

**HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
REGULARLY SCHEDULED WORKSESSION MEETING  
Monday, December 14, 1998  
7:30PM**

The regularly scheduled Worksession meeting of the Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman William H. Bennett, Jr. at 7:45PM and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Also present were:    Kenneth B. Bennington, Vice-Chairman  
                             Charles D. Grasse, Supervisor  
                             Bruce G. Horrocks, Township Manager  
                             George C. Egly, Jr., Chief of Police  
                             Thomas A. Buzby, Director of Public Works  
                             Gregory J. Lippincott, Zoning Officer/Asst. Manager  
                             Richard J. Heilman, Building Inspector

Chairman Bennett announced the Board met in Executive Session prior to this meeting in order to discuss personnel matters.

A.    PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY: None.

B.    APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Action on the minutes of the November 23, 1998 Board of Supervisor's Meeting: Supervisor Grasse noted the following correction to the third paragraph of page 2, which should read:

“1.    Mr. Kerry Kramer – Environmental Concerns – Mr. Kramer of Callowhill Road was in attendance to discuss local environmental issues, such as the Clean Water Act, and how it affects Hilltown Township. Mr. Kramer noted the impact on the environment due to the building boom that is taking place. **Supervisor Grasse commented on his own concerns regarding water conservation.** Mr. Kramer urged the Board to consider the environmental impact when new subdivisions come before the Township. Discussion took place.”

Motion was made by Supervisor Grasse, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the November 23, 1998 Board of Supervisor's Meeting, as corrected.

C.    APPROVAL OF CURRENT BILLING: Chairman Bennett presented the Bill's List dated December 15, 1998, with General Fund payments in the amount of \$48,624.99, Debt Service payments in the amount of \$64,102.50, State Highway Aid payments in the amount of \$ 56,491.88, for a grand total of all payments in the amount of \$169,219.37.

Motion was made by Supervisor Grasse, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to approve the Bill's List dated December 15, 1998, as written.

D. TREASURER'S REPORT – Mr. Bruce G. Horrocks, Township Manager – Mr. Horrocks presented the Treasurer's Report with the following balances as of November 30, 1998:

General Fund Checking Account	\$ 64,932.12
Payroll Fund Checking Account	\$ 163.09
General Reserve Fund Account	\$ 460,906.17
Fire Fund Checking Account	\$ 54,230.83
State Highway Aid Checking Account	\$ 89,222.07
Escrow Fund Checking Account	\$ 229,456.83
Capital Projects – Series 1989	\$ 26,238.38
Capital Projects – Series 1994	\$ 100,329.24

Motion was made by Supervisor Grasse, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to approve the Treasurer's Report dated November 30, 1998, as written.

E. HILLTOWN AUTHORITY REPORT – Mr. James G. Groff, Operations Manager – Mr. Groff read the Hilltown Authority Report for the month of November, 1998; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

Supervisor Bennington is concerned that the proposed Act 537 Plan will not be forwarded to the Planning Commission for review until January. Supervisor Bennington explained the longer the delay, the more the Township will leave itself open for individual sewage plants by developers. Mr. Groff advised the Authority's portion of the proposed Act 537 Plan was forwarded to Mr. Wynn several months ago. The Authority representatives will attend the January Planning Commission for discussion of this matter.

F. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – Mr. Thomas A. Buzby, Director of Public Works – Mr. Buzby read the Public Works Report for the period of October 25 through December 5, 1998; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

G. POLICE REPORT – Chief George C. Egly, Jr. – Chief Egly read the Police Report for the month of November, 1998; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

H. ZONING REPORT – Mr. Gregory J. Lippincott – Zoning Officer – Mr. Lippincott read the Zoning Report for the month of November, 1998; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

Last Friday, Mr. Lippincott attended a Bucks County seminar concerning the 2000 Census. Mr. Lippincott will be organizing a "Complete Count Committee" consisting of representatives of local fire companies, the Civic Association, the Chamber of Commerce and the School District, as well as any other interested individuals.

I. CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT – Mr. Richard J. Heilman, Building Inspector  
– Mr. Heilman read the Code Enforcement Report for the month of November, 1998; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

With regard to the Building Code Update, Mr. Heilman advised House Bill #1173 failed for lack of action by the State Senate on November 24, 1998. Due to the timing of the pending action on the Bill, it was not possible to prepare draft Ordinances for an updated Building Code prior to this meeting.

New information has been received that BOCA will be publishing a 1999 Building Code and Fire Prevention Code in February or March of 1999. At present, Hilltown Township has adopted the 1990 BOCA Code.

Mr. Heilman presented three options for the Board's consideration:

Option #1 is to refrain from adopting the 1996 Code until the newest 1999 BOCA Building/Fire Prevention Code and the 1998 One and Two Family Dwelling Code are released for consideration. Mr. Heilman is prepared to move forward by preparing a draft for the Board's review to adopt the International Plumbing and Mechanical Code. The Plumbing Code is the 1998 edition, and the Mechanical Code is the 1997 edition, and Mr. Heilman does not foresee any changes in either of those Codes for at least three years. This would require amending the current Ordinance (#91-2) which adopted all the Codes under one Ordinance.

Option #2 is a blanket adoption of the BOCA 1996 Building Code, Fire Prevention Code, and Property Maintenance Code; along with the International Plumbing and Mechanical Codes that Mr. Heilman referred to earlier.

Option #3 is to remain with the 1990 Code until the 1999 BOCA Codes are released.

Mr. Heilman recommended Option #2. Discussion took place. Supervisor Bennington suggested Mr. Heilman document the major changes between the 1990 BOCA Code and the 1996 BOCA Code, prior to the Board making a decision. Supervisors Grasse and Bennett agreed.

J. HILLTOWN FIRE COMPANY REPORT – Mr. Grunmeier could not attend this evening.

K. SILVERDALE FIRE COMPANY REPORT – Mr. Chuck Stockert, Chief - Mr. Stockert read the Silverdale Fire Company report for the month of November, 1998; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

L. PARK AND RECREATION REPORT - Mr. Lupinacci was not present this evening.

M. CONFIRMED APPOINTMENTS: None.

O. MANAGER'S REPORT – Mr. Bruce G. Horrocks, Township Manager –

1. Mr. Horrocks presented fourteen escrows for the Board's consideration, three of which are cash held by the Township:

313 Self Storage (Silverman)	Voucher #08	\$ 948.27
313 Self Storage (Silverman)	Voucher #09	\$13,405.05
Bricks Villa Phase I	Voucher #43	\$ 4,407.00
County Line Plaza(1998)	Voucher #04	\$ 224.77
Country Roads Phase I	Voucher #7B	\$ 180.47
Country Roads Phase II	Voucher #44	\$ 875.29
Country Roads Phases III & IV	Voucher #51	\$ 464.31
Estate at Tall Oaks	Voucher #14	\$ 330.01
Gray Subdivision	Voucher #07	\$ 63.36
Hilltown Hunt Subdivision	Voucher #41	\$ 415.43
Keystone Estates Subdivision	Voucher #13	\$ 326.58
Longleaf Estates Phase I	Voucher #20	\$ 3,048.49
Orchard Glen Subdivision	Voucher #42	\$ 779.84
Quiet Acres	Voucher #23B	\$ 183.61

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Grasse, and carried unanimously to approve the release of the 14 escrows as noted above. There was no public comment.

2. An additional escrow release was received from the Township Engineer today, which is for immediate disbursement to Bell Atlantic in the amount of \$4,636.00 to move telephone poles for the Hipple Subdivision.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Grasse, and carried unanimously to immediately release Voucher #01 for the Hipple Subdivision, as noted above. There was no public comment.

3. Mr. Horrocks explained the Township authorized Perkasio Borough Authority to extend public sewer service to a specific property that is currently under subdivision review by the Planning Commission. Mr. Howard Labs of 613 Callowhill Road lives between the area where Perkasio Borough Authority currently has public sewer connections and the site of the proposed subdivision. Mr. Labs is specifically requesting that the Township allow him to connect to public sewer.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Grasse, and carried unanimously to allow Mr. Howard Labs of 613 Callowhill Road to connect to the public sewer service provided by Perkasio Borough Authority in the event that he has a failing system. There was no public comment.

4. Mr. Horrocks presented a settlement agreement for the Joseph Pileggi property, dealing only with the injunctive action the Township has taken on the site. This agreement does not concern any outstanding zoning issues.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Grasse, and carried unanimously to accept the Joseph Pileggi injunctive settlement agreement, as noted above. There was no public comment.

5. Three bids for Bid #98-12 for the refurbishment of a Chevrolet Caprice police vehicle were received and opened this afternoon. The bid results are as follows:

Fred Bean Chevrolet	\$ 9,185.95
Reese's Garage	\$10,419.47
Patrol Car Specialists, Ltd.	\$11,728.00

Upon further review of the bids, Mr. Horrocks recommended that the Supervisors reject all bids and re-evaluate the process involved with extending the life of individual police vehicles. Discussion took place.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Grasse, and carried unanimously to reject all three bids for #98-12 for the refurbishment of the Chevrolet Caprice police vehicle. There was no public comment.

P. CORRESPONDENCE: None.

Q. MYLARS FOR SIGNATURE: None.

R. PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Ms. Valerie Blaxall of 101 Rickert Road requested that the Board draft a resolution for Hilltown Township to join the Bucks County Coalition. Ms. Blaxall read, with dismay, what had been discussed at the last meeting concerning the Coalition. She has spoken to several Supervisors from other municipalities and it is her understanding that the Townships who have joined the Bucks County Coalition represent over 80,000 Bucks County residents. Ms. Blaxall encouraged the Supervisors to give greater consideration to joining and supporting the Bucks County Coalition in order to protect Hilltown Township from rampant development and lawsuits.

Supervisor Bennington commented that when he has a problem or concern with regard to Hilltown Township, he addresses the issue directly with State Representatives Conti or Druce. Supervisor Bennington does not feel that Hilltown Township should be forced into a coalition that he knows nothing about, nor does he know what their aims or goals might be. He feels that he can accomplish more by contacting the State Representatives directly, rather than by joining a group. Ms. Blaxall will forward correspondence to the Board from several other municipalities, and the proposal made by Ms. Betsy Helsel, a Plumstead Township Supervisor, which explains the Coalition's ideas to encourage the State to declare a referendum to address the different concerns of the municipalities. To Mr. Horrocks' knowledge, the Coalition has not previously forwarded any written documentation to the Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors. A lengthy discussion took place. The Supervisors will review the information presented by Ms. Blaxall and will give careful consideration to the proposal.

S. SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:

1. Supervisor Bennington noted a joint meeting between the Hilltown Open Space Committee and the Board of Supervisors will be held on Tuesday, December 22, 1998 to discuss possible property acquisition.

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

U. ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Grasse, and carried unanimously, the December 14, 1998 Board of Supervisors Worksession meeting was adjourned at 9:03PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynda Seimes

Township Secretary

(\*These minutes were transcribed from notes and tape recordings taken by Mr. Bruce G. Horrocks, Township Manager).