

**HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULARLY SCHEDULED WORKSESSION MEETING
Monday, October 14, 2002
7:30PM**

The regularly scheduled worksession meeting of the Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairperson John S. Bender at 7:31PM and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Also present were: Kenneth B. Bennington, Vice-Chairperson
Betty P. Snyder, Supervisor
Gregory J. Lippincott, Township Manager
Christopher Engelhart, Lieutenant
Thomas A. Buzby, Director of Public Works
Lorraine E. Leslie, Township Treasurer

Chairperson Bender announced the Board met in Executive Session following the September 23, 2002 Supervisor's meeting in order to discuss real estate and legal matters, and also met in Executive Session prior to this evening's meeting in order to discuss legal matters.

- A. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY: None.
- B. APPROVAL OF CURRENT BILLING – Chairperson Bender presented the Bills List dated October 15, 2002, with General Fund payments in the amount of \$177,218.95 and State Highway Aid Fund payments in the amount of \$16,340.31; for a grand total of all payments in the amount of \$193,559.26.

Motion was made by Supervisor Snyder, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to approve the Bills List dated October 15, 2002. There was no public comment.

- C. TREASURER'S REPORT - Chairperson Bender presented the Treasurer's Report with the following balances as of September 30, 2002:

General Fund Checking	\$ 39,587.03
Payroll Checking	\$ 106.83
General Reserve Fund	\$ 318,130.44
Open Space Fund	\$ 449,071.44
Fire Fund Checking	\$ 56,893.82
Debt Service Checking	\$ 244,324.37
State Highway Aid Checking	\$ 218,705.51
Escrow Fund Checking	\$ 814,589.02
Capital Projects Fund	\$1,158,779.82

Motion was made by Supervisor Snyder, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to approve the Treasurer's Report dated September 30, 2002, subject to audit. There was no public comment.

D. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – Mr. Thomas A. Buzby, Director of Public Works - Mr. Buzby read the Public Works Report for the period of September 8, 2002 through October 6, 2002, a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

Salt Bids were received from the Bucks County Consortium. Bid results are as follows:

Oceanport Industries, Inc.	\$33.04/Ton
International Salt Co. LLC	\$33.41/Ton
Cargill Inc.	\$36.90/Ton
Eastern Salt Co., Inc.	\$41.00/Ton

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, and carried unanimously to award the 2002/2003 Salt Bid through the Bucks County Consortium to Oceanport Industries, Inc. in the amount of \$33.04/Ton.

E. POLICE REPORT – Lt. Christopher Engelhart – Lt. Engelhart read the Police Report for the month of September, 2002; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

Chief Trauger provided correspondence requesting that the Supervisors consider rescinding the burning ban due to the recent precipitation. Discussion took place. The Supervisors decided to table the issue and consider it again at the next meeting.

Public Comment:

1. Mrs. Marilyn Teed of Mill Road asked the requirements and what type of markings are required on curbing or roadways for location of fire hydrants. Discussion took place. Lt. Engelhart will provide that information for Mrs. Teed in the morning.

F. BUILDING REPORT - No one was present. The Building Report for the month of September, 2002 is on file at the Township office.

G. HILLTOWN AUTHORITY REPORT – No one was present.

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

I. SILVERDALE FIRE COMPANY REPORT – Mr. John Gillespie, Acting Chief – Mr. Gillespie advised that Keith Seifert has resigned as Fire Chief effective October 1,

2002, and Mr. Gillespie has been named as Acting Chief until formal elections are held in November. Mr. Gillespie read the Silverdale Fire Company Report for the month of September 2002; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

On October 12, 2002, the Silverdale Fire Company hosted an Emergency Services Day at Pennridge Central Middle School, which was very well received. Mr. Gillespie thanked the Police Department for their assistance.

J. PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT – Mr. John Kachline, Chairperson – Mr. Kachline read the Planning Commission Report for their worksession meeting of October 7, 2002; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

Public Comment:

I. Mrs. Marilyn Teed of Mill Road advised that when the Planning Commission held interviews for the vacancy on their board at the last worksession meeting, those interviews were held in Executive Session, which she believes is a violation of the Sunshine Law. She provided correspondence for the Supervisors regarding this matter. Mrs. Teed read a section of the Sunshine Law, which states “State Legislators across the country have adopted laws requiring that certain meetings be open to the public. These laws have been symbolically termed ‘Sunshine Laws.’ There are numerous advantages to having such status. Sunshine Laws help curtail misbehavior by government officials, educate the public through greater press coverage of government activities, and provide public scrutiny to governmental decision making. Public officials also are able to gain a better understanding of public opinion on the issues. Moreover, open meetings can enhance public faith in the political process.” Even though these were interviews, Mrs. Teed felt they should be governed by the Sunshine Law because there is no personal information that would be provided to the public during the interview process. Mrs. Teed objected to candidate interviews for volunteer boards being conducted in Executive Session by the various boards and commissions.

K. PARK AND RECREATION BOARD REPORT – No one was present.

L. OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE REPORT – Mrs. Donna DiMella, Chairperson – Mrs. DiMella provided the Open Space Committee Report for the month of September, 2002. She thanked the Supervisors for restoring the Open Space Committee to its original seven-member board. At their last meeting, the Open Space Committee reorganized with Mrs. DiMella appointed as the new chairperson, and Mr. Gingrich appointed as the new secretary.

The Mayor of Silverdale, Lowell Musselman, attended the Committee's last meeting, to discuss the possibility of a joint purchase with Hilltown Township of some open space

contiguous to their Borough park. A particular parcel they are interested in is the Guttman property on Green Street, which abuts Silverdale Borough's park.

The Open Space Committee is also encouraging more communication between their board and the Planning Commission. The Open Space Committee would like to review new subdivision plans to consider possible open space for trail links or contiguous open space. Discussion took place. Mr. Lippincott and Mr. Kachline, chairperson of the Planning Commission, will meet with Mrs. DiMella to consider the matter further.

Another issue the Open Space Committee would like to pursue is the possibility of having a meeting with area farmers or large landowners with agricultural interests, along with Mr. Rich Harvey of Bucks County Open Space, to discuss the purchase of development rights and easements, and to discuss ways the Township could assist with the continuance of farming interests.

M. ZONING HEARING BOARD REPORT – Mr. John Snyder, Chairperson – Mr. Snyder read the Zoning Hearing Board Report for the month of September, 2002; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

N. CONFIRMED APPOINTMENTS:

1. Mr. Bob Wendig, Agricultural Security District Committee Presentation – Mr. Wendig presented information concerning the latest proposed additions to the Agricultural Security District, with a total of 161 applications. Of those applications, there is approximately 4,500 acres involved, with approximately one half at 10 acres in size, and approximately one half at 10 acres or more in size. Four five-acre parcels are in question as to whether or not they are contiguous to another ten-acre parcel, as is required by the Act. These four parcels will be investigated to determine that they comply. There is also one additional application that did not note the acreage of the parcel. There were six applications submitted past the deadline for submission. The Agricultural Security District Committee made the following recommendations:

- All parcels submitted for inclusion in the Agricultural Security District be accepted if they meet the ten-acre requirement or five-acre adjoining a ten-acre parcel requirement.
- All future applications will be reviewed in February or August of each year for the life of the Agricultural Security District.
- The six "late" applications should be submitted for the February enrollment period.

The next step is to hold an advertised Public Hearing at which time the Supervisors can approve or reject the District as they see fit.

Public Comment:

1. Mrs. Marilyn Teed of Mill Road requested that a map showing the proposed parcels be provided for the Public Hearing for resident's review. Supervisor Bennington felt that once the Public Hearing is held and the proposed parcels are accepted, a map should be completed showing the established Agricultural Security District area. Chairperson Bender and Supervisor Snyder agreed.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, and carried unanimously to advertise and hold the Public Hearing for consideration of the Agricultural Security District as soon as possible, pending advertising requirements in the Second Class Township Code. There was no public comment.

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

1. The executed Dublin Fire Company and Sellersville Fire Company 2003 Fire Protection Agreements were available for the Board's signature following this meeting.

2. Notification has been received from Ron Allen, tendering his resignation from the Park and Recreation Board effective immediately, since he and his family have moved out of Hilltown Township.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, and carried unanimously to authorize the advertisement of a vacancy on the Hilltown Township Park and Recreation Board. There was no public comment.

3. Mr. Lippincott presented the Zoning Report for the month of September, 2002; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

4. At the end of last year, the Board directed Mr. Lippincott to remind them that they may wish to consider canceling the December 23, 2002 Supervisor's meeting, due to its proximity to the Christmas holiday.

It was Supervisor Bennington's personal opinion that the meeting not be cancelled. Discussion took place. The matter was tabled for further consideration.

5. The Supervisors discussed scheduling of the next 2003 Budget Worksession meeting.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, and carried unanimously to authorize advertisement of the second 2003 Budget Worksession Meeting for Wednesday, November 6, 2002 at 6:45PM. There was no public comment.

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

1. Correspondence was received from Senator Conti who was contacted by the Souderton Borough Manager regarding the proposed Home Depot, and the additional traffic it would bring to the area. Senator Conti offered his assistance in this matter in whatever productive capacity the Board may feel is possible. Discussion took place.

2. Souderton Ambulance has provided their 180-day report of ambulance coverage in Hilltown Township for the Board's review.

3. Correspondence was received from the Pennridge School District, seeking a waiver from building inspection fees by Mr. Lippincott and Mr. Taylor for an inspection conducted on the Labor Day holiday for the Seylar Elementary School renovation project.

Supervisor Bennington took issue with this request, commenting that if Mr. Lippincott and Mr. Taylor had not met at the site with the School District representatives and the Board of Supervisors on the Friday prior to Labor Day, the building would not have opened as scheduled. Further, Mr. Lippincott and Mr. Taylor inspected the site on a legal holiday, which was their day off. Therefore, Supervisor Bennington refused to consider granting a waiver of fees as requested by the Pennridge School Board. Mr. Lippincott noted that he and Mr. Taylor also conducted a cursory inspection on the major issues on the site on Wednesday, August 28, 2002, advising at that time that there may be further issues that could arise at the inspection scheduled for Friday, August 30, 2002, with which they would have to comply to receive an occupancy permit. At the inspection on Friday, August 30, 2002, the School District verbally agreed to pay Mr. Taylor and Mr. Lippincott's hourly rate for an inspection on the Labor Day holiday, if it was required. Supervisor Snyder also agreed that the fee should not be waived. She recalls the day of that inspection, when Pennridge School Board members were so grateful that Mr. Lippincott and Mr. Taylor were willing to conduct the inspection on their holiday so that school could open on schedule. For Mrs. Sterling, a School Board member, to retreat from that position shocked and dismayed Supervisor Snyder. The Pennridge School District agreed with the Township that the inspection was necessary and proper, and were willing and eager, at that time, to pay those additional fees, which they also felt were minimal in order to allow school to open on schedule. As a taxpayer, Chairperson Bender appreciates the fact that the School District was attempting to keep building costs under \$100 million dollars, however he felt it was ridiculous that the School District was now opposed to paying such a nominal fee, which they had

previously agreed to, for Mr. Lippincott and Mr. Taylor to conduct this inspection on their holiday. Supervisor Bennington asked the costs involved. Mr. Lippincott replied that the cost was \$230.00.

The Board of Supervisors unanimously agreed to deny the request of the Pennridge School District to waive the Labor Day inspection fee of \$230.00, as noted above.

4. Correspondence was received from Silverdale Borough requesting the Township's consideration of assisting with funding for the proposed traffic signal at the intersection of Rt. 113 and Rt. 152. The Supervisors were sympathetic and agreed to consider this issue further during 2003 Budget discussions.

Q. MYLARS FOR SIGNATURE: Walton/Vineis Lot Line Adjustment

R. PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Mrs. Marilyn Teed of Mill Road wondered why there was no public discussion of the reduction of size of the proposed maintenance building. Mr. Lippincott explained that there was an option on the bid document itself and the police addition to the building would only be considered if the bid had come in under-budget, which it did not.

2. Mr. Hans Sumpf of 9 Beverly Road has made a request on behalf of Deep Run Sports Association to erect temporary lights on the playfield at the corner of Rt. 152 and Fairhill Road, which has been approved by the Supervisors. In Deep Run's attempt to be good neighbors, Mr. Sumpf advised that these high-density lights will be angled down to cut glare on any neighboring properties. The lights will be used from 5:00PM to 9:00PM.

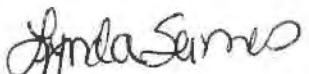
With regard to the proposed traffic signal at Rt. 152 and Rt. 113, Mr. Sumpf hopes that traffic signal will be placed on flash mode after the evening rush hour. His concern is that motorists will travel through his street or through Park or Wenger Avenues in Silverdale in order to avoid the traffic signal. Discussion took place.

S. SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS: None.

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

U. ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion by Supervisor Snyder, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously, the October 14, 2002 Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors Worksession Meeting was adjourned at 8:32PM.

Respectfully submitted,



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