

HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION MEETING
Monday, February 9, 2004
7:30 PM

The regularly scheduled worksession meeting of the Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairperson Kenneth B. Bennington at 7:30 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following were also present:

- George C. Egly, Jr., Vice Chairman
- Richard J. Manfredi, Supervisor
- Gregory J. Lippincott, Township Manager
- Francis X. Grabowski, Township Solicitor
- C. Robert Wynn, Township Engineer
- Randall Tanghe, Acting Police Chief
- Thomas Buzby Director of Public Works
- David Taylor Township Code Enforcement Officer
- Lorraine E. Leslie, Township Treasurer

Mr. Bennington announced that the Board met in Executive Session prior to this meeting in order to discuss personnel issues and real estate issues.

Police Hiring Request: Det. Sgt. Randall Tanghe told the Board of Supervisors that after a lengthy interview process he is recommending the hiring of Richard B. Tucholski, age 23, a resident of Harleysville, Pennsylvania who is currently a member of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department, and a graduate of Montgomery County Community College Police Academy. He will become the 18th sworn member of the Hilltown Township Police Department.

On motion of Mr. Manfredi, seconded by Mr. Egly, the Board of Supervisors approved the hiring of Richard B. Tucholski to serve with the Hilltown Township Police Department. This motion passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Judge Robert Gaffney swore Richard B. Tucholski in as a member of the Hilltown Township Police Department.

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only:

Mr. Harry Mason, Morgan Lane, referred the Board to page 2 of the December 22, 2003 minutes and noted that under the Debt Service Budget the word "fire" in two places should be changed to "debt".

Approval of Minutes –

December 22, 2003 - On motion of Mr. Egly, seconded by Mr. Bennington, the minutes of the December 31, 2004 Board of Supervisors' meeting were approved with the correction on page 2 changing the word "fire" in two places to "debt". This motion was

passed by a vote of 2 to 1 with Mr. Manfredi abstaining as he was not a member of the Board of Supervisors on that date. There was no public comment.

Treasurer's Report – December 31, 2003:

General Fund Checking	35,149.51
Payroll Checking	351.39
General Reserve Fund	4,616.68
Open Space Fund	545,857.46
Fire Fund Checking	16,925.77
Debt Service Checking	186,140.92
State Highway Aid Checking	58,213.55
Escrow Fund Checking	1,012,917.50
Capital Projects Fund	76,436.11

Mr. Manfredi explained that he was not a member of the Board of Supervisors on December 31, 2003 but reviewed the report prior to voting.

On motion of Mr. Egly, seconded by Mr. Manfredi, the Board of Supervisors approved the December 31, 2003 Treasurer's Report, as submitted, subject to audit. This motion passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Treasurer's Report – January 31, 2004:

General Fund Checking	6,234.31
Payroll Checking	351.39
General Reserve Fund	4,616.68
Open Space Fund	11,701.66
Fire Fund Checking	15,729.30
Debt Service Checking	123,925.51
State Highway Aid Checking	40,442.54
Escrow Fund Checking	780,244.85
Capital Projects Fund	76,436.11

On motion of Mr. Egly, seconded by Mr. Manfredi, the Board of Supervisors approved the January 31, 2004 Treasurer's Report, as submitted, subject to audit. This motion passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

REPORTS:

Director of Public Works Report: Mr. Thomas A. Buzby, Director of Public Works, presented the public works report for the month of January, 2004 a copy of which is on file at the Township Administration office. Mr. Manfredi asked Mr. Buzby if his department had the resources available to make corrections on roadways where there is poor drainage and water freezes on the roadways. Mr. Buzby said his department did not have those resources. He explained that these areas are in low lying areas and there is no way to change the terrain. Mr. Manfredi said that he understands the permitting process necessary to change the water flow but the public works department knows where the problems are and it is imperative to find out how to correct these problems and then find the resources to implement the changes. Mr. Buzby confirmed that he has documented the various areas of the Township that have drainage problems so that when funds become available the work needed can be easily assessed. Mr. Bennington told Mr. Manfredi that when the Board of Supervisors take their road inspection tour it will become clear which areas require drainage work.

Public Comment: Marilyn Teed, Mill Road, explained that in 2003 she had requested that the Board of Supervisors consider implementing an Ordinance prohibiting direct water discharge onto roadways from driveways in the Township and nothing was done about that. She said there are two driveways in her neighborhood that drain onto public streets as well as one on Hilltown Pike and Chalfont Road. She said she believes in 1995 PennDOT met with the Township and PennDOT agreed to supply piping to correct this problem and that the problem should be controlled by Township Ordinances.

Police Chief's Report. Detective Sergeant Randall Tanghe presented the Hilltown Township Police Report for December, 2003 and January, 2004 copies of which are on file at the Township Administration office.

Detective Sergeant Tanghe told the Board of Supervisors that on Friday, February 6, 2004 the Upper Bucks Emergency Team was deployed to the Warwick Township incident to provide backup for an incident involving a person who was barricaded with a gun. He said the incident started at 1:00 a.m. as a domestic disturbance and escalated. During that time the suspect fired approximately 24 rounds at police officers and the officers fired at the suspect hitting him 3 times after which he surrendered. There were 5 officers from Hilltown Township who participated in this incident.

Building Inspector's Report: David W. Taylor presented the Building Inspectors' Report for December, 2003 and January, 2004, copies of which are on file at the Township Administration office. Mr. Taylor told the Board that Pennsylvania has implemented the State Building Code and that the Township will have to decide prior to July 8, 2004 whether they are going to opt into the Code or opt out and turn it over to Labor and Industry and various other independent inspection agencies.

Water and Sewer Authority Report: James Groff read the Water and Sewer Authority report for the month of November, 2003 a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

Hilltown Fire Chief's Report. Mike McGinnis read the Hilltown Township Fire Chief's Report for the month of November, 2003 a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

Silverdale Fire Chief's Report: Mr. John Gillespie, Fire Chief of the Silverdale Fire Company, read the Silverdale Fire Chief's Report for the month of November, 2003, a copy of which is on file at the Township's office.

Planning Commission Report: No report.

Park and Recreation Report. Mr. Jon Apple read the Park and Recreation Report for January, 2004, a copy of which is on file at the Township's office.

Open Space Committee Report. No report.

Zoning Hearing Board Report: Mr. John Snyder read the Zoning Hearing Board report for 2004 to date, a copy of which is on file at the Township's office.

Fire Police: Mr. Snyder addressed the Board stating that he has been the captain of the Fire/Police and this year he stepped down to Lieutenant. A copy of the Fire/Police report is on file at the Township's office.

Confirmed Appointments: None

Manager's Report: Mr. Lippincott explained that out of 54 municipalities in Bucks County, Hilltown Township received the 4th highest total recycling grant from the DEP.

Mr. Lippincott explained that a request has been received from Robert Showalter for a sketch plan review for a 17 lot subdivision and the \$500 escrow fee has been paid.

The Board of Supervisors discussed the procedural aspects associated with plans being submitted to the Township and Mr. Manfredi did not agree with the current procedure and believes that the Ordinances are available to the applicant and the staff should not need to meet with them. He said that he believes that a pre-submission conference should be sufficient.

Ms. Marilyn Teed asked if the meeting with staff that occurs when plans are submitted is open to the public and she was told it was not.

Mr. Jack McIlhinney asked if the procedure were to be changed would the applicant still have a right to meet with staff without depositing of the escrow, a practice which he said he believes would waste a lot of the staff's time.

The Board of Supervisors discussed this request and after which on motion of Mr. Egly, seconded by Mr. Bennington, the Board of Supervisors authorized the staff to meet with Robert Schowalter regarding the 17 lot subdivision. The motion passed by a vote of 2 to 1, with Mr. Manfredi voting against.

Mr. Lippincott explained that the Bucks County Planning Commission is requesting letters of support for a grant application to the Growing Greener Program, administered through the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for funding to help implement one of the recommendations of the Pennridge Water Resources Plan. After discussion, on motion of Mr. Egly, seconded by Mr. Manfredi, the Board of Supervisors approved sending a letter of support for the Growing Greener Grant Application for the Pennridge Area Coordinating Committee to the Bucks County Planning Commission. This motion passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Correspondence: Mr. Lippincott explained that correspondence has been received from the Deep Run Valley Sports Association asking to discuss leasing fields from the Township.

Mr. Jack McIlhinney commented that if the staff is being authorized to meet with Deep Run Valley Sports Association why can't the staff be authorized to meet with developers who are willing to pay for their time?

Mr. Manfredi clarified his position with respect to developers coming into the Township and asking for an opinion from professional staff who advise the Board of Supervisors on matters with respect to ordinances and zoning. He said there is a procedure in place, there is a Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance in place that if anyone wants to submit an application for development they are welcome to do that. If they have questions relating to zoning they are more than welcome to request a pre-submission conference to do that. He explained that he does not understand the need for sitting down with them. That is why there is a Planning Commission. They are more than welcome to submit a sketch plan and discuss it before the Planning Commission. The Township Staff will review the sketch plan when it is submitted.

Mr. McIlhinney asked what is the difference between discussing a sketch plan and discussing a potential lease agreement.

Mr. Manfredi said that the property already exists and there are no approvals in the process, this is authorizing our Township Manager to ascertain facts concerning lease terms and bring those facts back to the Board of Supervisors to make a decision.

Mr. McIlhinney asked Mr. Manfredi if he believes the Township should get paid for reviewing the plans prior to a formal submission.

Mr. Manfredi acknowledged that the Township should be paid for reviewing plans but this should happen in accordance with the current Ordinances and if the process needs to be changed then it needs to be changed by amending the current Ordinances.

Mr. Bennington commented that the applicant is coming into the Township before the sketch plan is submitted so that they can ascertain if what they are proposing to do is feasible within the current Ordinances of the Township.

After further discussion, on motion of Mr. Manfredi, seconded by Mr. Egly, the Board of Supervisors approved authorizing the Township Manager and any one he feels would be

appropriate to meet with representatives of Deep Run Valley Sports Association Executive Board to determine what their requirements are for additional fields and to bring a recommendation back to the Board of Supervisors for further discussion. This motion passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Mylars for Signature: None

Public Comment:

Mr. Schaeffer, Schultz Road, asked if a decision had been made concerning the vacancy on the Planning Commission. Mr. Bennington said that the Board was still discussing this vacancy.

John Gillespie asked if the Board had received the documents they requested from Silverdale. Mr. Bennington confirmed that those documents had been received and distributed to the Board of Supervisors.

Supervisors Comments:

Mr. Lippincott explained that enacting a deed registration ordinance will assist the Township in keeping their records up to date which will assist in communicating with the Township residents via the newsletter as the Recorder of Deeds is approximately 6 months behind in the recording process. It will also assist in sending tax bills.

On motion of Mr. Manfredi, seconded by Mr. Egly, the Board of Supervisors authorized the advertising of a deed registration ordinance together with a fee schedule that would not exceed the actual cost of that service. This motion passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Mr. Bennington explained that on February 10, 2004 an open space extravaganza will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Township Building.

The Park and Recreation Committee will be on February 11, 2004 at 7:30 p.m.

Fire Panel meets on February 11, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. at the Township Building.

The next H & K meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. at the Pennridge Middle School regarding traffic issues.

Press Conference: The press asked for the starting salary for a police officer in Hilltown Township and was told that the Board would look it up after the meeting.

Adjournment: On motion of Mr. Egly, seconded by Mr. Manfredi, the Board of Supervisors voted to adjourn the February 9, 2004 Work Session meeting of the Board of Supervisors meeting at 8.35 p.m. This motion passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Respectfully Submitted

Jean W. Deckert
Acting Recording Secretary