

**HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULARLY SCHEDULED WORKSESSION MEETING
Monday, April 14, 2003
7:30PM**

The regularly scheduled worksession meeting of the Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairperson Betty P. Snyder at 7:35PM and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Also present were: Kenneth B. Bennington, Vice-Chairperson
John S. Bender, Supervisor
Gregory J. Lippincott, Township Manager
Christopher E. Engelhart, Chief of Police
Thomas A. Buzby, Director of Public Works
David W. Taylor, Code Enforcement Officer
Lorraine E. Leslie, Township Treasurer

Chairperson Snyder requested a moment of silence in honor of United States and allied forces serving in Iraq.

Chairperson Snyder announced the Board met on April 12, 2003 in order to conduct annual road inspection; and also met in Executive Session prior to this meeting in order to discuss personnel and legal matters, particularly concerning the H & K Quarry Re-Zoning issue.

The H & K Quarry Re-Zoning Public Hearing originally scheduled for Tuesday, April 22, 2003 has been cancelled at the request of the applicant. No new hearing dates have yet been determined.

- A. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY: None.
- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Action on the minutes of the March 10, 2003 Supervisor’s Worksession Meeting –

Public Comment:

1. Mr. Jack McIlhinney of Broad Street noted several sections of the minutes where it states “A lengthy discussion took place” however there is no mention of what the specifics of those discussions entailed. Mr. McIlhinney would prefer more detailed, concise transcription. Chairperson Snyder commented that the legal obligation with respect to the minutes is to provide the gist of the discussion, not verbatim conversation. Mr. Lippincott explained that the Board of Supervisors approve the minutes of their meetings, and if they feel the minutes as submitted are an accurate representation of a public meeting, it is their decision as to whether or not to make corrections, additions or deletions. Mr. McIlhinney feels that a great deal more was said in the hour and forty

minutes of this meeting, than what is contained in the March 10, 2003 minutes, and he does not believe it is a completely accurate representation of that meeting, due to the lack of detailed discussion. Mr. McIlhinney's comments were so noted by the Board.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bender, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2003 Supervisor's Worksession Meeting, as written. There was no public comment.

C. APPROVAL OF CURRENT BILLING: Chairperson Snyder presented the Bills List dated April 15, 2003, with General Fund payments in the amount of \$75,094.51, Fire Fund payments in the amount of \$2.60, Debt Service Fund payments in the amount of \$5.23, and State Highway Aid Fund payments in the amount of \$11,762.33; for a grand total of all payments in the amount of \$86,864.67.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bender, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to approve the Bills List dated April 15, 2003 as written. There was no public comment.

D. TREASURER'S REPORT – Chairperson Snyder presented the Treasurer's Report with the following balances as of March 31, 2003:

General Fund Checking	\$ 89,969.30
Payroll Fund Checking	\$ 144.46
General Reserve Fund	\$ 4,579.54
Open Space Fund	\$ 345,428.24
Fire Fund Checking	\$ 13,972.54
Debt Service Fund Checking	\$ 145,340.40
State Highway Aid Fund Checking	\$ 256,695.06
Escrow Fund Checking	\$ 996,884.69
Capital Projects Fund	\$ 638,223.14

Motion was made by Supervisor Bender, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to approve the Treasurer's Report dated March 31, 2003, subject to audit. There was no public comment.

E. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – Mr. Thomas A. Buzby, Director of Public Works – Mr. Buzby read the Public Works Report for the period of March 9 through April 12, 2003; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

Mr. Buzby thanked Mr. Bruce Allen of A & T Chevrolet for providing, free of charge, the use of a van for road inspection on Saturday, April 12, 2003.

Mr. Buzby advised that the new backhoe was received today.

After a long, wet winter, the athletic fields were re-opened for use today.

F. POLICE REPORT – Christopher Engelhart, Chief of Police – Chief Engelhart read the Police Report for the month of March, 2003; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

Chief Engelhart recommended the promotion of Sergeant Randall Tanghe to the rank of Detective Sergeant. Sgt. Tanghe joined the Hilltown Police Department in 1986. Prior to that, Sgt. Tanghe was a veteran officer with the Bedminster Township Police Department. Since joining the Hilltown Police Department, Chief Engelhart advised that Sgt. Tanghe has become a renowned and highly respected expert in the field of accident reconstruction. He is called upon to assist the Bucks County District Attorney's Office and police departments throughout the region with accident investigations.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bender, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to promote Sergeant Randall Tanghe to the rank of Detective Sergeant in the Hilltown Township Police Department. There was no public comment.

G. BUILDING REPORT – Mr. David W. Taylor, Code Enforcement Officer – Mr. Taylor read the Building Report for the month of March, 2003; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

H. HILLTOWN AUTHORITY REPORT – No one was present. The Hilltown Authority Report for the month of March, 2003 is on file at the Township office.

I. HILLTOWN FIRE COMPANY REPORT – No one was present.

J. SILVERDALE FIRE COMPANY REPORT- Mr. John Gillespie, Fire Chief – Mr. Gillespie presented the Silverdale Fire Company Report for the month of March, 2003; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

Mr. Gillespie noted that the Silverdale Fire Company has participated in drills with Dublin EMS, and will be doing it again in April to become more proficient with them.

K. PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT – Mr. John Kachline, Chairperson – Mr. Kachline read the Planning Commission Report for their worksession meeting of April 7, 2003; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

L. PARK AND RECREATION BOARD REPORT – Mr. Jon Apple, Chairperson – Mr. Apple presented the Park and Recreation Board Report for the month of March, 2003. Mr. Nick Lupinacci, member of the Park and Recreation Board, announced that the Easter Egg Hunt has been rescheduled due to weather to Saturday, April 19, 2003 at 11:00AM at the Pearl Buck International Foundation. Boy Scout Troop #67 will assist with distribution of eggs as well as defining the areas of the hunt for the three different age groups to participate. Those age groups include through one-year old, two through four years old, and five through nine years old.

Mr. Apple advised that Arbor Day celebration would now take place on May 3, 2003 at 10:00AM here at the Township building, where a tree will be planted in memory of former Park and Recreation Board member, Nancy Gillespie. Daisy Girl Scout Troop #590 from Seylar Elementary School will assist during Arbor Day festivities.

Theater Camp will be held from July 7th through 11th at the Blooming Glen Playground.

Discussion at the last Park and Recreation Board meeting centered around improving the Memorial Day event which takes place at the Civic Park. Ms. Cynthia Gery, a Township resident, was disappointed with the turnout at last year's event, and encouraged the Park and Recreation Board to provide more emphasis in the Memorial Day celebrations this year.

With regard to funding for the Forest Road Park, the Park and Recreation Board members have considered many options including County and State Grants, matching funds, offering equipment/building naming opportunities for larger businesses in return for funding, user fees, advertising fees, personal donations, low, no-interest loans through the County or State, Township contributions, funding as a budget line item in 2004 for park development, buy-a-brick program, development of a recreation tax, or sponsoring special events. Mr. Dan Kell, Park and Recreation Board member, commented that throughout the course of discussions regarding funding, the Park and Recreation Board determined three options, all of which are based upon Spotts, Stevens and McCoy's estimate for construction of the park of \$1,760,000.00. If the Board were able to generate \$10,000.00 per year from fundraising efforts, the park could be built in 176 years, or at \$100,000.00 per year from fundraising efforts, the park could be constructed in 17.6 years. Since neither of these two options appeared feasible due to the time frame, Mr. Kell prepared a detailed cost analysis of the park based upon industry standards for site development. The Park and Recreation Board suggested that developers bear the cost of the park construction, by using their competitive advantage when issuing site plans for bids. He explained that developer's costs are historically 30% less than the Township's cost for construction, as are their highway improvement costs at 30-35% less due to their large volumes of work.

Supervisor Bennington asked how much money has been set aside for the Forest Road Park. Mr. Lippincott replied that approximately \$350,000.00 is available. Supervisor Bender asked if the park has been planned in phases. Mr. Kell advised that it is planned in phases, with the cost of the first phase projected at \$657,000.00, the second phase at \$563,000.00, and the third phase at \$542,000.00. A lengthy discussion took place concerning use of developer contributions, perhaps by allowing some additional dwellings in a development in exchange for funding.

Public Comment:

1. Mrs. Marilyn Teed of Mill Road felt it was an excellent idea to put the burden of financing the Forest Road Park on developers. She has heard of similar proposals being used for saving historic structures as well.

2. Mr. John Snyder of Mill Road commented that one of the reasons developer's costs are 30% cheaper is because they are not required to pay prevailing wages, which can be anywhere from \$8.00 to \$20.00 per hour for labor.

Chairperson Snyder presented information to the Park and Recreation Board concerning the Community Conservation Partnerships Program for 2003-2004 Grant Cycle Fact Sheet, which she obtained at the PSATS Convention.

M. OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE – No one was present.

N. ZONING HEARING BOARD REPORT – Mr. John Snyder, Chairperson – Mr. Snyder read the Zoning Hearing Board Report for the month of March, 2003; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

O. MANAGER'S REPORT – Mr. Gregory J. Lippincott, Township Manager –

1. Mr. Lippincott recently spoke with a representative of General Code Publishers, the firm who will be conducting the Township's codification process. The estimate for the first manuscript and critique will be available for Supervisor's review by the end of April.

2. Senator Joe Conti will hold a Town Meeting here at the Hilltown Township Municipal Building on June 4, 2003 from 7:00PM to 9:00PM. Supervisor Bender asked the subject of this Town Meeting. Mr. Lippincott will contact Senator Conti for more information.

3. Mr. Lippincott presented the Zoning Report for the month of March, 2003; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

4. At the last meeting, a resident expressed concern over parking on Rt. 113 in the village of Blooming Glen. A letter was sent to residents of Blooming Glen who live on Rt. 113, asking their opinion of the parking situation. Included in the Board's packets is a police report stating that there have been no accidents reported due to the parking situation along Rt. 113.

P. CORRESPONDENCE – Mr. Gregory J. Lippincott, Township Manager –

1. A copy of correspondence from State Representative Kathy Watson to the PADEP recommending the appointment of Jim Groff, manager of the Hilltown Authority, as a member of the Delaware Basin Regional Committee State Water Resource Plan has been provided for the Board's review.

Q. CONFIRMED APPOINTMENTS:

1. Ms. Barbara Salvadore and Mr. Colin Brooks – Dublin Regional EMS Update Presentation – Ms. Salvadore presented a slide presentation concerning Dublin Regional EMS and the services it provides to the community. Ms. Salvadore explained that in September of 2001, a small group of individuals decided to work toward saving the EMS service provided by Dublin Ambulance, when it was no longer a part of the Dublin Fire Company. Thus, Dublin EMS, which is part of the countywide EMS system, was formed and has been quite successful. Mr. Brooks was hired in February of this year to be the first full-time paid Director of Operations of Dublin EMS. Currently, there are nine board members. The primary service area of Dublin EMS includes Bedminster, Dublin, Hilltown, New Britain, and Plumstead.

Mr. Brooks provided a breakdown of call volume and how it affects Hilltown in particular. In the year 2001, a total of 417 calls were responded to, with 126 of those calls located in Hilltown Township. In the year 2002, there was a slight increase in calls of 439, with 128 of those calls located in Hilltown Township. Per the history of ambulance calls, Hilltown Township comprises approximately 29% of the call volume. Mr. Brooks noted that 60% of the calls are responded to at private residences, while 18% of the calls are responded to at traffic accidents. Most of the calls take place between 8:00AM and 4:00PM, with the second largest segment of calls taking place between 4:00PM and 12:00 Midnight. When in service, Mr. Brooks advised that the response time is now an average of 3.58 minutes to respond to home calls, which is almost two minutes faster than last year, and is a bit less than two minutes faster than the average EMS service in Bucks County.

Ms. Salvadore advised that it costs approximately \$700.00 every time the ambulance is put into service. Due to the cost, the Dublin EMS has established subscription plans, patient billing, fund raising events, grant applications, and private donations to be used

for ambulance funding. An individual subscription plan costs \$35.00, the family subscription plan costs \$50.00, and a senior citizen subscription plan costs \$23.00. Ms. Salvadore explained that a subscriber would not be balance-billed by the ambulance if the insurance company does not pay. If you are not a subscriber, you would be billed for the difference. The business subscription plan is \$100.00, and covers a business or corporation's employees. Ms. Salvadore commented that Hilltown Township residents have always been very strong subscribers.

Dublin EMS is seeking qualified volunteers who are EMT's or First Responders to work approximately 24 hours per month. An EMT is able to provide transport and treatment of patients. A First Responder can provide basic first aid and can initiate treatment on a patient, but are not permitted to provide transport. Therefore, every ambulance that runs must have an EMT on board. Administrative volunteers are also needed.

Discussion took place concerning the difficulty experienced by both the ambulance company and the fire company if house numbers are not clearly visible from the street. Discussion also took place concerning the emergency paramedic coverage available when Dublin EMS is not in service, which includes Perkasié and Plumstead.

The Supervisors thanked Ms. Salvadore and Mr. Brooks for their presentation and for being a part of the tremendous turnaround situation with Dublin Ambulance.

R. MYLARS FOR SIGNATURE: Reckner Lot Line Adjustment

S. PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Mr. Charles Schaefer of 109 Schultz Road advised that to the rear of his property and also on his neighbor's property, there is a large stormwater pipe that has no covering. Mr. Schaefer is concerned about small children entering the pipe, and asked if the Public Works Department could install some type of grate or covering that would not obstruct water flow, but would keep children out. Mr. Lippincott will bring this matter to the attention of the Public Works Director.

T. SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS: None.

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

V. ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion by Supervisor Bender, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously, the April 14, 2003 Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors meeting was adjourned at 9:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Lynda Seimes

Township Secretary

(*These minutes were transcribed from tape recordings taken by Mrs. Lorraine Leslie, Township Treasurer).