which Mr. Moyer has been researching in terms of annuities, installment sales, and with long-term health care insurance being used to pay for home-assisted services to those senior citizens who wish to remain in their homes but are willing to provide open space conservation easements.

Mr. McIlhinney asked what one thing Mr. Moyer would like to see change with the operation of the Open Space Committee. Mr. Moyer would like to see more open dialogue and contact between the Board of Supervisors and the Open Space Committee, which was once achieved by the former Township Manager attending their meetings to bring their ideas forth to the Supervisors.

2. Mr. Joseph Salvatore – Forest Road – Supervisor Salvatore recused herself from the interview process for this candidate.

Mr. McIlhinney asked what Mr. Salvatore believes is the purpose of the Open Space Committee, and what assets he would bring to the group if he were appointed. Mr. Salvatore believes that the Open Space Committee's mission is to assist in keeping Hilltown as attractive as it is at the present time by preventing what has happened in the lower part of Bucks County, which is where he is from. One of the important tools the Township has is maintaining its rural characteristics with open space so that the quality of life for an attractive agricultural community can continue and be preserved. Personally, Mr. Salvatore has a great deal of financial business experience and feels that he could be a good team player and an asset to the committee. Mr. Salvatore would encourage more communication between all of the boards and committees of the Township and the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. McIlhinney commented that currently several of the Township-owned open space properties are "saved" as agricultural preservation, but those parcels are not available for use by the general public. Mr. McIlhinney asked Mr. Salvatore's feelings with respect to the use of public open space. Mr. Salvatore replied that there should be a balance of open space. Personally, he would prefer that as much land as feasible be preserved for agricultural use, though he agreed that community open space for use by Township residents must also be considered.

Mr. McIlhinney asked if Mr. Salvatore sees any potential problems with constantly pursuing acquisition of open space, rather than use of open space, which would eventually decrease the real estate taxes to the Township, and would become onerous to

the community. Mr. Salvatore believes that as much open space as possible should be acquired, and knows that perhaps, in the future, it could make living in Hilltown Township more expensive, but he would not have a problem with that.

3. Mr. Jim Sensinger of Rt. 113 removed his application for consideration of the Open Space Committee vacancies.

4. Mr. John Wietecha of Mill Road could not be present this evening.

C. ZONING HEARING BOARD – (1 seat @ 3-year term) –

1. Mr. Joe Marino - Redwing Road - In Mr. Marino's view, next to the Planning Commission, the Zoning Hearing Board is one of the most important boards in the Township because they must deal with the exception to the rules when determining whether or not to grant relief from Zoning Ordinance requirements. Mr. Marino feels it is important that the Zoning Hearing Board never set a precedent that might be used in the future, and stated that before zoning relief is granted, the applicant must show a valid hardship. Mr. Marino believes it would be wrong to grant a zoning variance so that a developer could make a higher profit, since that is not a valid hardship. He considers the Zoning Hearing Board the backbone of the Township because it is charged with keeping the Zoning Ordinance relatively pure. Once exceptions to the rules are offered, Mr. Marino commented that it then becomes the rule to grant exceptions.

Mr. Marino is a student of the Constitution and individual rights, and feels it is important for any member of the Zoning Hearing Board to put those two things first. In the past five years, Mr. Marino has been brushing up on the Zoning Hearing Board and how it should function.

If a change could be made to the Zoning Hearing Board, Supervisor Salvatore asked what Mr. Marino feels that change should be. Mr. Marino did not feel qualified to recommend changes to the Zoning Hearing Board at this time since he has only attended two of their meetings, however he believes that alternates should be appointed to the Zoning Hearing Board, who could at least participate in discussions, and who would be available if there are ever conflicts or lack of a quorum on that board. Mr. Marino would prefer that two alternates be appointed to the Zoning Hearing Board.

2. Mr. Jim Sensinger – Rt. 113 – Mr. Sensinger asked what the qualifications are to serve on the Zoning Hearing Board, and explained that the last time he applied, he was told, before he was even interviewed, that the individuals who had applied did not meet the qualifications for the job. Mr. McIlhinney commented that he too was told he was not qualified when previously applying for a vacancy on the Zoning Hearing Board. To Supervisor Salvatore's knowledge, the qualifications include being a resident of

Hilltown Township and being of voting age. She did not know of any additional qualifications, however she intends to look into the matter.

Supervisor Salvadore asked what Mr. Sensinger believes is the role of the Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Sensinger replied that the role of the Zoning Hearing Board is to mediate disputes that may not fit into a precise zoning situation to the fairness of both parties, if possible; and if not, to try to follow what suits the letter of the law. Supervisor Salvadore asked what type of skills Mr. Sensinger feels he would bring to the Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Sensinger replied that he is fair and honest, is a veteran of the Air Force and has seen many disputes, some of them armed.

Mr. McIlhinney asked if Mr. Sensinger would be willing to attend classes to increase his knowledge of Zoning Hearing Board procedures and of the Township's Zoning Ordinance. Mr. Sensinger replied that he would be more than willing to attend classes. Supervisor Salvadore commented that she and Mr. McIlhinney will be attending classes for new Supervisors in January, and she hopes that anyone who is appointed to a board or commission would be agreeable to attending classes to increase their knowledge of their duties as a committee volunteer.

3. Mr. John Snyder – Mill Road – Mr. Snyder has been a resident for almost 60 years, and was born, raised and educated in Hilltown Township. He has owned his own business and worked in the Township for the past 29 years. Mr. Snyder has been a member of the Zoning Hearing Board for the past 19 years, and the chairman since 1990. During that period of time, he was involved in rendering 470 decisions, with none of those decisions that were appealed by either the Township or the applicant to the Common Pleas, Commonwealth, or Supreme Court having been overturned. Mr. Snyder has attended numerous training sessions sponsored by the former Department of Community Affairs, and more recently, the Pennsylvania Association of Township Supervisors. He has a complete working knowledge of the current and proposed changes to the Zoning Ordinance, and is also very familiar with the portions of the Municipalities Planning Code that apply to zoning. Mr. Snyder has a good legal working knowledge of how the Zoning Hearing Board should operate, with respect to rules of evidence, and legal and zoning terminology.

To touch on a statement made by a previous candidate, if the Zoning Hearing Board renders a decision on one case and an identical case is then submitted, Mr. Snyder advised that there is no precedence set, since each decision is rendered on the application and evidence that has been presented to the Zoning Hearing Board. With respect to changes, Mr. Snyder explained that the Zoning Hearing Board does not have the power to change any zoning; they simply render a decision based either on a variance request, special exception, or interpretation of the Zoning Ordinance.

Supervisor Salvadore asked why Mr. Snyder felt he should be reappointed to another term on the Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Snyder replied that he has been a member for 19 years, and believes that his experience qualifies him to continue serving in that capacity.

Mr. McIlhinney noted that there have been some interesting cases before the Zoning Hearing Board recently, and asked under what circumstances the Zoning Hearing Board would create an Ordinance by having an applicant make a request for something that is not regulated by the Zoning Ordinance, thereby expecting the Zoning Hearing Board to render their blessing. Mr. Snyder replied that any decision the Zoning Hearing Board renders is for a variance from whatever regulations there are in the Zoning Ordinance. He stated that the Zoning Hearing Board has no say other than what is clearly addressed in the Zoning Ordinance. For instance, if an applicant requested permission to run public water and sewer lines into an area that has not been subject to approvals in the past, the Zoning Hearing Board would not have the authority to grant that request. In previous cases, an applicant may have asked the Zoning Hearing Board to make rulings such as that, however their decision would be based only on the areas of the Zoning Ordinance that they are permitted to rule upon. Mr. McIlhinney asked if the Zoning Hearing Board gives consideration to other documents of the Township, such as the Comprehensive Plan, where things may have been referred to in a general sense. Mr. Snyder believes that the Comprehensive Plan is the Township's "wish list," or how it is hoped that the Township will develop in the future. If an issue is not clearly addressed in the Zoning Ordinance, Mr. Snyder stated that the Zoning Hearing Board cannot rule upon it.

4. Mrs. Marilyn Teed – Mill Road – Supervisor Salvadore asked Mrs. Teed's perception of the purpose of the Zoning Hearing Board. Mrs. Teed believes that the purpose of the Zoning Hearing Board is to attempt to align questionable or requested uses with the most nearly compatible use as listed in the Zoning Ordinance. However, Mrs. Teed noted that both times she appeared before the Zoning Hearing Board, this was not the case. Mrs. Teed advised that when she applied to the Zoning Hearing Board in 1996, it was a complete disaster. She believes there are things going on with the Zoning Hearing Board that are very unfair to the residents of Hilltown Township. She noted that Mr. Snyder did not mention the Federal court overruling any of the decisions he had made as a member of the Zoning Hearing Board, which she believes may happen with one of her appeals. Mrs. Teed feels that the Zoning Hearing Board should grant exceptions as much as possible to benefit the residents, which is what is stated in the Zoning Ordinance.

Supervisor Salvadore asked what skills Mrs. Teed would bring to this position. Mrs. Teed replied that she has read the Municipalities Planning Code at least a dozen times and is very familiar with the Zoning Ordinance.

Mr. McIlhinney asked if Mrs. Teed would hope to accomplish anything specific as a member of the Zoning Hearing Board. It was Mrs. Teed's personal opinion that new blood is needed on the Zoning Hearing Board, commenting that it is rather stale at this time. She advised that there are many individuals who have lived in the Township for years and are willing to serve, however they are not given that opportunity. Mrs. Teed does not believe that a seat on the Zoning Hearing Board, or any other board or commission for that matter, should be considered a lifetime position.

Supervisor Salvadore asked if Mrs. Teed believes there is anything she would need to learn in order to serve on the Zoning Hearing Board. Mrs. Teed feels that she could start immediately and do a fine job on the Zoning Hearing Board, though she would certainly be willing to attend any classes because she loves to learn. Supervisor Salvadore asked what changes Mrs. Teed would like to see that would benefit the effectiveness of the board. Mrs. Teed stated that the number one change would be new blood, and the addition of alternate members for the Zoning Hearing Board. She does not feel that one Zoning Hearing officer, if there is a conflict or lack of a quorum, should be permitted to render a decision.

D. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR – (1 seat @ 1-year term) –

1. Mr. William Devlin – Rickert Road- Mr. Devlin explained that the Emergency Management team was put in place to protect and provide assistance to the residents of the Township from manmade or terrorist threats, as well as from natural disasters. Mr. Devlin has been involved in emergency services for well over 35 years, and has been in emergency management for 25 years. Mr. Devlin is the Emergency Management Coordinator for a large corporation, and stated that years of experience do make a difference. He has been the Township's Emergency Management Coordinator for over 10 years, and was instrumental in developing the resource list for the Township's Emergency Management Plan.

Mr. McIlhinney asked if Mr. Devlin had any suggestions to make the Township's Emergency Management Plan more effective. Mr. Devlin believes that the current Plan is very intense, and the resource list is current. Mr. Devlin would like to work more closely with the Fire Marshal, who is his eyes and ears during the day while he is at work. He noted that there are approximately five or six incidents every year, and Mr. Devlin is proud to say that it has never cost the Township a cent to respond to any incident, as a responsible party has always been charged.

Mr. McIlhinney asked if Mr. Devlin works locally. Mr. Devlin replied that he does not work locally, however he works for a firm that would fly him in on their helicopter if necessary, and he could be back in the Township within 15-20 minutes.

Supervisor Salvadore questioned the Emergency Management Coordinator's interaction with the Fire Marshal. Mr. Devlin, who is a member and a past Chief of the Hilltown Fire Company, and is presently the Deputy Chief, would like to work more closely with the Fire Marshal since he is present in the Township during the day and would most likely be the first responder on-scene if there were an incident. Mr. Devlin would also be interested in establishing a closer working relationship with Township officials and the Township Manager.

Mr. Devlin's interest in emergency services is family oriented. His father was killed in the fire service in 1965, and he proudly continues the tradition. He was the Emergency Management Coordinator for 10 years when he lived in Hatfield Township, Montgomery County.

2. Mr. Ray Fegley – Rosewood Drive – Supervisor Salvadore asked Mr. Fegley what he believes is the role and purpose of the Emergency Management Coordinator. Mr. Fegley replied that the Emergency Management Coordinator is responsible for overseeing the Emergency Management Plan for the municipality, while insuring that it meets both County and FEMA requirements. Mr. McIlhinney asked if Mr. Fegley was familiar with the Plan currently in place in Hilltown. Mr. Fegley is somewhat familiar with it, however he is not certain that he has reviewed the latest revision of the Plan.

Mr. Fegley has 28 years background in fire and emergency services, has lived in Hilltown Township for 14 years, and is currently the Battalion Chief in the Telford Fire Company. Mr. Fegley has also trained at the National Fire Academy in Maryland in Incident Command, and has attended numerous training programs in emergency and incident management. He most recently attended the National Incident Management System training program last month. By virtue of his background, Mr. Fegley has been a manager in business for 25 years, managing critical infrastructure systems for a number of large corporations, providing critical support for computer rooms, data centers, etc. Mr. Fegley feels that he has the technical background, the education, and the experience necessary to fill this position.

Mr. McIlhinney asked if Mr. Fegley's job situation allows him to be in the Hilltown area during the day. Mr. Fegley is generally located in the Bucks County area, however he does work throughout the Delaware Valley region as necessary. In most cases, Mr. Fegley believes he would be within one hours drive from Hilltown during the daytime hours.

Supervisor Salvadore asked what types of situations would require an Emergency Management Coordinator to act. Mr. Fegley advised that it would depend on what type of incident would occur; such as natural or manmade, which would go beyond the normal

scope of emergency response of fire or police services where additional resources are required to mitigate the emergency.

Based upon past experience, Supervisor Salvadore asked if there was something Mr. Fegley might recommend that is not in place today. Without being familiar enough with the current Emergency Management Plan, Mr. Fegley did not feel it would be fair to make any kind of statement or recommendation.

E. AGRICULTURAL OFFICER (EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT) – (1 seat @ 1 year term) - Supervisor Salvadore advised that there is only one candidate for this position, Mr. John Wietecha, who is not present this evening.

F. PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Mr. D. Brooke Rush of East Creamery Road has been a member of the Planning Commission for several years, and is aware that there has been a change in the procedure involved with appointing individuals to vacancies. In the past, each board or commission would interview the candidates and then make their recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Rush asked if there is a process in place where that would still occur or if that process has been eliminated. If it has been eliminated, Mr. Rush believes there is a missed opportunity for each of the boards to weigh in on their preference to fill a vacancy, and would encourage the Board of Supervisors to reconsider reinstating that policy. Supervisor Salvadore had noted at the beginning of the meeting, when Mr. Rush was not present, that the Board of Supervisors are open to changes to the procedure if they find a change is necessary.

Mr. Rush had encouraged Mr. Robert Anderson to apply for a seat on the Planning Commission. He knows Mr. Anderson personally through church and has worked with him in the past. Though he is aware that Mr. Anderson has not attended any Planning Commission meetings in the past, Mr. Rush believes that he would bring a devotion to the planning process. Mr. Rush also believes that Mrs. Boice, who has attended many Planning Commission meetings, and is well versed with the Ordinances, would be a good choice to fill a vacancy on the Planning Commission. Mr. Rush encouraged everyone to attend public meetings of the various boards and commissions, and was pleased to see the number of individuals willing to serve their community.

2. Mr. Jim Sensinger agreed that the various committees should have input in the candidate interview process, however in the past, he noticed that the Board of Supervisors have “glossed over” certain candidates, and also got the impression that the Supervisors had their own list of who they wanted appointed to vacancies, without going through the interview process. Mr. Sensinger feels that the process the Board appears to be following this evening appears to be more fair and open. Mr. Sensinger firmly

believes that the Planning Commission members should be changed regularly in order to obtain more diversity.

3. Mr. Joe Marino of Redwing Road stated that this is the second time interviews were conducted in public. There has never really been any strong objection, by law or otherwise, that the boards or committees could not interview the candidates as well. Rather, Mr. Marino explained the strong objection and the violation of the law is that the boards or committees believed they could conduct interviews in what they called "Executive Session" and not in public. Therefore, if the Supervisors every consider going back to allowing a board or committee to make candidate recommendations, Mr. Marino does not believe it is a problem as long as the interviews are conducted in public.

4. Mrs. Marilyn Teed of Mill Road thinks it is very important that whatever candidates are chosen should be well-versed in the documents required for the job – for instance, candidates for the Planning Commission should be familiar with the Zoning and Subdivision/Land Development Ordinances. She also believes that a chosen candidate should regularly attend a number of meetings of their particular board or committee so that they are comfortable with the process and are aware of how the board or committee operates.

5. Ms. Sandy Williamson of Mill Road provided a glowing recommendation for Mrs. Boice to be appointed to the Planning Commission vacancy. She recalls attending a Planning Commission meeting where an attorney was presenting a plan for a development on Hilltown Pike. Mrs. Boice remembered that the plan was first submitted 11 years ago, and was able to find a copy of the submission and sketch plan in her briefcase to corroborate her statement. Ms. Williamson commented that Mrs. Boice is meticulous in her record keeping, is calm, analytical, and organized, and has an incredible knowledge of Township Ordinances.

Ms. Williamson suggested that if interviews are conducted in public, the other candidates should be secluded until their actual interview so that they do not repeat answers from previous candidates.

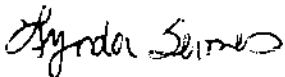
6. Mr. Charles Moyer of Keystone Drive agreed that the committees should also be permitted to interview candidates. In the past, the Open Space Committee has looked for diversity and different experiences that individuals can bring to the table. For instance, Jeff Lapp is involved with environmental protection, Joe Marino has engineering and sales background, and John Wietecha is a significant landholder with an interest in agriculture, all of which is very helpful to have a well-rounded committee.

G. SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS: None.

H. PRESS CONFERENCE: No members of the press were in attendance.

I. ADJOURNMENT: Supervisor Salvadore thanked everyone for attending and for applying for the various board vacancies. She encouraged applicants to contact the Board of Supervisors with any further comments that they would like to make privately. The special meeting to interview candidates for 2006 Board and Commission positions was adjourned at 8:40PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynda Seimes
Township Secretary